



CAT TRACKS



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Regents' Excellence in Education Celebration Alumnus Award

Ray Woods, 1977 alumnus of East Georgia College, was recently selected by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, to be presented the 2005 Regents' Excellence in Education Celebration Alumnus Award. Mr. Woods will be honored at the University System of Georgia Foundation Celebration to be held at the new Georgia Aquarium in downtown Atlanta on Saturday, January 28.



"It is an extreme honor for the College, Mr. Woods, and his family, for this recognition by the Board of Regents. Ray demonstrates extraordinary commitment to the mission of East Georgia College, to a life devoted to helping others, and to serving his community. As a licensed master social worker for the State of Georgia, Ray, through his vision and support, has developed many new successful programs that directly impact and improve the quality of life for children and families in our region," said Dr. John Black, president of East Georgia College.

A sixth generation resident of Emanuel County, Georgia, Ray is a 1975 honor graduate of Swainsboro High School and a 1977 graduate of East Georgia College (then Emanuel County Junior College). As a student, he was very active and served as President of the Student Government Association. After graduating from East Georgia College, Ray continued his education at the University of Georgia, where he earned his bachelor's degree in educational psychology in 1980. Following graduation, he returned to his hometown of Swainsboro and began his career as a child and adolescent counselor for Ogeechee Area Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse Center. In 1988, he received his master's degree in social work from the University of Georgia and began working with Ogeechee Psycho Educational Services; in 1994, he opened a private practice specializing in outpatient rehabilitation services.

Since 1991, in addition to his full-time employment, Ray has served as coordinator of Emanuel County Family Connection, a community-based support system for children and families designed and implemented through a local collaborative process with a focus on results

One initiative he oversees is a free family counseling program available to adults and/or children in the evenings or on

weekends. Other programs involve teen pregnancy prevention, school completion, youth leadership development, cross-agency professional learning, and child abuse and neglect prevention.

Ray has been employed with the Emanuel County Board of Education as Director of Title I, Risk Management and Social Work/Student Services since 2000.

Dr. Brasher To Receive 2005 Regents' Award For Teaching Excellence



Dr. Alan Dale Brasher, associate professor of English at East Georgia College, was recently selected to receive the 2005 Board of Regents' Award for Teaching Excellence and will be honored at the University System of Georgia Founda-

tion Celebration to be held at the new Georgia Aquarium in downtown Atlanta on Saturday, January 28. Dr. Brasher, his wife, Jacquie, and representatives of East Georgia College will attend the ceremony at the Georgia Aquarium.

The Board of Regents' awards program recognizes and rewards both individual faculty members and academic programs at the University System's 35 institutions. The awards honor outstanding teaching that significantly improves student achievement, as well as commitment to student-focused research on effective teaching.

Dr. Brasher, representing the University System's Two-Year and State Colleges, as well as East Georgia College, is credited with empowering his students and building their self-confidence through his passion for teaching.

EGC BOBCAT WRESTLERS TIE MERCER BEARS

On Tuesday, January 17, East Georgia College's wrestling team traveled to Macon to meet the Mercer Bears on their home mat. The match was hard fought, with all bouts being determined by pins or forfeit. Kenneth Johnson at 165 pounds and Tyler Williams at 285 notched wins, while Sergio Torres earned a forfeit. Jake Sasser (157), Dylan Silvers (174), and Matt Waters (235) continue to improve, but lost bouts to experienced opponents.

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The previous weekend, Sergio Torres traveled to the Southern Open in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and earned a third place with a 2-1 record for the day. He is the first EGC wrestler to win a medal for placing in a tournament. The weekend of January 20-21 the team also traveled to Gainesville,

Florida, to compete in the Florida Classic, a big tournament boasting about thirty teams in the field. Results are unavailable at present.

The Bobcats' final home matches are Thursday, February 2, at 7 p.m. with the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Georgia Southern.



Sergio is the first EGC wrestler to win a medal.

Dr. Glenn Stracher's upcoming projects.



Dr. Stracher taking measurements at the Centralia Mine Fire.

In the spring of 2006, Dr. Stracher will travel to Kentucky where he will work with colleagues from the Center for Applied Energy Research at the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Geological Survey.

In August of 2006, Dr. Stracher will complete his research for the next Geological Society of America (GSA) national field trip at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania meeting in October. He will be leading the field trip to the Centralia mine fire in eastern Pennsylvania, burning since 1962. The trip is sponsored by the Coal Geology Division of GSA. The title of the trip is "The Great Centralia Mine Fire--Then and Now." This is where he made a movie with National Geographic in 2003. Since then,

the movie has played in a number of countries around the world. In addition, a manuscript he is authoring for the field trip will be published in the 2006 GSA Field Guide.

Dr. Stracher has been appointed editor of a special edition of "Reviews in Engineering Geology," a book published by the Geological Society of America. The special edition is the first ever of its kind for GSA and will be about "Wild Coal Fires." Contributing authors outside the U.S. are from around the world including the countries of China, Israel, Germany, Australia, South Africa, and the U.S. The book is scheduled for publication late in 2006.

He was recently named to "Who's Who in Science and Engineering" for 2006-2007.

Claire Lynch Band To Perform Feb. 24

Claire Lynch, IBMA's "Female Vocalist of the Year," and her band will perform on Friday, February 24, in the Luck Flanders Gambrell Auditorium, at East Georgia College at 7 p.m. Accompanying her in this incredible performance will be Guitarist Jim Hurst, Bassist Missy Raines, and Mandolinist David Harvey. The cost of the performance is \$10 for EGC students and \$12 for the general public.

Claire Lynch has written selections recorded by Patty Loveless, Kathy Mattea, Stephanie Davis, The Seldom Scene, Keith Little, and The Whites. Claire Lynch has appeared on albums with Linda Ronstadt, Dolly Parton, Patty Loveless, Emmylou Harris, Pam Tillis, Kathy Mattea, Jim Hurst, and Alison Brown.

The Claire Lynch Band performed last year at EGC, and impressed everyone with their incredible talent. **This is one you don't want to miss!** See Randy Carter or John Derden for tickets.



The Claire Lynch Band's previous performance at EGC.