

Department of Geography

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2001

The Walking, Talking Head

Bruce A. Ralston

These are the times that lift geographers' souls. The past year has been an exciting time for the Department of Geography for many reasons. There have been many changes since our last Newsletter and almost all of these are changes for the better. The biggest change is the move to the new Burchfiel Geography Building. The Department moved into the new building in early August, and the facility was officially dedicated on October 19th of this year. It was a glorious autumn day, the kind that brings out the full beauty of East Tennessee. There was a crisp blue sky, the trees were in full color, and the temperature was wonderful. The dedication ceremony included speeches by President J. Wade Gilley, past President Joe Johnson, Provost Cliff Woods, Dean Lorayne Lester, and former head and dear friend Sid Jumper. However, the show stealer was Mrs. Margaret Montgomery (see the photo on the back page), the daughter of William Burchfiel Sr., for whom the building is named, and sister of William Burchfiel Jr. whose estate awarded us this wonderful facility. Mrs. Montgomery had many heart-warming tales of growing up in Sevier County with her parents and brother. After the speeches, a plaque was unveiled and the ribbon cutting ceremony took place. A reception and tour of the building followed. Tours highlighted the research of the faculty and students of department. It was a good time to be a geographer, and an even better time to be a new department head! (Pictures of the new building are on our web site.)

Since becoming the head in August of 2000, I have been struck by how blessed we are by the generosity of others. The Burchfiel Building is an obvious example of generosity, but there are others, too. We have received two other major gifts this year past year. The J. Harrison and Robbie C. Livingston Professorship Endowment has been

funded by Mr. and Mrs. Livingston. This gift will help the Department address issues of world population and migration, subjects of much interest to the Livingston's. In addition to the Livingston Endowment, the Department received the James and Catherine Ralston Family Fellowship for support of GIS education and research. Both these gifts, along with many others from numerous donors, make it possible for us to run first class research and teaching programs here in the Department. (See the articles on the Livingston and Ralston gifts inside.)

As wonderful and important as these numerous gifts are in and of themselves, they take on special importance when coupled with the talented women and men that make up the department. Sitting here pondering my new responsibilities, I realize how fortunate we are to have faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduates who have a love for learning. Our faculty has grown with the addition of Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer, a world leader in dendrochronology (and a thoroughly nice human being). This past fall, we added what I believe is the largest number of graduate students ever to our program. They have already brought a high level of enthusiasm to our program. Whether we are in the classroom, on the slopes of mountains in Costa Rica, or floating through the ether of virtual communities, our department is deeply engaged in a variety research, teaching, and outreach activities. These activities bring a freshness and excitement to our lives, and keep us from getting overwhelmed by the many challenges facing the University of Tennessee in the seemingly unending fiscal crisis.

I want to end this, my first column as head, with a few personal observations. I want to invite everyone to sign up for our email listserv. This is a way to communicate with your friends from the

Department and keep up with their goings on. Directions for signing up for the email list can be found later in this Newsletter. I also want to take this opportunity to thank a few people. Pam Sharpe has made the transition to a new building and a new head as seamless as possible. She continues to be the person who can get things done. Thanks also are due to my two predecessors in this job. Sid Jumper has been a mentor and role model for me (and a source of unending, good natured kidding). Carol Harden, who stepped down as head this past

summer, is an inspiration. She proves that one can carry the weight of the headship without losing one's kindness and humor. Much of what I have written above is true because of Sid and Carol's stewardship. I have some big shoes to fill. I try to exercise them on a regular basis by practicing a lot of MBWA (Management By Walking Around). If you come visit, you are welcome to accompany me as I marvel at our good fortune and the wonderful women and men of the Department of Geography.

The J. Harrison and Robbie C. Livingston Professorship Endowment

In October 2000, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrison Livingston completed a generous \$250,000 gift to establish of the J. Harrison and Robbie C. Livingston Professorship. Income from the endowment will be used as a salary supplement for permanent, tenure-track faculty member, selected by the Head of the Department of Geography, who will emphasize the global problem of population growth and provide students with the background, tools, and experience needed to effectively obtain and analyze data on population, population issues, legal and illegal immigration, and existing and anticipated problems caused by population growth on planet of limited and stressed resources. As a result of conversations with the Livingstons and in anticipation of this professorship, the Geography department established the course "Population and Environment" (Geography 345), which was offered this fall semester. A special event to recognize the Livingstons and their generous gift will be scheduled later this academic year.

Mr. and Mrs. Livingston are Knoxville residents with a strong interest in population issues, especially those related to family size and to legal and illegal immigration. J. Harrison Livingston attended the University of Tennessee (Class of 1934). His son and daughter-in-law are UT graduates. A previous gift of equal magnitude from the Livingstons enabled the Tennessee Geographic Alliance to take advantage of a matching endowment opportunity (which, by the way, still exists) at the National Geographic Society to support training of Tennessee K-12

teachers. With their new endowment for Geography professorship, the Livingstons felt they could have the greatest impact on the young people of Tennessee by ensuring that classes addressing the world's population issues continue to be taught in the department of Geography at UT. We are extremely pleased to accept and implement the J. Harrison and Robbie C. Livingston Professorship, the first named professorship for this department.

Police Haul Away Becky, April Arrives in December

After 13 years of service to the Department, Becky Fontanez took a job this fall with the Knoxville Police Department. (We think Will gets a "Get of Jail Free" pass.) It was a difficult to let Becky go. However, the rumors that the police had to threaten Dr. Ralston with illegal imprisonment charges are greatly exaggerated.

