



## Student Activities

### Senior Theses in Geology

Two Geology students completed senior theses during the past fall term. Peter E. Fox completed a thesis entitled "Precambrian Basement Rocks in Georgia's Pine Mountain Window" under the direction of Tom Weiland, and Jeremy Hart one entitled "Depositional Environments of the Silurian McKenzie Formation of Western Virginia" under the direction of Burt Carter.



Jeremy Hart on the road in West Virginia.

## Faculty Activities

### Tom Weiland, Teacher of the Year



Geology Professor Tom Weiland, Ph.D., received the Teacher of the Year Award at Georgia Southwestern State University Saturday, December 13, at the graduation breakfast. Congratulations to Tom on this well-deserved honor.

### Fisk chosen GSW's 2008 Featured Scholar



Both students also received funding from the Charles Stephen Cofer Fund to help defray the costs of their research. Congratulations to both Peter and Jeremy.

### Poster Presentations in Experimental Psychology

The Experimental Psychology class presented posters on the topic of gender perception in faces on December 3. All of the graduating Seniors are glad to be finishing their college educations.



### December Graduation 2008

Fall Commencement was held December 13, 2008, at which the College of Arts and Sciences presented sixty-eight candidates for degrees. Three departments from Arts and Sciences presented

Scholarship is fundamental to the academic integrity of any higher education institution. The very word is defined as knowledge acquired by study or the academic attainments of a scholar. In terms of definition, this describes Gary D. Fisk, Ph.D., to perfection. GSW President Kendall Blanchard announced that Fisk is the first recipient of the University's Featured Scholar Award.

### Go, Mine Little Book!

Dr. Paul Shapiro, Associate Professor of Sociology, recently discovered his book: *Paramedic: The True Story of a New York Paramedic's Battles with Life and Death* was prominently featured in a 2007 appeal to the West Virginia Supreme Court [Docket No. 33340]. The defense team's appeal to the court focused on whether or not a prospective juror who currently works as a county EMT should be seated on a jury when one of the prospective state witnesses, a county police officer (someone who the prospective juror has regular contact with) is scheduled to testify. *Paramedic* was the featured document used as an exemplar to the Court to help define and deconstruct the complex culture and interdependent relationships that exist between Paramedics, Firemen, and Police Officers. The defendant's earlier conviction was upheld. The case, *State of West Virginia v. Mills*, may get appealed to the US Supreme Court.

outstanding student awards at the Graduation Breakfast. English and Modern Languages honored Kindal Smith and Patricia McCoy. Winther Hardy (pictured below with Dr. Kline) received the Richard Baringer award from History and Political Science.



Debbie Lynn Bloodworth was also honored by Psychology and Sociology as the outstanding psychology graduate. Congratulations all around to our graduates.

## Upcoming

### GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS FOCUS OF THIRD WORLD SEMINAR

A GSW Third World in Perspective Program seminar titled “The Global Financial Crisis and Its Impact on the Third World,” will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 4, in the GSW Student Success Center, adjoining conference rooms 2410, 2413, and 2417. The public is invited and encouraged to attend this free program. The featured speaker will be Dr. Philip I. Szmedra, Ph.D., associate professor of economics at GSW; Dr. Brian G. Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, GSW, will be the respondent.

Dr. Szmedra, who earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Georgia, is an authority on Development Economics and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). He has extensive

### Chemistry Professor to Participate in American Chemical Society Leadership Institute

Nedialka I. Iordanova, Ph.D (Chemistry), has been invited to attend the 2009 American Chemical Society Leadership Institute to be held January 23-25, 2009, in Fort Worth, TX . The goal of the Leadership Institute is to provide newly elected officers of the ACS an understanding of the essential elements of being an effective local section leader and an opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with other local section officers and ACS governance.

### GSW Community Music Program

The GSW Department of Music is proud to announce the creation of the Community Music Program (CMP) coordinated by Mark Laughlin. The Community Music Program is designed to offer the best and most diverse music programs for children and adults in the Sumter County area (including GSW faculty and their families), as well as foster close ties with local teachers by offering a variety of opportunities such as joint master classes, performances, and the creation of a community of local pedagogues. The program offers private and group classes in piano, voice, winds, and guitar for students of all ages and backgrounds. CMP students are prepared for a lifetime of music making regardless of their educational or professional aspirations. For students intending on the study of music at the university level, special emphasis is placed on musical and technical skill development necessary for their success including mentoring and guidance through the application/audition process. The CMP will provide opportunities for community outreach, and serve as a recruitment tool for years to come.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the CMP, please contact Dr. Mark Laughlin, (229) 931-2250, [laughlin@canes.gsw.edu](mailto:laughlin@canes.gsw.edu), [www.marklaughlin.com](http://www.marklaughlin.com).

international experience, to include service in the Peace Corps in Morocco, frequent presenter at international professional meetings, author of numerous refereed articles on global agricultural problems, visiting professor of economics at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Islands, and the American University in Bulgaria. Dr. Szmedra has also conducted on-site research on diabetes in the South Pacific, and he is the Director of the forthcoming GSW Maymester Study Abroad Program in Bulgaria, May 10-June10, 2009.

Dr. Brian G. Smith received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Political Science from Brown University. Previous to his GSW teaching career, Dr. Smith taught at Colgate University and Middle Georgia College. His research interests are Institutions and Public Policy, Comparative Democracy and Democratization, International Political Economy, and Comparative Political Economy. He served as a research assistant at the Carter Center, and received fellowships and grants from Brown University and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Moderated by Dr. Harold Isaacs, Ph.D., GSW professor emeritus of history, the forum is co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, GSW; GSW Foundation, Inc., Division of Continuing Education, GSW; and the Association of Third World Studies, Inc.

## **Southern Gothic, I Presume**

Dr. Genie Bryan (English and Modern Languages) will have an article in an upcoming volume published by Cambridge Scholars Press, entitled *Speaking of Immensity: Landscape, Living Space and Language in Eudora Welty's Delta Wedding*. She has also had a conference paper accepted for the National Popular Culture Association conference April 8-11, 2009 in New Orleans entitled "The Count Made No Apologies: Why Have We Defanged Our Vampires?"

## **Faculty Nuptials**



Stephanie Harvey (Biology) and Ray Mannila (Dramatic Arts) were married in a gala ceremony on the stage of the Rylander Theater Saturday, November 29, 2008. Congratulations and best wishes on a true marriage between the arts and sciences.

**Questions, Comments, and Contributions:**

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