GHC nominates Steve Blankenship for BOR Award

STAFF REPORT
Georgia Highlands College has nominated Steve Blankenship, assistant professor of history, for the Board of Regents Teaching Excellence award, which is bestowed annually at a January gala held in Atlanta.

Each of the 35 institutions in the University System of Georgia nominates a faculty member for this prestigious award. Nominations are based on classroom observations, student evaluations and the recommendation of peers.

Blankenship came to Georgia Highlands in 2005 as a history instructor, and became assistant professor in 2008. He teaches at the Cartersville campus. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy and a Master of Arts in history from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of North Florida.

College officials said Blankenship stood out because of the way he makes history relevant to the present. Gone are rote memory tests that require the recall of a long series of important dates. Instead, he creates a class of interactive learning where students are required to think critically about the subject matter.

Blankenship also incorporates geography into his lessons. "Students can't really understand the origins of the Second World War if they don't know the location of Poland. Geographic illiteracy makes the study of history futile," he said.