In December, Ms. April Roysden joined our staff. I am sure you will find her to be courteous and professional. While we miss Becky, we are happy to have April on our staff.

Kurt Butefish Named Tennessee Geographic Alliance Co-coordinator

After a lot of searching for the right person, the Tennessee Geographic Alliance has named Kurt L. Butefish to the position of Co-coordinator. Butefish grew up in East Tennessee, and was a geography major when attending the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Kurt earned his bachelor's degree in June 1984, and then completed his master's degree

in geography in August 1986. His fields of concentration were cartography and remote sensing.

While at the University of Tennessee, he served two years as a graduate teaching assistant. At the same time, he worked in the Department's Cartographic Production Facility. In his final year of graduate school, he was a research assistant in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab. He moved to Huntsville, Alabama, after receiving his master's degree to work for the Intergraph Corporation, a computer graphics firm that develops GIS software. He served in a number of roles at Intergraph after 1986, eventually becoming a manager and system consultant.

Kurt and his wife Susan, who also received her MS degree from the department, returned to Knoxville in May to assume his new role with the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

Rehder Wins Cummings Award for Delta Sugar

John Rehder's book Delta Sugar: Louisiana's Vanishing Plantation Landscape won (over considerable competition) the prestigious Abbott Lowell Cummings Award for 2000 as the best book in the field of North American vernacular architecture studies. John attended the national meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum in Duluth to receive the award and found the organization and the award to both be far more impressive than he had previously realized. UT Press also sent a representative to the meeting (UT Press had Cummings Award books in 1986 and 1988). This fall John was the featured speaker at the College's Homecoming Pre-game Showcase. He also was featured at many book signings. Congratulations to John!

The James and Catherine Ralston Family Fellowship

On March 2, 2000 the Department announced the establishment of the James and Catherine Ralston Family Fellowship. Established by a \$200,000 gift from Thomas J. Ralston, son of James and Catherine (and Bruce Ralston's brother), the fellowship is to support teaching and research activities in Geographic Information Sciences. The

announcement ceremony last March was attended by Mrs. Ralston and her three sons (her two daughters couldn't make it.) It was a grand time, complete with embarrassing photographs of James and Catherine's children and grandchildren. During the ceremony, Dr. Ralston asked that everyone take a moment to think of those who had touched their lives and instilled in them an appreciation of education. The announcement ceremony was followed by a party at Calhouns. Since it coincided with the birthdays of Drs. Orvis and Ralston, two cakes with large numbers of candles on them were consumed. (The cooperation of the Tennessee State Fire Marshall is gratefully acknowledged!) Catherine later said that it was a most wonderful occasion, and she shared her memories of that day with her many sisters.

Geography Awareness Week a Big Success

GAW is always an exciting time for the Department, and this past year was exceptionally so. Graduate and undergrad students in the Department run our GAW outreach program, which might explain its high level of success. This past November, fifteen UT geography students conducted programs on biodiversity and conservation for 37 middle school classes, reaching over 750 students! In addition, the students organized an open house at the Burchfiel Geography Building. They were able to get donations of gift certificates, merchandise and food that exceeded \$1600 in value! Lindsey Holderfield, who was the coordinator for the GAW activities had a write up of their activities published in the March Newsletter of the Association of American Geographers!

Geography Students Win National Awards

Students of the Department of Geography have won several awards over the past year, including awards from the Association of American Geographers. At the 2000 AAG Meeting, Molly Foraker, who is now an instructor, won the Rural Geography Specialty Group's Best Student Paper Award. Xiaohong Xin won the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award from

Transportation Geography Specialty Group and took second place in the GIS Specialty Group's Student Paper Competition. Our students continued to shine at the 2001 AAG Meeting in New York. The 2001 Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award in Transportation Geography has been won by Agatino LaRosa. Daryl Wenner was a member (and captain) of the World Geography Bowl winners. Ph. D. candidate Jim Speer received an honorable mention from the Biogeography Specialty Group for his paper in the Ph.D. student paper competition.

Orvis Wins Volunteer Spirit Award

This past fall, Dr. Ken Orvis received the Volunteer Spirit Award for Outstanding Service to the University. This award was made primarily for his outstanding and exhausting service as the coordinator of the construction and move to the Burchfiel Geography Building. Ken's efforts went far beyond the call of duty. Provost Cliff Woods, Alan Chesney, the Director of Human Resources, and the UT mascot Smokey presented Ken with a citation and a check. It was a much deserved award and a total surprise for Ken.

Geography Part of President's Initiatives

UT President J. Wade Gilley established the President's Initiatives to Improve Teaching, Research and Service. One of the goals of the initiatives is to foster interdisciplinary ties. Members of the Department worked with faculty and staff in various departments and colleges to put together several proposals, three of which received funding. The Interdisciplinary Study of Global Environmental Change received \$500,000 over 5 years. The Southeast Water Policy Initiative received \$105,000 for three years of funding, while the Tennessee Electronic Atlas Project received \$30,000.

Board of Visitors Adds Two New Members

The Department's Board of Visitors, a distinguished panel of wise people (so say we all!) added two new members at this fall's meeting. Ms. Janet Hunter joined the Board. Janet is a graduate of UT who now lives in northern Virginia, but who still has ties to Tennessee. She has had a successful career in the computer networking industry. Over the past several years, Janet has been a good friend and a strong supporter of the department. The other new member is Tom Maertens. Tom received his M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in Geography from UT. After a successful military career, he now works in development at Clemson University.

