Beth Tripp, Caught in the Act of Great Teaching

Beth Tripp, adjunct and clinical professor of the School of Nursing, has received the first bi-annual GSW Caught in the Act of Great Teaching Award. The award is a faculty appreciation initiative intended to recognize effective teaching strategies.

The Caught in the Act of Great Teaching Award was created this year by Lauren DiPaula, Ph.D., who was inspired by a similar award she heard about at the USG Consortium for Teaching and Learning. The award’s slogan is “I’ve been caught in the act of great teaching!” and it was made possible by an anonymous donor in the community who saw a need and donated $100.

Students nominated professors through GAView throughout the semester. Then, a committee of students who were nominated by the deans of individual schools and colleges reviewed the nominees and selected a winner.

Beth Tripp was presented with the award earlier this month. Mallory Wall, secretary of the Student Government Association; Surge, GSW’s mascot; Lauren DiPaula; and the faculty of nursing surprised Tripp during one of her student consultations and presented her with a custom travel coffee mug.

For the full story, please click here.

Herbarium

Stephanie Harvey, Ph.D., and Yonnie Williams represented GSW at the Georgia Herbarium Alliance Conference held on the Georgia Southern Campus in Statesboro on Feb. 28 and March 1. Harvey gave a brief presentation highlighting the uniqueness of GSW’s Herbarium and our current digitization project. The group toured Georgia Southern's herbarium and new state-of-the-art Biology classrooms.

The GSW Herbarium, located in Room 003 of Jackson Hall, houses the Norris Collection donated to GSW by the late Robert A. Norris, Ph.D. This cosmopolitan collection includes over 13,500 cataloged vascular plant specimens and makes this herbarium the 5th largest in the state. One unique aspect of the GSW Herbarium is that the specimens in the collection are predominately non-regional, coming mostly from southwestern states such as Utah and California.
Featured Public Servant Award

The Featured Public Servant Award is designed to recognize those among the GSW employee ranks who make valuable contributions to the community within which they live and work. It is also a reminder to the public that GSW is a good neighbor and that its faculty and staff practice the civic engagement that they preach to their students. This award is presented once a year to an employee who has distinguished him- or herself by contributing to the life of the university and the larger community it serves.

The following criteria are to be used in selecting the award winner.

- The person is a regular, full-time employee of the University.
- The person is involved in community service activity which may include any or all of the following:
  - Volunteer work
  - Leadership roles or membership on the board of a non-profit organization
  - Service club leadership and activities
  - Other awards for contributions to the community
  - University service not tied directly to one’s job responsibilities (e.g., committee work, volunteer tutoring and mentoring, other activities that fall outside the scope of one’s job description)

Please submit applications and nominations by **Friday, April 4** to Dr. Julie Megginson (julie.megginson@gsw.edu).

UNIV 4000’s Peruvian Experience, Presentation & Exhibition

The UNIV 4000 course introduces the GSW students to the contemporary culture of a selected country through a service project with the people of the country. This spring semester the class traveled to Peru and was taught by Nedialka Iordanova, Ph.D., Tonia Hughes, and Chadwick Gugg, Ph.D., and was done in collaboration with the Fuller Center for Housing.

In addition to the lectures and presentations related to the geography, culture, and lifestyle in Peru done by faculty and students over the semester, the service project that was part of the class included a trip to Peru to help a small rural community to improve their living conditions by building new houses.

The team that participated in the trip was situated in La Florida, Peru and had 11 members: Nedialka Iordanova, Tonia Hughes, Chadwick Gugg, Darin Branton, Timothy Ammons, Jordan Weinert, Erin Quinn, Ava Joiner, Casey Daniel, Mei Chuang, and Ina Brown.

Over the course of the trip all the members of the building team worked on three different houses in La Florida, Peru; visited different places in the country; and most importantly were able to interact with the local people and learn about and experience their lifestyle. The UNIV 4000 class is a unique way of incorporating pure academic learning with personal experience of foreign cultures and it is a great component of the GSW effort to expand the students prospective on the recent globalization of the world in support of our Quality Enhancement Plan “Windows to The World”.

On Monday, April 7, the students from University 4000 will be giving presentations on their research beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the new nursing building’s main auditorium.

Following the presentations, there will be a reception for this event as well as the opening of the “Ethics in International Photography” gallery exhibition in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building. The exhibition will be held in the Fine Arts Building gallery from Monday, April 7th through May 9th.
Announcements

Congratulations to the GSW team of Jason Wicker (Captain), David Jenkins, Jennifer Gainous and Rita Wade (alternate) for winning the “BEE for Literacy.”

