



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.

October 2016

Student Success

Aimee Copeland alumna '12 returned to Carrollton to speak and offer inspiration at UWG's Engage West: Staff Edition. She shared her miraculous story of survival, perseverance, and the lessons she has learned along the way.

Mass Communications students set out to make history by covering the local general election for the first time in the university's history. The university television channel, WUTV, partnered with the Department of Political Science, the Murphy Center, Carroll County Board of Elections, and Charter Communications to provide student-led election coverage.

Department of Psychology Ph.D. student **Tim Beck** successfully defended his dissertation: Affecting Autism: From Diagnostic Representations to Aesthetic Traces.

Tonya McNealey alumna '16 received the 2016 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Graduate Level, from The Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC). The thesis was titled "Organizing for Civil Rights: A History of the Voter Education Project, Inc."

College of Arts and Humanities graduate student **Megan Groninger** was awarded the Southern Conference for British Studies Charles Perry Graduate Student Paper Award for her essay, "The Bastardy Clause: Guilty Seducers and Erring Victims" at this year's annual meeting in St. Pete Beach, Florida.



Academic Success

Professor in Political Science **Dr. Georgie Kieh** received the Georgia Conference of the American Association of University Professors' Warren Akin IV Award for 2016. The award is given in recognition of special service to education and the principle of academic freedom.

Center for Economic Education Director **Kim Holder** is the recipient of this year's National Association of Economic Educators (NAEE) Rising Star Award, which recognizes an individual who has been a member of the economics education network for seven years or less and has hit the ground running.

Assistant Professor in Nursing **Kelly Dyar** was selected as a recipient of the NLN Foundation for Nursing Education Scholarship. This was a highly competitive process with 123 applicants and only seven awards granted. The scholarship will help fund her dissertation research, titled, Phenomenological Exploration of Male Combat Veterans in Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Programs.

The Department of Political Science hosted its 12th Annual Constitution Day program in honor of the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787. UWG Associate Professor **Dr. Thomas Hunter** presented the topic "Amending the Constitution," which discussed the various ways in which the Constitution can be amended.

UWG alumna **Justine Aldridge** and Art Professor **Erin Dixon** are two of 49 artists who were selected to participate in a project honoring the Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting victims who lost their lives on June 12. The project, called 49 Portraits, will include a portrait for each victim of the tragedy.

Interim Associate Dean and Associate Professor **Linda Mason Barber** and Assistant Professor of Nursing **Mary Bishop** are both finalists in the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Awards. The awards recognize nurses for their tireless work to provide comfort, care, and support to their patients.

Partnership Success

Richards College of Business hosted a sold-out third annual event, Women Empowering Women, sponsored by Walmart and Tanner Medical Center. Speakers included UWG alumna and Emmy Award winning television journalist Shaunya Chavis-Rucker, UWG alumna and Carroll County Commissioner Michelle Morgan, and Southwire Company Executive Vice President of Human Resources Kathleen Edge.

The Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce hosted its first Spirits with the Spirits fundraiser event at **University of West Georgia - Newnan**. UWG Psychology Professor **Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore** offered the audience an academic perspective on paranormal experiences.

Associate Professor in Nursing **Susan Welch** was selected for the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)/Chamberlain College of Nursing Center for Excellence in Nursing Education Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (ENFLA). Susan was also appointed as a National League for Nursing (NLN) Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA) on-site evaluator.

Operational Success

More than 300 people attended the university's third annual **Presidential Scholarship Gala** on October 22. This year's gala raised a record \$104,050 to fund need-based scholarships, which help students who owe \$1,000 or less and have no other source of funds available.

Lorene Flanders, dean of libraries, presented "Using Results of an Employee Engagement Survey for Workplace Improvement" at the Association of Research Libraries 2016 Library Assessment Conference in Arlington, Virginia. The presentation discussed UWG's Engage West Survey, the rollout process required of supervisors, and the development of annual action plans to improve the workplace and further employee engagement. She will present on the rollout process at the Florida Library Virtual Campus Leadership Development Institute in Tallahassee, Florida in November.

UWG received **Tree Campus USA** recognition for 2015. This special distinction sets our campus apart from other schools and shows our commitment to encouraging students and university personnel to care for our planet's tree resources.



Share your own story and tell us your own Point of Pride. For more information visit www.westga.edu/ucm/1792.php.

