Centennial kicks off with tree planting today

West Georgia will kick off its centennial year on Friday, Aug. 18, with a birthday party and the re-enactment of a university milestone that originally occurred in 1919.

City and county officials will join the university community in a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the planting of 13 oak trees on campus almost a century ago. After the ceremony, participants will celebrate with a slice of a UWG centennial birthday cake. Community residents are invited, and UWG offices will close 2-3 p.m.

In 1919, the principal of the Fourth District Agricultural and Mechanical School, John Holland Melson, asked governors from the original 13 colonial states for a gift of an oak tree in a variety indigenous to their state. Several are still growing along Front Campus Drive.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of UWG, 13 trees of different varieties will be planted on the campus grounds. Carrollton Mayor Wayne Garner, Carroll County Commission Chair Robert Barr and President Sethna will speak at the event. Garner and Barr have declared Aug. 18 as University of West Georgia Centennial Day in Carrollton and Carroll County.

The oak trees were donated by long-time university supporters Eddie and Woody Cole, owners of Carroll Realty and Insurance. The brothers wanted to contribute to the centennial celebration in a meaningful way, said Eddie Cole, who is currently a trustee of the University of West Georgia Foundation Inc.

“We are honoring our parents, who were truly community leaders,” he explained. “We are products of the university. My mother and father met at West Georgia College, and both graduated from the college.

“There is a rural Southern saying that refers to men and women of stature as standing tall like a tree or of being tall timber,” he continued. “These trees will become tall timber and symbolic of the many community leaders we have at the university and in Carrollton and the county.”

The tree planting ceremony will take place on the grounds of the Martha Munro Building at 2 p.m. For more information, call x9-6464.

Princeton Review names RCOB a best business school

The Princeton Review has selected the Richards College of Business as an outstanding business school and will include it in its Best 282 Business Schools 2007 publication to be released in October.

The national recognition is based on a survey regarding the college’s academic programs and student satisfaction, as well as the university’s student body and campus life.

Dr. Jon Anderson, RCOB associate dean and M.B.A. director, said the distinction enhances the business college’s already strong reputation.

“The recognition is a mark of the high-quality professors and students in the Richards College of Business,” he said. “The selection process included a thorough analysis of the college. After this review, we feel honored to have been selected as one of the best.”

The RCOB is one of less than 15 percent of business schools worldwide to have achieved accreditation at both the undergraduate and graduate levels by AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It is also one of only about 4 percent of business schools in the world to hold separate accreditation for its accounting programs.

In addition to its undergraduate and graduate degree programs, the RCOB offers two study abroad programs and the nationally recognized online WebMBA.

The Princeton Review is published by Random House and offers more than 200 guidebooks to higher education institutions. For information, visit www.princetonreview.com.

UWG centennial: a matter of congressional record

U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey (center) recently read a resolution into the Congressional Record to congratulate the University of West Georgia on the observance of its centennial. The congressman also attended an alumni gathering held at the Army Navy Club for UWG graduates living in Washington, Maryland and Virginia.

About 50 area alumni and guests attended, as did Acting President Hynes (left) and President Sethna (not pictured), who is currently serving as interim chief academic officer/executive vice chancellor for the University System of Georgia. U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson also stopped by the event.
Geosciences to host river cleanup, cookout and tours for centennial

The UWG community is invited to the annual Rivers Alive cleanup sponsored by the Department of Geosciences and the Upper Tallapoosa Watershed Group. The event will be one of several Geosciences activities on Friday, Aug. 18, the kickoff of the university’s yearlong centennial celebration.

Participants will meet at 9 a.m. at the Public Safety north parking lot on West Georgia Drive across from the baseball field to help clean the flood plain and river channel of the Little Tallapoosa River. Geosciences will host a cookout for volunteers at the Callaway Building at noon, and tours and demonstrations of the department will be offered for the community beginning at 1 p.m.

The first 70 cleanup participants will be offered for the community beginning at 1 p.m. at noon. Students are encouraged to request participation in the tours and demonstrations.

Wolves attack new seasons

When the university introduced its new mascot last January, the countdown began toward a UWG team’s first action as the Wolves.

That countdown will end next week when five Wolves teams begin their 2006 seasons.

The Wolves Era will begin with Coach Regan Adams sending the volleyball team to face the Timberwolves of Northwood (Mich.) at the University of West Florida Invitational in Pensacola, Fla., on Friday, Aug. 25. Also that evening, the soccer team will visit Conway, S.C., for a match against Division I Coastal Carolina, and on Saturday, Aug. 26, both the women’s and men’s cross country teams will compete in the Berry College Invitational in Rome.

The football team will make the only home appearance for a Wolves team on the opening weekend of play when it welcomes Presbyterian to Grisham Stadium for its season kickoff at 7 p.m., Aug. 26.

Writing Center begins fall hours

The Writing Center will open for fall semester on Monday, Aug. 21. The center assists students with all aspects of the writing process. Fall hours are Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Friday, 10 a.m.-noon. Students are encouraged to request appointments by calling 39-6513 at least two days in advance of desired tutoring times, and notice of cancellations is requested. In addition, walk-ins can often be accommodated. Help with specific writing questions can be obtained by e-mailing quickfix@westga.edu.

UWG launches customer service initiative

The university is launching a new customer service initiative for student enrollment services to improve advisement and registration procedures.

Chancellor Erroll Davis Jr. has asked the 38,000 faculty and staff employed by Georgia’s 35 public colleges and universities to provide faster, friendlier and more efficient service to the University System’s “customers,” including more than 253,500 students.