The Alliance Continues its Excellent Work

The Alliance offered three highly successful programs for K-12 teachers during the summer of 2000, including a 5-day workshop on POPULATION AND RESOURCES, another 5-day workshop on GEOGRAPHY AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, and a two-week institute, directed by **Carol Harden**, on HOW THE ENVIRONMENT WORKS. Teachers from Oklahoma, Florida, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania, as well as Tennessee, participated in the institute.

This summer's offerings include three, 5-day workshops, INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT directed by **Henri Grissino-Mayer**, IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE POPULATION OF THE U.S. and the ever popular GEOGRAPHY AND EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY. The INTERACTIONS workshop is being funded by a grant provided by the Dwight D. Eisenhower Teacher Professional Development Program that resulted from a proposal submitted by Kurt and Henri.

Another item of interest is the 2001 statewide meeting for the Alliance, THE TENNESSEE GEOFEST that will be held on November 3, at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin.

Sid, Kurt, and Carol Harden are working with the American Geophysical Union, U.S. Geological Survey, National Geographic, and three other state alliances, on a major proposal for

funding an educational program to train K-12 teachers on HOW NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS WORK. Sid and Kurt (with collaboration from **Charles Aiken** and **John Rehder**) also submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a 4-week institute on CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE AMERICAN SOUTH.

Another highpoint for geography education in Tennessee has been the establishment of two awards for outstanding geography teachers. The Lottie and Alden Beverly Award is for Outstanding Geographic Education in grades K-6, while the Stella and Tom Mullane Award is for Outstanding Geographic Education in grades 7-12. Both awards, which were funded by private donations and matching funds from the National Geographic Society, will be given at the next Geofest meeting.

Visit Our Web Site

Want to keep up with the Department, but can't make it Knoxville? Then visit our website at <http://web.utk.edu/~utkgeog>. In addition to the many descriptions of the department, you will find a photos section with highlights of some of the Departmental activities.

Join the Department email List

If you want to stay in closer touch with the Department and its friends, why not join our email list? We want the email list to become a place where current members of the department, alumni, and friends can keep in touch, debate issues important to the Department and to higher education, and to post job openings. In addition, **we would like to compile a sense of history (often humorous) about the Department and its personalities.** We now have a mailing list:

jig-1@cowbar.geog.utk.edu. Here's how to join. Send an email to majordomo@cowbar.geog.utk.edu and in the body (not subject) type **subscribe jig-1**. After that you will receive another two e-mails. One is a summary of how to use majordomo and the other is a conformation email. Please follow the instructions in the conformation e-mail and send back your conformation code and you will be in the mailing list. Please save the summary e-mail because it has instruction of how to unsubscribe from the mailing list.

Many thanks to **Cheng Liu** for setting this up. By the way, Cheng say he hopes for lots of gossip!

The McCroskey Fund

The Stewart K. McCroskey Memorial Fund was established in 1993 by the McCroskey family to honor the memory of Stewart K. McCroskey, a graduate student who passed away that year. Since its inception, the McCroskey Fund has funded nearly 50 research projects, with the majority of the funds going to student research projects. The McCroskey Awards are typically small, usually in the \$500 range, and the majority of the money is used for travel to field sites and equipment. None of the money is used to administer the fund—it all goes to students and faculty. A committee of faculty and students reviews each proposal, and all awardees must write Hope McCroskey, Stewart's mother and a great friend of the Department, a letter describing how they used their award. As this academic year comes to a close, we would like to invite you to consider contributing to the McCroskey Fund. The history of the fund shows that even a little bit of money can make a big difference in the lives of students and faculty.

News from the Faculty

Tom Bell, stayed busy this year by serving on many College-level committees—promotion and tenure, individualized major programs, social science curriculum, future of the planning program within the College, academic review board and urban studies. He also continues as secretary of the Epsilon of Tennessee chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

He was a finalist this year for the National Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award.

Tom presented a poster/paper at the 2000 Chapel Hill meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (with **Margaret M. Gripshover**) entitled "Twenty Years Down the Road: Examination of Changes in the Official State Highway Map in the Southeast 1980

and 2000.” He also served on the World Geography Bowl committee, the Endowment Fund committee and chair of the Nominating Committee of the Southeastern Division of the AAG. He presented a paper at the AAG meeting in New York City (with Norris Smith, Department of Psychology) entitled “The Travel Experience as Learning, Leisure and Liberation: A Phenomenological Approach”.

Projects underway, but not yet completed, include writing a chapter on the economic and globalization aspects of the Advanced Placement examination in human geography in a forthcoming guidebook for high school teachers of the AP course to be edited by Robert Bednarz, a review of Edward Soja’s *Postmetropolis* for the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, and is under contract to design a series of learning modules for a new educational product being developed by John Wiley and Sons, Inc. (with **Margaret M. Gripshover**).

Tom is happy that his son Brian’s band (Weezer) will soon be releasing their third album but disappointed that he will be missing their forthcoming Yahoo.com tour shows in Athens, GA and New York that “bookend” the AAG meeting in New York. Fortunately the band will be travelling more extensively later this spring and summer. His daughter Leia graduated with a degree in art from the University of Utah in May and then hopes to go to Los Angeles to seek her artistic muse whether it be in photography or printmaking. Finally, Tom recently enjoyed celebrating the start of the true millenium aboard the Sea Princess in the western Caribbean with his fiancée.