The annual spelling bee is held at the Lake Blackshear Regional Library. This fund-raiser is hosted by Learning for Everyone (LEAP) and Americus Literacy Action, Inc. (ALAI) and benefits their efforts to eradicate illiteracy in Sumter County.

Happy Birthday and 16th Anniversary to Laura J. Bauer, MPA, director of National Initiatives for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving.

Volunteers needed to help with graduation on Saturday, May 10 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

If you are willing to help, please let Helen Tate (at helen.tate@gsw.edu) know by April 4.

Selections for the Graduation and Honors Convocation awards are due to Courtney McDonald by Monday, April 7th.

The Thirty-Second Annual meeting of the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS) will be held at Metropolitan State University of Denver, October 16-18. The theme of the conference is “The Coming Decade: The Role of Leadership, Institutions, and Culture in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.”

New Positions: Wilson and Fox

The Library is very pleased to announce new positions for John Wilson as Access Services Supervisor and Bokshim Fox, ILL Assistant.

Both John and Bokshim are graduates of GSW and the Master of Library and Information Science program at Valdosta State University.

Please join us in welcoming them to the Library.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Black Tie and Blue Jeans BBQ
Saturday, April 26, 2014
6:00 p.m.
GSW Griffin Bell Links

$50/ person or
$500/ table

An upscale BBQ dinner with all the fixin’s, with the band MAINSTREAM.

Opening entertainment by GSW student & recording artist, BRANDON V ANN.

Cash bar available.

GSW Poker Run
Bikers for Educational Scholarships
Saturday, April 26, 2014
9:30 a.m. Check-in
10:00 a.m. Ride
2:00 p.m. Final Draw

$25/ bike (includes 1 hand)
$20/ each additional hand

$250 for Best Hand

For more information about either event or to pre-register, contact Alumni Affairs, at (866) 673-0436 or (229) 928-1373.
Eighteen students and 3 faculty members from GSW School of Nursing traveled to Jamaica during Spring Break. While there, the students worked in a small village hospital and at a school for deaf children.

During their day at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the GSW nursing students visited with the children and shared proper hand washing and dental care.

The children at the school range from ages 4 to 18 and are taught math, English, social studies, and history. They live on the campus year round except for a short, month-long break in the summer.

Over 674 area K-12 students, their families, and their teachers attended the Georgia Movie Academy screenings and awards ceremony on March 27 at the Rylander Theater. The event featured screenings of more than 60 films produced by over 260 students from 23 schools served by this Chattahoochee-Flint RESA initiative.

Production support was provided through Rylander Theater/CP Productions in collaboration with the Department of Theater, Communication & Media Arts. TCMA majors performed critical technical functions, such as projections, sound, and lighting. Students also performed as costumed characters from a variety of movies familiar to the young audience. TCMA faculty members also contributed. Joey Watson served as a judge for the event; Jeff Green served as MC and Ray Mannila coordinated costumes and other production elements.

The Rylander Theater/CP Productions partnership between Georgia Southwestern State University and the Americus Theater and Cultural Authority is made possible through the generous support of the Charles L. Mix Memorial Fund.
Scholarship recipients at Georgia Southwestern State University were privileged to share a meal with their benefactors Thursday, March 13 at a luncheon honoring the two groups.

“We look forward to this annual event which provides us the opportunity to say thank you to our endowed scholarship donors and recognize the good work of our student scholars,” said GSW Foundation Executive Director Reda Rowell. “Everyone in attendance was very moved by the eloquent, heartfelt expressions of appreciation from the scholarship recipient speakers.”

Sponsored by Georgia Southwestern and the GSW Foundation, approximately 130 people were on hand for the event which took place in the Thomas O. Marshall, Jr. Pavilion Private Dining Room. One of the featured speakers was Haley Jones, a senior exercise science and wellness major and recipient of the Alumni Cash Scholarship, Kiwanis Scholarship, and the Frances Wood Wilson Scholarship.

“Scholarship donors are generous and caring people who unselfishly give to support the educational endeavors of students like me,” Jones said during the luncheon. “I could never say thank you enough to these instrumental individuals who have so graciously aided me and many other students in achieving our goals.”

Student Government President Ben Moody was the other keynote speaker. Moody is a senior human resource management major and Wheeler Parker Scholarship recipient. He encouraged his fellow scholarship recipients to reciprocate donor generosity in the future.