The initiative is part of a statewide effort begun by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Perdue has signed an executive order creating the Governor’s Office of Customer Service to implement and manage an initiative to elevate the level of customer service Georgians experience when they interact with state government agencies and institutions.

Dr. Don Rice, chair of the Department of Psychology and assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, has been asked to lead the customer service improvement plan at UWG. He said the focus will be on improving the retention, persistence and graduation (RPG) of students.

“The governor’s overall initiative is to make state services friendlier, faster and easier,” said Rice. “West Georgia is part of an Enrollment Services Focus Group, and we have chosen to concentrate on improving various aspects of student enrollment.”

Gingrich comes home to UWG for TV special

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich considered his visit to UWG a “homecoming” when he was on campus Aug. 7 to film part of an upcoming Fox News special on the cost of higher education in America.

“I spent most of my teaching career at West Georgia, and I have great fondness for Carrollton and my friends there,” Gingrich said. “Between a half million and one million viewers will see this special, and I wanted my part to be filmed at West Georgia.”

Gingrich has collaborated with Fox News for a number of specials over the years. A team of three Fox News correspondents is addressing the question “Why Does College Cost so Much and is it Worth It?” in the special to be aired on Aug. 27.

Dr. Mel Steely, professor emeritus of history and director of Georgia’s Political Heritage Program, coordinated the arrangements for the filming. They included a visit to the Ingram Library Special Collections for Gingrich to see the massive collection of political papers he has donated to UWG from his Congressional and Speaker of the House terms.

For the airing time of the Fox News special, visit the web site foxnews.com.

Other schools in the focus group include Augusta State University, Georgia Perimeter College, Georgia State University, Gordon College and Southern Polytechnic University. Rice said other customer service concerns will be addressed as the initiative from the governor’s office progresses.

UWG’s customer service plan includes streamlining the advisement, registration and fee payment processes for students and creating an official e-mail address, MYUWG, for advisement and registration information. The plan will also make it possible for deans and chairs to see pre-registration numbers for enrollment in classes, which will make it easier to plan course offerings.

Acting President Hynes pointed out some of the benefits of the focus on improving enrollment services for students.

“Obviously, improvements directly benefit our current and future students by making their interactions with UWG more pleasant, less stressful and more likely to effectively connect students with the academic services and programs they need,” he said. “Moreover, as these services for students are improved, we hope to have an effect on long-term student success, which is an essential service to the citizens in Georgia—the long-term beneficiaries of a more educated Georgia.”
2005 Eclectic wins national award for content

The 2005 edition of Eclectic, the UWG student literary and fine arts journal, won the National Program Director’s Prize for Undergraduate Literary Magazines from the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP), a national, nonprofit literary organization for teachers and writers.

The AWP awards two of the most prestigious national awards for student publications annually: a $500 prize for best content and a $500 prize for best design. Eclectic’s award was for the journal’s mixed-media content.

The 2005 edition of UWG’s journal also won first place in the art and literary magazine category at the annual Southern Literary Festival last winter. Eclectic is an annual publication of creative works by undergraduate and graduate students.

Sethna receives recognition in new Who’s Who

President Sethna has been included in the inaugural edition of Who’s Who in Asian American Communities in Georgia, published in 2006. The 90-page publication recognizes prominent Asian Americans in the state. According to the U.S. census and the Who’s Who publication, the Asian American population in Georgia more than doubled in the past decade to 174,000.

Two alumnae receive Presidential Awards for teaching excellence

UWG alumnae Zoe Evans and Cherie Long are the only teachers in Georgia to win Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching this year.

Evans received the Presidential Award for teaching life science at Central Middle School in Carroll County. The Carrollton resident earned a UWG bachelor’s degree in middle grades education in 1993 and a master’s degree in middle grades science education in 1995. She was also awarded gifted certification here.

Long was recognized for her exemplary teaching in mathematics. The McDonough resident earned a master’s degree in middle grades education with a concentration in mathematics and science in 1995. She is teaching at Ola Middle School in Henry County this fall.

Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are administered by the National Science Foundation. Recipients receive a $10,000 grant and an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Washington, D.C., for a week of celebratory events and professional development.

The 217-page winning journal contained works of poetry, fiction and non-fiction writing, book reviews and excerpts from student screenplays. It also included a 30-page color section featuring photographs of paintings, sculptures and mixed-media work and a compact disc of seven music tracks recorded from performances at the university.

UWG and the Department of English will host the National Undergraduate Literary Magazine Conference, “Students Publishing Students,” on campus in November. For more information on the conference, contact the Department of English at x9-6512 or visit www.westga.edu/∼magconf. Information about Eclectic is available at www.westga.edu/∼eclectic.
Campus Center of attention
With the opening of the new Campus Center on Aug. 11, the UWG community now enjoys a first-class recreational facility. Following a performance by the UWG Marching Band, a round of speeches and a ribbon-cutting ceremony, crowds of students, faculty, staff and university friends toured the new center and enjoyed demonstrations, barbecue and live music at the grand opening event.

The offices of Student Activities and Intramurals and Recreational Services now call the Campus Center home. Several student organizations have offices there, and all student groups can make use of its meeting rooms. In addition to office and meeting space, the building features a fully-equipped fitness center and aerobics rooms, two basketball courts, a climbing wall, indoor track, game room, casual lounge areas, ballroom and outdoor recreation storage. The center is funded through student fees approved by the 2003-04 Student Government Association and provides job opportunities for more than 100 students.

Linda Picklesimer, director of student activities, has waited a long time for the new facility. “It feels like a dream come true,” she said. “I’ve been here 24 years, and for 24 years a request for a new center has been in the annual report.”