T. J. Blasing just returned (August 22) from a delightful visit to Skull Valley, Utah, to view the proposed site for temporary storage of spent nuclear fuel. He also attended a public hearing on that subject. However, this time, T.J. didn't have to sit up in front of the hearing wearing a coat and tie. He just wore jeans and a "Habitat for Humanity" tee shirt and sat in the back and watched. He says that it reminds him of his old student-activist days at the University of Wisconsin back in the 1960s. Speaking of the University of Wisconsin, T.J.’s recently married son is back there trying to get a PhD in Slavic languages.

Molly Foraker, Instuctor and Doctoral Candidate in Geography, presented a paper at the

AAG meetings in Pittsburgh for which she won the Rural Development Specialty Group’s award for best paper. The paper discussed the role of tourism development (in Sevierville, TN) in the transition of a self-sufficient African American community into a high poverty neighborhood largely inhabited by white, mother-only families. Molly was recently appointed a board member of the RDSG and she organized a session for this year’s New York AAG meetings on the use of “tourism as a rural development strategy.” Her paper for this session examined the impact of recreation/retirement development on a low-income African American neighborhood in the town of Kingston, TN. Her research on poverty within the context of tourism development was also the theme for a short article written for the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*. These papers are all case studies in rural/small town poverty derived from her dissertation: *A Social-Spatial Analysis of the Rural Poor in Eastern Tennessee*, which is being directed by Dr. Charles Aiken. This year, while finishing her dissertation, Molly is enjoying (and busy) teaching World Regional Geography. When not working, she simply enjoys spending time with her family (husband Don and son Ross).

Ron Foresta has stayed busy this year. He's been active in Geography Alliance workshops, participating in the workshop on Population and Resources last summer and preparing to lead participants in this year's earth sciences workshop into the field. He was active in connection with UT's Semester in Wales Program, serving on the selection committee this year's director interviewing student candidates for the program. He also helped select UT candidates for the Marshall and Fulbright programs. He continued his association with the University Honors program, teaching "Exploring the City" a field-oriented urban course that focuses on Knoxville. He continued his service on the Urban Studies Program steering committee, which this year saw the program become the undergraduate component of the new department of Urban and Regional Planning. He also stepped in and ran Urban Study's senior seminar last fall. Ron continues his PhD advising, and is currently working with students in geography, business and human ecology. He has begun collaborating with his former student, Roger Dendinger, in turning his

PhD work into a book. The two of them will travel to New England this summer for fieldwork. And Ron continues work on his *Land Between the Lakes* book. He won't say exactly how close to finished he is -- bad luck, he says -- but he has been seen nosing about in TVA's photo archives recently -- a good sign.

Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, our newest faculty member, joins us from Valdosta State University, where he spent three years as an Assistant Professor in Environmental Geography. His training centers on climatology and biogeography, with primary research interests concerning the reconstruction of past environments using information from tree-ring data (dendrochronology). He has developed a 2,200 year long reconstruction of annual precipitation for northwestern New Mexico based on tree-ring data, and has been involved in numerous reconstructions of fire regimes in western areas. He is currently involved in research projects in the southern Appalachian Mountains (with graduate students **Michael Armbrister** and **Jake Cseke**), the coastal plain of southern Georgia (with graduate student **Beth Atchley** and co-PI Jeff Tepper of the University of Puget Sound), the lava fields of New Mexico (with graduate student **Daniel Lewis** and Rex Adams and Tom Swetnam from the University of Arizona), the juniper woodlands of Oregon (with Paul Knapp of Georgia State and Pete Soule of Appalachian State), and the mountains of southeastern Arizona (with Chris Baisan of the University of Arizona). Newer projects underway include tree-ring research in the Dominican Republic (with **Sally Horn, Ken Orvis, and Jim Speer**), and in Costa Rica (**with Sally Horn, Ken Orvis, and Carol Harden**). Dr. Grissino-Mayer's teaching interests include general physical geography and upper level courses in biogeography, soils geography, meteorology and climatology, and seminars in dendrochronology and quantitative methods.

Last October, Henri gave an invited talk in the Department of Geology at the State University of West Georgia in Carrollton titled "Climate-wildfire interactions on century time scales: the tree-ring evidence." Soon after, Henri gave an invited talk to the Violin Society of American at their Annual Meeting, held in Cincinnati, Ohio,

about the use of tree rings for dating musical instruments. This led to Dr. Grissino-Mayer's involvement with the authentication of the construction date of the famous "Messiah" violin, attributed to Antonio Stradivari in 1716. Henri also gave an invited talk at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in New York City titled "The role of dendrochronological research in the earth sciences." Recently, Dr. Grissino-Mayer gave another invited talk at an NSF sponsored workshop in Columbia, South Carolina, concerning the reconstruction of past hurricane events from proxy data sources, such as tree-ring data.

He recently published a technical article titled "Modeling fire interval data from the American Southwest using the Weibull distribution" in the journal International Journal of Wildland Fire. Another recent publication concerned the effects of long-term climate change on wildfires titled "Century-scale climate forcing of fire regimes in the American Southwest" in the journal Holocene, with Tom Swetnam as co-author. Dr. Grissino-Mayer currently has four articles in press in various journals and another review article about the basics of dendrochronology soon to come out in the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology. He serves as Associate Editor of the journal Tree-Ring Research, as a member of the Advisory Board for the journal Dendrochronologia, as an Associate Editor of the Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science, as Secretary of the Tree-Ring Society, and as a Board Member of the International Tree-Ring Data Bank. He is actively involved as the moderator for both the Dendrochronology Internet forum and the Biogeography Internet forum. For more information about research in dendrochronology, one can visit the Ultimate Tree-Ring Web Pages maintained by Dr. Grissino-Mayer at <http://web.utk.edu/~grissino/>.