“It is important for us to remember the debt we owe our donors,” he said. “When we find success, we should pay it forward to a new generation of students.”

Other members of the program included Rowell, who opened the luncheon with a welcome from the Foundation; University Relations Director Stephen Snyder, who gave the invocation; education professor Greg Hawver, who introduced Jones; School of Business Administration Dean Liz Wilson, who introduced Moody; and GSW President Kendall Blanchard, who delivered the closing.

This marks the sixth year GSW and the Foundation have held the event.
GSW geology made (sound) waves in seismic experiment

Over spring break, GSW participated in a large-scale seismic experiment, called the Suwanee Suture and GA Rift basin, or SUGAR, experiment.

The principal investigators of the SUGAR experiment were Donna J. Shillington, Ph.D., from Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory and Columbia University; Daniel Lizarralde, Ph.D., from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; and Steven Harder, Ph.D., from the University of Texas-El Paso.

The South Georgia Rift Basin, which starts in the southern part of South Carolina and extends in a southwesterly direction through Georgia and into Alabama, is one of the largest Triassic rift systems formed during the early breakup stages of Pangea. The Suwanee Suture runs through the South Georgia Rift Basin from east to west.

The SUGAR experiment used crustal-scale seismic refraction data. The experiment was divided into two parts: a western profile, which GSW assisted with, and an eastern profile that will be take place in 2015. These profiles, or lines, are roughly 170 miles long, and run north to south, crossing the South Georgia Rift Basin and the Suwanee suture. The western profile spanned roughly from Columbus, Ga., to Valdosta, Ga., and intercepts Americus, where the field team was stationed. The eastern profile will span from Milledgeville, Ga., to around Waycross, Ga.

Seismometers were deployed along the profile. Then, the controlled blasts were detonated during the night and far from any houses or structures. Once the detonations took place, the seismographs were retrieved and over the next couple of days, the data was downloaded.

The project was sponsored by the National Science Foundation and is associated with a much larger experiment called Earth Scope which is now located in the Eastern U.S. The goal of this experiment was to gain a better understanding of tectonic movement and evolution, particularly in the eastern United States.

To read the whole story, click here.

DocTalk: Free Online Webinars for Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Georgia members of Blue Cross and Blue Shield have access DocTalk. DocTalk is a free series of webinars that cover a range of health topics. Their aim is to keep you informed about the latest help topics, give you tips about dealing with issues, and allow you to take better care of yourself. Each webinar is about an hour long and you are able to ask questions at the end. To gain access to this feature, you must sign up and registration is limited.

To register:
1) Go to doctalk.webex.com.
2) Click Register next to the date & time of your choice.
3) Follow the registration instructions.
4) You’ll receive instructions by email on how to log into the webinar and teleconference.

March – Autism
While the cause and cure for autism are unknown, there are ways to treat it. Find out why it’s important to diagnose this condition early and what type of interventions can help.

May – Substance abuse
The abuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances continues to be a serious problem. Learn about the signs of abuse and ways of dealing with the problem.

August – Obesity and weight management
Your body mass index can be linked to your risk for heart disease, diabetes and other health problems. Start educating yourself about weight management.

November – Telemedicine
The use of technology in medicine is no longer limited to procedures and treatments. As these practices become more common, it’s important to understand what they mean to your health and privacy.
### GSW SACS COC Reaffirmation Participants 2012-14

#### Leadership Team
- Brian Adler
- Kendall Blanchard
- Darcy Bragg
- Bryan Davis, chair
- Elizabeth Gurnack
- Cody King

#### QEP Proposal Development Team
- Stephanie Harvey, co-chair
- Elizabeth Gurnack, co-chair
- David Berggren
- Toni Brown
- Leah Faulconer
- John Fox
- Kailash Ghimire
- Jeffrey Hall
- Ru Story-Huffman
- Tony Hughes
- Tony Miller, Jr.
- Joseph Nichols
- Brian Smith
- Philip Szmedra
- Helen Tate
- Elizabeth Uhl

#### Compliance Certification Steering Committee
- Darcy Bragg
- Burchard Carter
- Jaclyn Donovan
- Gary Fisk
- Stephanie Harvey
- Gaye Hayes
- Cody King
- Sam Miller

- Boris Peltsverger
- Linda Randall
- Janet Siders
- George Smith
- Gretchen Smith
- Arvind Shah
- Teresa Teasley

