



### **AGS Distinguished Scientists Award. Gesner Medal 2003.**

#### **Dr. Georgia Pe-Piper**

Georgia Pe-Piper has an enviable record of accomplishments as a geological researcher, teacher and innovator and as a role model for equality. Georgia's enduring fascination with igneous rocks started in her native Greece and extended to Cambridge University, where she received her Ph.D. in 1971. Returning to Greece, she rapidly established an international reputation for her studies on volcanic rocks, before moving to Saint Mary's University in 1981. Since becoming a Maritimer, Georgia has contributed to many facets of Atlantic Canada geology. She is the leading expert on the igneous rocks of offshore Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

With Luba Jansa, she defined the Meguma terrane offshore, the Jurassic and Cretaceous volcanic sequences and the first submarine impact crater, Montagnais. In 1983, Georgia began her studies of the Cobequid Highlands. She and her spouse – I believe his name is David Piper – and others have evaluated the Neoproterozoic to Jurassic geology of this structurally complicated region and identified Neoproterozoic back arc volcanism, late Paleozoic plume-related volcanism and the emplacement processes of shear-zone granites.

Other successes of the Cobequid project are the 15 completed honours theses and the new 1:10,000 maps. But Georgia's interests are not constrained to onshore Nova Scotia or the Scotian Shelf. She is the leading authority on the igneous rocks of Greece. Reflecting this is the recent publication by Georgia and David of a book on the igneous geology of that country. Research prowess is only one of Georgia's many talents. As a role model in the community, she has had a dramatic impact. She was the first woman chair of a geology department in Canada – kudos to Georgia and to Saint Mary's – and has been a powerful and eloquent advocate of women's role in geology. She was recently the president of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science, has been widely involved in evaluation of the university program in Greece, and managed, during all the above, to stay active in AGS.

In conclusion, Georgia Piper is a worthy addition to the distinguished list of Gesner Medal recipients.