Carol Harden, switched academic titles from "Associate Professor and Head" to "Professor and Associate Head" in August 2000. She has moved her labs into the Burchfiel Building and is enjoying the opportunity to spend more time with research and less with administration. With Louise Mathews (M.S. '95), she recently published "Rainfall response of degraded soil following reforestation in

the Copper Basin, Tennessee, USA” in *Environmental Management* (vol. 26, no. 2, pp 163-174), and she presented additional research results from the Copper Basin, “Pine reforestation versus geomorphic recovery in Copper Basin, Tennessee,” at the AAG meeting in Pittsburgh. During the past academic year, she was an invited symposium speaker at the Geological Society of America meeting in Denver, and an invited plenary speaker at the SWAAG meeting in San Marcos, Texas. In June 2000, she directed a two-week institute on “How the natural environment works” for the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. The institute, with sponsorship and collaboration from the National Geographic Society, U.S. Geological Survey, American Geophysical Union, and Oklahoma Geographic Alliance, included teachers from Oklahoma, Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania, and has led to a continuing effort to strengthen physical geography in the K-12 curriculum.

Sally Horn, was promoted to Professor in 1999-2000, and celebrated with a trip to California to commemorate her father’s 80th birthday. She also made several trips to Latin America funded by grants from The A.W. Mellon Foundation and the UTK Professional Development Award program. In January 2000, Sally and graduate students **Lisa Kennedy**, **Marty Arford**, and **Kevin Anchukaitis** scoured the Pacific slope of Costa Rica for good coring sites, and retrieved sediment cores from two lakes near the Panamanian border and another two close to Nicaragua on the lower slope of Volcán Miravalles. Analyses of the sediments and the pollen grains, charcoal, and other plant fossils they contain will shed light on the history of vegetation, fires, and climate in these two contrasting areas of Costa Rica. Sally returned to Costa Rica in March 2000 with **Ken Orvis** and graduate students **Brandon League** and **Charles Lafon** to study lakes and ancient glaciers at the foot of Cerro Chirripó, Costa Rica’s highest peak. A highlight of the fieldwork was recovering a sediment dredge lost in one of the lakes two years earlier! (A small bit of refurbishing on the grinder and it will be as good as new.)

For Sally, as other faculty members, preparing to move occupied much of the summer of 2000, but she was able to squeeze in a trip to the

Peruvian Amazon with collaborator Robert Sanford (University of Denver) and a short visit to the La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica that included daughter Carolyn (now 14) and son Kevin (11). At last in the Burchfiel building, a highlight of the Fall 2001 semester for Sally was teaching biogeography in our new advanced physical geography teaching lab. With the support of a fellowship from the Committee for Undergraduate Excellence, Sally developed a series of hands-on exercises that had the students throwing hula hoops across campus lawns to compare herbaceous species diversity and counting and interpreting fossil pollen samples using two new microscopes purchased for teaching. Other grants and gifts have provided additional laboratory and field equipment available for use in our 400-level courses.

In January 2001, Sally collected sediment cores from a high-elevation bog in Costa Rica with **Ken Orvis** and graduate student **Duane Cozadd**. In March 2001, **Sally** and **Ken** returned to Cerro Chirripó for the third time in four years, this time accompanied by **Carol Harden**, graduate student **Jake Cseke**, and Ken’s son Tom (17). The team recovered additional sediment cores from glacial lakes and made geomorphic observations that took advantage of Carol’s extensive past experience in glaciated landscapes round the world. They also collected wood samples from a high-elevation tropical shrub in support of collaborative research on tropical tree rings led by **Henri Grissino-Mayer**. While this faculty-heavy research team shivered at 3500 m, a second team made up of Sally’s graduate students explored more lakes on the hot and dusty lower slopes of Volcán Miravalles in northwestern Costa Rica. Leading the charge and trying hard to play both his traditional role and Sally’s in the field was Ph.D. student **Marty Arford**, whose dissertation focuses on the sediment records in these lakes. Bravely assisting in crocodile-infested waters were **Lisa Kennedy**, **Kevin Anchukaitis**, and **Duane Cozadd**. Sally co-authored five papers published in calendar year 2000, and made presentations at AAG meetings on postfire vegetation dynamics in the Dominican Republic (2000) and Pleistocene Pollen and Macrofossils from lowland Costa Rica and Ecuador (2001). She served on the nominating committee for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Honors

Committee of the Association of American Geographers, and was part of the external review team for the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Sid Jumper is attempting to more fully implement his retirement, which began three years ago. Kurt Butefish, who obtained an MS in Geography from the department in 1986, is the new Program Administrator for the Tennessee Geographic Alliance and will be assuming increased responsibilities for the Alliance operation and management.

The Alliance offered three highly successful programs for K-12 teachers during the summer of 2000, including a 5-day workshop on POPULATION AND RESOURCES, another 5-day workshop on GEOGRAPHY AND EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY, and a two-week institute on HOW THE ENVIRONMENT WORKS. Teachers from Oklahoma, Florida, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania, as well as Tennessee, participated in the institute.

Other items of possible interest are that the 2000 TENNESSEE GEOFEST will be held on November 4, in the new Burchfiel Geography Building, and that GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK this year is November 13-17 with the theme on CONSERVATION.

Sid, Kurt, and Carol Harden are working with the American Geophysical Union, U.S. Geological Survey, National Geographic, and three other state alliances, on a major proposal for funding an educational program to train K-12 teachers on HOW NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS WORK. Sid and Kurt are also working on a proposal (with collaboration from Charles Aiken and John Rehder) on DIVERSITY WITHIN THE AMERICAN SOUTH.