#### On-Site Visit Planning Committee
- Stephanie Harvey, chair 2014
- Tiffany Gregory, chair 2013
- Darcy Bragg
- Paige Bragg
- Arthur Clark
- Polly Conger
- Josh Curtin
- Brenda Davis
- Royce Hackett
- Angie Hobbs
- Matt Loper
- Beth Morris
- Ted Norris
- Chu Chu Wu
- Feng Xu

#### QEP Topic Selection Committee
- Kelly McCoy, chair
- Cam Caldwell
- Anish Dave
- Olga Godoy
- Jeff Green
- Chadwick Gugg
- Chuck Huffman
- Ru Story-Huffman
- Tony Miller, Jr.
- Joseph Nichols
- Evelyn Oliver
- Yangil Park
- Boris Peltsverger
- Dongwin Qi
- Laurel Robinson
- Chu Chu Wu
- Keaton Wynn

#### On-Site Visit to ABAC
- Amy Howell, ABAC Accreditation Liaison
- Lynn Larsen, GSW Program Coordinator at ABAC

#### Compliance Certification Drafting Committees
- Lauren Dipaula
- Jaclyn Donovan
- Leisa Easom
- Margaret Ellington
- Gary Fisk
- Jeff Green
- Mikki Guest
- Elizabeth Gurnack
- Roype Hackett
- Jeffrey Hall
- Stephanie Harvey
- Greg Hawver
- Gaye Hayes
- Karen Holloway
- Tonia Hughes
- David Hunter
- Tzvetelin Iordanov
- Nedialka Iordanova
- David Jenkins
- Cody King
- Cecilia Maldonado
- Paula Martin
- Kelly McCoy
- Bryan McLain
- Sam Miller
- Evelyn Oliver
- Boris Peltsverger
- Lynda Lee Purvis
- Linda Randall
- Glenn Robins
- Susan Robinson
- Jan Rogers
- Lydia Rogers
- Nancy Rooks
- Arvind Shah
- Janet Siders
- Bonnie Simmons
- George Smith
- Gretchen Smith
- Krista Smith
- Michele Smith
- Ru Story-Huffman
- John Stroyls
- Teresa Teasley
- Jeff Waldrop
- Christine Ward
- Vera Weiskopf
- Charles Wells
- John Wilson
- Liz Wilson
- Keaton Wynn
- Alla Yemelyanov
- Alex Yemelyanov

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**President’s Note: “Adolescence Lost?”**

In a recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education Review (Gary Cross, “Jaded children, callow adults: What we lose when we expand adolescence,” March 14, 2014) the author decries the way Americans have shortened childhood and at the same time expanded the time it takes to become an adult. Ironically, not that long ago I was predicting that adolescence as we know it would eventually be squeezed into a much shorter time period. Children would grow up faster, finish school quicker, and enter the job market much sooner than they did 20 years before.

Adolescence is a relatively recent phenomenon in the history of the human race. For most of the two or three million years that hominids have populated the earth they have...
been hunters and gatherers living in groups organized around a simple, tripartite division of labor: adult males, adult females, and children. When a boy or girl began to mature physically they underwent a traditional puberty rite, and within a matter of a few hours went from being a child to being an adult.

With the rise of the urban state and the evolution of a true division of labor, life became more complicated. In turn, preparation for the work force became more extensive and required more time. In response, society created this thing called adolescence, a lengthy period during which one is neither child nor adult. Over the past several decades Americans have gradually expanded this maturation limbo until now the consensus is that one is not an adult until he or she is almost 27 years old.

There are many reasons for this bloating of adolescence, but I believe that it will soon be moving in the other direction. American children are maturing faster than ever, with the average age of puberty and menarche having shrunk by almost two years in the past few decades. Also, because of the ready availability of information, children today understand the facts of life much earlier than their grandparents. Young people today are, for the most part, more highly skilled than their parents and grandparents when it comes to the use of new technology. Also, I think we are beginning to see a shrinking of the traditional K-12 public school model. In most cases, unless high school students take AP or dual enrollment courses, they waste much of their junior and senior years.

To me it seems inevitable that for reasons having to do with the cost of education and the need for advanced technology skills in the workforce, adolescence in America will soon be a shrinking reality. Today’s K-16 model will be reduced to K-14. Young people will be expected to enter the job market sooner and thus broaden the tax base and ensure the maintenance of programs that support the elderly in this country. Adolescence will not be lost, but it will inevitably lose a few pounds. The implications for public higher education are both intriguing and frightening.