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Stephen “Joey” LaValley

June 2, 2012



Since graduating from Georgia Southern in 2009 I have moved to Nevada and I am currently in my second year of the Master's program in the Anthropology Department at the University of Nevada, Reno. I am specializing in prehistoric archaeology of the Intermountain West (Great Basin). My thesis work deals with a rockshelter that was occupied over the past 4,700 years. I am interested in hunter-gatherer mobility and technological organization. I have authored one journal article in the "Nevada Archaeologist" and am the co-author on another article in "Current Research in the Pleistocene." Since graduating from Georgia Southern, I have participated in archaeological surveys and excavations in Utah, Nevada, and Oregon. I was first exposed to archaeology as an undergraduate at Georgia Southern, participating in the Mount Repose fieldschool and volunteering in the lab. Exposure to these opportunities prepared me for graduate school and an eventual career in archaeology. The faculty members were encouraging, engaging, and very personable. I thank them for challenging me and steering me in the direction of further education.

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Celeste Wheat

June 2, 2012



Celeste is a PhD candidate in Higher Education at the University of Southern Mississippi. Currently she is analyzing data for her dissertation, "Women's Pathways to the University Presidency." She is also serving as an intern to USM President Martha D. Saunders. Celeste says, "it has been so fascinating to have an inside look at the day-to-day role of the president as well as the functions of the President's Office." Looking back on her experience here she says, "My graduate school experience in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Georgia Southern University provided an exceptional learning environment for achieving my goals of developing an advanced knowledge base in sociology as well as cultivating strong research skills. Equally important, my experience serving as a graduate teaching assistant, under the mentorship of Dr. Peggy Hargis, equipped me with valuable teaching skills in preparation for my current role as an adjunct instructor of sociology at the University of Southern Mississippi."

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Sara (Morris) Evans

June 2, 2012



Sara recently completed her PhD in Sociology from the University of Georgia with her dissertation, "Trajectories of Offending among African-American Adolescents: The Role of Turning Points." She is now an assistant professor in the School of Justice Studies and Social Work at the University of West Florida. She has two articles published (in Justice Quarterly and Criminal Justice and Behavior) and several under review. She says, "My time at Georgia Southern was integral to my development as a scholar. The relationships I made there strongly influenced my decision to continue on in Sociology to get my PhD. The faculty there were a great resource not only for my development as a researcher and teacher, but also as mentors who taught me what it really meant to be a professional academic."

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