Mostly, Sid is attempting to stay out of the line of fire as much as possible, and to spend more time in his easy chair when he isn't attending swim meets where his granddaughter is a fierce competitor.

Ken Orvis, now Associate Professor, got promoted and tenured last year, so everybody watch out! Other than that effort, way too much of last year was devoted to shepherding the new Burchfiel Geography Building through completion, and serving as Move Coordinator for decanting the department from our old digs in G&G, our

temporary T.A. offices and teaching spaces in Aconda Court, and some labs in the South Stadium, all into BGB and the SERF building. (We also moved **Carol Harden's** operation from SERF to BGB, and **Henri Grissino-Mayer** into SERF.) Ken has stated that everything wrong with BGB for the first two years may be blamed on him, but after that the statute of limitations will run out. A supportive faculty nominated Ken for the university's "Volunteer Spirit Award" which was delivered last fall in a surprise ceremony featuring Smoky the Guy in a Dog-Mascot Suit.

Ken got down to Costa Rica in March 2000, January 2001, and March 2001 with, variously, **Sally Horn, Carol Harden, Brandon League, Charles Lafon, Duane Cozadd, and Jake Cseke**, and to the Dominican Republic with **Henri Grissino-Mayer** and **Jim Speer** in December 2000. They continued their research there into glacial, climate, and vegetation history. Tree-ring samples are finally on the way from the Dominican Republic. Ken returned from Costa Rica with many new moraine and soil samples, and thirty-one kilogram-size samples of boulder tops suitable for cosmogenic isotope dating. The results will allow him to refine the glacial history of Cordillera de Talamanca, which will hopefully also yield insights into late Pleistocene climate history elsewhere in the new world tropics including the team's parallel work in the Dominican Republic.

Grants received this year include a new National Geographic Society grant for studying lowland lakes, highland tree rings, and other sources of climate data in the Dominican Republic, a Faculty Development Award for the Chirripó trip, a UTNAA/CUE/ITC grant for acquiring data sets for online geoid and datum instruction, and limelight as the technical P.I. on **Jim Speer's** Doctoral Dissertation Improvement grant from NSF. Ken's publications and professional services include one textbook review, serving on the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Review Panel, some speaking engagements, two research papers (a third is back for revision), a book review, and one AAG presentation on the Chirripó glacial reconstructions and another on pollen in tropical soils.

Lydia Pulsipher, professor, and son Alex did "ground truthing" in Southeast Asia, India, Turkey, and Slovenia during Summer, 2000. This means they were checking to be sure what they wrote in

their text, *World Regional Geography* (New York: W.H. Freeman, 2000) was as accurate as possible. The trip was a modified “back-pack” excursion and featured visits to forest preserves, large and small cities, and rural settlements. The last three weeks of the trip were spent in Slovenia, where the authors, including Lydia’s husband, Mac Goodwin, who also worked on the book, looked at the changes that have been wrought by marketization of the Slovene economy and society. (They also attended family parties on a nearly nightly basis, as Lydia’s cousins own a restaurant in the hometown of Ribnica.)

The Pulsipher textbook is now used in many departments across the country and preparations will soon begin on the 2nd edition. Many people now, or previously, connected with the department worked on the book. A number of cartography students made maps under the direction of **Will Fontanez**, director of the book map program. **Jennifer Rogalsky** wrote both the Instructor’s Resource Manual and the Student Study Guide with Helen Rugh Aspaas of Virginia Commonwealth University. Alumnus **Peggy Gripshover** edited parts of the book WebPage (<http://www.whfreeman.com/pulsipher/index.htm>). Former grad student, **Andy Walter**, now at Florida State, wrote the test bank.

In November, Lydia and M.S. student Lindsey Holderfield presented a paper at SEDAAG and they are now both preparing for research trips to the Caribbean in late spring: Lindsey to Antigua and Lydia to Montserrat to begin a new project with geographer Dydia Delyser of LSU. In July, Lydia will accompany her husband, Mac Goodwin, on a trip to Australia (and by the way, Alex Pulsipher is off this summer to begin a Ph.D. in geography at Clark University in Massachusetts).

Bruce Ralston has taken on the duties of Department Head, yet he still believes he can continue to move his teaching and research forward. Being Head means that he will teach fewer courses, but Bruce works hard to improve the quality of his courses and to keep students working on the leading (not bleeding) edge of GIS technology. This past summer, he started work on the Tennessee Electronic Atlas along with **Will Fontanez**, **Melanie White**, and **David Ralston**. This project, funded by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance and private donations should be ready for prime time at

the end of April. However, the project is envisioned to be an on-going affair. Bruce also continues to work with County Technical Assistance Service on a variety of projects. CTAS currently employs 3 geography graduate students, with some undergraduates to be added soon. He recently reached an agreement to work with Melanie White on crime analysis for the Knoxville Police Department. This past year Bruce published a paper on GIS and Intelligent Transport Systems for the journal Geoinformatics, and finished two book chapters. One is on GIS and Logistics for **Shih-Lung Shaw**’s forthcoming book on GIS and Transportation, and the other was on recent advances in Transportation Geography. He finished an update of his text *Developing GIS Solutions with MapObjects and Visual Basic* and is working with **Cheng Liu** on a GIS programming book based on C++. (Bruce notes that programming books have a very short half-life.) Bruce continues to serve as North American Editor of the Journal of Transport Geography. He also has been a faculty member for executive education programs in transportation and logistics at Northwestern University and the University of Louisville. In his spare time, Bruce tries to eat and sleep. He obviously does one better than the other!

