



January, 2012

Art Students Illustrate Paleontology Textbook



Last spring semester, the students in Laurel Robinson's Advanced Drawing 2 course became involved in an exciting "real world" project. Thomas Thurman, a local amateur geologist, had written a *Fossils in Georgia* textbook for junior high school students that needed illustrations. Seven students created a double-page spread using a graphic novel format to illustrate a selection of animals discussed in the text. It was hoped that the images that would catch the attention of school children and aid in teaching the subject. By the end of the semester, the seven students had created 14 beautiful pages of illustrations for Thurman's book.



The book has been accepted for publication by Mercer University Press and will be distributed to over 2,500 schools in Georgia.

One of the students, Xavier Sims, illustrated an ancient whale of coastal Georgia (see upper left). This drawing was sent to the curator at the Smithsonian and to other geologists. Xavier's drawing, which is based on the latest research findings, is considered the most accurate representation of this animal in existence! He has just been informed that his drawing is being used in a poster that is being produced to be distributed to school's and museums.

Laurel Robinson's class and Thomas Thurman are continuing their collaboration this semester. The current students will be creating six new pages each. They have chosen newly discovered fossils to work on that lack up-to-date illustrations.





Local *Star Trek* Enthusiasts Create Fan Film

GSW Theater, Communication & Media Arts students, faculty and alums are featured in Project Potemkin - "The Void." This is the first episode-length release of a locally produced *Star Trek* fan film series. The episode may be viewed on YouTube ([Standard](#) or [high definition](#)) or [Vimeo](#).

GSW students, faculty, and alumni working in Project Potemkin productions include the following: Chris Coleman, Blair Erskine, Jeffrey Green, Eric Holt, Bill Mackenzie, Sara Higgins Mackenzie, Cassie Martin, Mario Pagan, Dennis Proulx, Hannah Ruiz, William Searcy, Richard Thornton, Jason Wallace, and Christin Woods.

More information about Project Potemkin can be found on the productions website, which is <http://www.projectpotemkin.com/>. Anyone interested in possibly appearing in future episodes should contact Jeff Green (email: jgreen@canes.gsw.edu).





Making Music in the Community

The Music Department was extremely busy with performances throughout Americus and surrounding communities during the fall semester. The GSW Chamber Singers and Concert Choir, under the direction of Julie Megginson (Professor of Music), performed for Kiwanis, the MIA Remembrance Ceremony, the Madrigal Dinner at the Windsor Hotel, the Plains Community Christmas Sing at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, the Fall/Holiday Concert, and the GSW Fall Graduation.

The GSW Jazz Quartet, under the direction of Mark Laughlin (Assistant Professor of Music), performed for the MIA Remembrance Ceremony reception, Richland County Pig Fest, Innovative Senior Solutions Fall Festival, Fall/Holiday Concert, and the grand opening of the Phoebe Sumter Medical Center. Laughlin also performed for Mrs. Rosalynn Carter and the Rosalynn Carter Institute National Conference.



Orton Receives Outstanding Master's Thesis Award

Judy Orton, a graduate of the Psychology program, received an Outstanding Master's Thesis Award from Georgia State University last year. Orton is currently working toward a doctoral degree in Educational Psychology.



Conversations Across Space and Time Art Exhibition

Conversations Across Space and Time is a stunning, entertaining, and thought-provoking exhibition currently on display at the James Carter Library Gallery at Georgia Southwestern State University. The show contains a series of videos, video installations, and sound works. These works bring to the forefront discussions about language and communication, as well as how stereotypes of regions influence our perceptions of individuals speaking with certain dialects.

Stefani Byrd is a conceptual artist who has shown throughout the southeastern region of the United States and has works in national collections. There will be a closing reception in the gallery on Thursday, February 9th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM that includes an opportunity to meet the artist. She will be giving a public artist lecture (time to be announced at a later date). Please take advantage of seeing this wonderful exhibition that is proudly sponsored by the Department of Visual Arts.

Smith Presents at a Political Science Conference



Brian Smith (Associate Professor of Political Science) attended the 2012 Southern Political Science Association conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. He presented a paper on "The European Union and the Bulgarian Political Party System".

Announcement: HAPS Black History Month Event

Please join the History and Political Science Department for a presentation on "Black Pride and Black Politics in the Late 20th c." This event is scheduled at 3:30 on February 28th in BHP 305. Susan Bragg (Assistant Professor of History) will be discussing the cultural impact of the post-1965 Black Pride movement. Jason Berggren (Assistant Professor of Political Science) will follow up with an analysis of Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow Coalition. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend and participate in a continuing conversation about these issues.