



# Points of Pride

At the University of West Georgia, we are in the business of transforming lives and we are focused on success. With so many advancements at UWG, our campus is constantly brimming with excitement. Through the Points of Pride we celebrate these achievements and examine our success through the four major Strategic Imperatives of our Strategic Plan – Student Success, Academic Success, Partnership Success and Operational Success. Congratulations to all those who have strived for excellence and have achieved it.

June/July 2018

## Student Success

**Kibby Crumbley**, an Ed.D. school improvement student in the College of Education (COE), was recently approved by the Fulton County Board of Education as the new **Area Superintendent** for the Northwest Learning Community. In her new role, Crumbley will be responsible for 15 elementary, five middle and five high schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Milton and Roswell.

A group of students in the **Department of Political Science in the College of Social Sciences (COSS)** visited Washington, D.C., for a week over the summer, with the students and faculty adviser Dr. Dylan McLean visiting the Pentagon and meeting Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs Robert Hood, a UWG alumnus.

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## Academic Success

**Dr. Leslie Dixon**, who received her Ed.D. in School Improvement in the COE, is the new **Director of School Improvement** for Rome City Schools.

Two faculty members in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing (THSSON) – **Drs. Sally Richter and Patty Moran** – were presented with the **DAISY Award** by the DAISY Foundation. The award is presented annually to nurses and nursing faculty nationwide to honor the high level of care given by nurses.

**Dr. LaDonia Patterson**, a THSSON faculty member and doctoral student, and **Amy Yarbrough**, a THSSON doctoral student, were each awarded a **National League for Nursing Foundation Scholarship**. Patterson and Yarbrough were two of only seven applicants – out of a pool of 150 students – who were awarded the scholarship.

The COE was ranked eighth for **Best Online Bachelor's** in Special Education by **BestColleges.com**. The factors that determined the ranking included academic quality, affordability and online programming options.

UWG fine arts instructor **Steve Morrison** has been named a **Leap Year Artist by MINT Gallery**, located in Atlanta. Morrison uses neon acrylic paint, dirty, flour and tar to make his paintings and works with digital animation and puppetry.

**Dr. Mary Alice Varga**, associate professor and director in the COE, received the **Ron K. Barrett Award**, given for her work in the death education field, for her research grant on grief and coping among African-American female college students.

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## Partnership Success

Under a new agreement between **UWG and Georgia Highlands College**, students who complete an associate of arts communication pathway at GHC now have the opportunity to seamlessly transfer to UWG as a Department of Mass Communications major with a concentration in public relations, thanks to a new **2+2 agreement** between the two institutions.

**Dr. Anne Merrem**, assistant professor in sport management, wellness and physical education in the COE, led the inaugural **Adapted P.E. Experience**, where more than 50 students from Central High School visited the UWG Coliseum for a field trip. Students had the opportunity to experience different physical education activities, led by COE students and faculty.

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## Operational Success

UWG was named a **Best Regional College for 2019** by **The Princeton Review**. The Princeton Review compiles its lists based on data from surveys of 138,000 students at 384 different institutions of higher learning.

**The COE, the Richards College of Business and the Tanner Health System School of Nursing** were each named **Colleges of Distinction** by the publication. Schools are considered on how well they meet four overarching distinctions – engagement, teaching, community and outcomes.



More than **650 students** graduated from UWG during its summer Commencement ceremony, held July 26. Dr. Tristan Denley, chief academic officer for the University System of Georgia, served as keynote speaker during the ceremony.

UWG has been named one of the **best online colleges in Georgia for 2018** by **BestColleges.com**. Schools featured in the rankings demonstrate a commitment to high-quality education for their students, according to the website.

**Camille Reid**, academic adviser in the COE, was selected as one of five mentees for the **NACADA**, the global community for academic advising, Region 4 Mentoring Program Class of 2018-19. The selection was based on her dedication to moving the advising profession forward, as well as her potential to pursue leadership roles within advising and in NACADA.

Share your own story and tell us your own Point of Pride. For more information visit [www.westga.edu/ucm/points-of-pride.php](http://www.westga.edu/ucm/points-of-pride.php)