John Rehder, is in his thirty-fourth year at the University of Tennessee’s Department of Geography. His 1999 book Delta Sugar: Louisiana’s Vanishing Plantation Landscape published by the Johns Hopkins University Press won the Abbott Lowell Cummings Award in 2000. The Cummings prize, awarded by the Vernacular Architecture Forum, is given each year to the author of the book that has made the most significant contribution to the study of vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes in North America. This year, Rehder’s *Delta Sugar* was chosen from a field of twenty-two books represented by such publishers as MIT Press, Rutgers Press, Princeton Architectural Press, University of California Press, University of Toronto Press, University of British Columbia Press, University of Kansas Press, University of Nebraska Press, and the University of North Carolina Press among others. The Awards ceremony was held in Duluth, MN at the Vernacular Architecture Forum annual meetings banquet where John was invited to sit in with a

Finnish reggae band to play conga drums. He had a blast!

John continues to work on his advance contract book, *Folk Culture in Southern Appalachia*, for the Johns Hopkins Press. He has been researching music and food festivals, the latest of which was the 19th annual Smoky Mountain Fiddler's Convention in Loudon, Tennessee.

In August, John just couldn't get enough of the moving experience from the G&G Building to the new Burchfiel Building; so he had to go out and build a new house and move into it at the same time the department moved into Burchfiel. The Rehder's are enjoying their unique new house with its view of the Smoky Mountains and Lake Loudon.

"Opah" is going to be "opah" again as Ken and Angie is expecting a daughter in December. Ken is a dentist in the practice of Harris, Horton, and Mabry in Lenoir City, TN. Judy is a principal at Chilhowee School and Karen is an eighth-grade English teacher at Farragut Middle School.

Shih-Lung Shaw, Associate Professor, recently completed the manuscripts of his co-authored book, "Geographic Information Systems for Transportation: Principles and Applications". This book now is in press and will be published by the Oxford University Press. Shih-Lung also had an article published in a special issue on GIS for transportation (GIS-T) and intelligent transportation systems (ITS) by the journal of *GeoInformatica*

(2000). In addition, Shih-Lung presented papers at the AAG meeting in Pittsburgh, PA and at the ESRI User Conference in San Diego, CA (BTW, some UTK geography graduate students applied for and received ESRI student assistantship to attend the conference. They worked hard, learned a lot, and had fun at the conference.) During his trip to Taiwan in June 2000, Shih-Lung also gave an invited talk in the Geography Department at the National Taiwan University.

In terms of his service activities, Shih-Lung was elected at the AAG meeting in Pittsburgh to serve a two-year term (2000-2002) as the Chair of the AAG Transportation Geography Specialty Group. He also was appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Transport Geography*. With regard to funded projects, Shih-Lung completed a GIS software evaluation project for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) in June 2000. For the coming year, he has been awarded a 18-month research grant by the Florida DOT to study the spatiotemporal equilibrium of land use and transportation interactions and a 10-month project funded by TDOT to evaluate laser swath mapping accuracy. He will also participate in the forthcoming Knoxville origin-destination travel survey (The first one in almost four decades!) Shih-Lung's motto is "Don't leave home without your laptop computer."

Graduate Student News

Marty Arford is finishing his thesis on environmental history of Lago Cote, Costa Rica, and has been admitted into the Ph.D. program in Geography. His thesis work involved investigations of pollen, charcoal, and tephra layers in lake sediments at a mid-elevation rain forest site. Marty's dissertation project includes more pollen, charcoal, and tephra work from lake sediments, but this time from the seasonally dry slopes of Miravailles volcano in northwestern Costa Rica at lakes that are as yet unstudied. He will compare sediment records between several lakes to look for evidence of past changes in climate, fire history, and human activity at local and regional scales. In past years Marty has been a teaching assistant, but this year he is serving as a research assistant

(funded by A.W. Mellon) working on his dissertation and other projects for **Sally Horn**.

This past January Marty spent 2 weeks in Costa Rica collecting sediment cores with **Sally Horn**, **Lisa Kennedy**, and **Kevin Anchukaitis**. The coring at Kevin's sites was textbook perfect, with sediments as soft as butter. Not so at Marty's sites where the work was tough and the progress was slow. Maybe those offerings to the gods of the lakes were worth it, Kevin! Lisa became known as "Señorita Chuleta" at the favorite soda, and Marty has a photo of Sally at the beach during an uncharacteristic stop one afternoon. (Dr. Horn at the beach? What about her reputation?) Marty is excited about playing with more mud in Costa Rica on an upcoming field trip (Spring 2001) for more lake coring.

Marty gave several presentations this year, including his first paper at the AAG meeting in Pittsburgh. He was invited to talk about his research as the keynote speaker for the annual Geoscience Day celebration at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and gave presentations at the Tennessee Geographic Alliance summer workshops. The Geography Department awarded Marty the 1999-2000 Robert G. Long Award (MS level). He also received a "Bravery in the Field" award from Dr. Sally Horn for nearly walking on water (see Lisa Kennedy's bio, this section).

Michael Armbrister is in his second year of the Master's program, and is currently working with his new advisor, **Henri Grissino-Mayer**, to develop a thesis topic focusing on the population dynamics of Table Mountain Pine (*Pinus pungens*). *P. pungens* is a rare pine species endemic to the Appalachian Mountains. He is the Head Teaching Assistant for Geography 131 and also works for TVA.

Beth Atchley is first year Master's student. She was born in Charleston S.C., but moved here with her family when she was younger. Beth graduated from U.T. Knoxville in 1995 with a B.A. in Psychology. She just finished up a 2 year Internship with TVA natural heritage program where she updated their database of rare and endangered plants in the TVA power service area. Beth also assisted with endangered plant monitoring, bat monitoring, and surveying wetlands. Before that, she served two years with Americorps in the Knoxville area during which time she was involved in minor home repair for low-income families, environmental education in inner city schools, and stream bank restoration in urban creeks. Beth is interested in working with Henry Grissino-Mayer examining *Torreya taxifolia* in Florida and investigating the environmental/climatic variables that effect their growth and limit their distributions. Things Beth likes to do: hiking, tennis, playing with her dog at the park, and gardening.

Kevin Birdwell is a first year Phd student. For 9 years he has been a climatologist/atmospheric researcher at the Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Division of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in Oak Ridge. Kevin's interests are Climatology, Remote Sensing,

and Air Pollution Meteorology. Previously, he obtained a B.S. degree in Geography (1988) and a M.S. degree in Geography (1996) from Murray State University. Currently, Kevin works with the East Tennessee Ozone Study (ETOS) helping to maintain a meteorological/ozone network of sites. He's currently researching ways to apply remote sensing technology to air quality and landscape issues. Kevin and his wife, Marsha, have two children, Keith (5 yrs), and Kyle (almost 2 yrs). They live in Caryville, TN near Cove Lake State Park.

Lisa Boulton is in the first year of her PhD and recently completed an MPhil in geography at the University of Wales in the United Kingdom. Her research interests include geomorphology (particularly fluvial geomorphology), hydrology, and watershed processes. Her masters research examined the role of storm events and antecedent weather conditions in the occurrence of extreme heavy metal contaminant concentrations (peaks and lows) in a stream in South Wales, the Nant-y-Fendrod, which experienced over 200 years of metal contamination through metal smelting. For her PhD, she hopes to investigate the interaction between hillslope and fluvial processes and the significance of this process interaction in terms of landscape evolution and implications for interpreting paleo-geomorphic surfaces. However, it is early days yet, and she is still formulating ideas! In the mean time, she is working as a teaching assistant in World Regional Geography and enjoying living in Knoxville.

Marianne Russell Chrystalbridge has continued over the past year to chase down natural scientists to interview for her Master's thesis on the role of subjectivity in natural science field work. She spent a wonderful week in the mountains of Virginia in 1999 at the Mountain Lake Biological Field Station, and tells us that she learned something there that somehow she hadn't learned in childhood - how to catch salamanders! Marianne presented a paper on her findings (on the subjective, not on the salamanders) at the AAG conference in Pittsburgh in March, 2000. She reports that one of the best local finds in Pittsburgh was the discovery of "Happy Dyngus Day" at a Polish tavern in an Italian neighborhood - great food and great atmosphere. She suspects, though, that the holiday

was designed just for tourists - complete with the big red buttons they gave people to wear.

Marianne plans to present an update on my research topic at the SEDAAG conference in Chapel Hill in November. In Fall and Spring of last year she taught her first classes in World Regional Geography. She simultaneously took the mentoring program here at UT, which provided great insights for teaching. This summer she worked for the U.S. census, and saw first hand how the population data is collected (and also saw the role subjectivity played in it!). Marianne is currently a teaching assistant for World Regional Geography (101) and for Geography of Europe (371). She continues her thesis work, which includes readings in the philosophy of science, with special focus on how natural scientists conceptualize the natural environment. She is also looking for another site where she can collect more data on that elusive woodland creature, the natural scientist. Meanwhile, Marianne continues to plant lilies and other perennials in her garden, contributions (including the Ralston day lily and the Rogalsky daffodil) from colleagues near and far.

Jake Cseke is a first year Master's student. He has worked in many different fields but mainly in research and conservation. Specifically, Jake worked with the nesting behavior of passerines with the Montana Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit, agricultural soil profiles with the USDA, conservation of dune and swale, prairie, and savannah habitats with the Nature Conservancy, and several other research projects. He plans (tentatively!) to work with the conservation of old growth trees and temperate rainforests in either the Pacific Northwest or the Southern Appalachians.

Kendrick J. Curtis is a native of the wiregrass region of southeast Alabama, who was raised on a peanut and cattle farm near Troy, Alabama. His undergraduate degree in Geography was obtained from the University of North Alabama, where he became interested in both Human/Cultural Geography and GIS. Kendrick reports that he was fortunate to spend this past summer in Virginia working as a Pioneer Farm intern and historical interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.

Jeffrey Givens is new to the graduate department (Fall) and came here from Austin Peay

State University, although the majority of his undergraduate career was at Valdosta State University (with **Brent Collier** and **Henri Gissino-Mayer**). Jeffrey's interest is in transport GIS and he plans to finish in two years (he's keeping his fingers crossed!). His other interests include sports, being outdoors, and sports.

Judy Grable has been spent splashing around in Second Creek, as she continues to collect data on the effects of urbanization on this stream for her dissertation. In a change from the usual physical geography orientation, Judy is a teaching assistant for World Regional Geography (101) this year. Next fall Judy will join the faculty at Valdosta State University.

Carrie Hembree, who just entered her fourth and perhaps final year of the Master's program, is a Research Assistant for the Tennessee Solid Waste Education Project and the Center for Geography and Environmental Education. Every year she attends the Tennessee Environmental Education Association Conference, where she works with a team to present Curriculum Workshops in solid waste and recycling education. Carrie collaborates with a group from the University of the South to develop an environmental education initiative for the southern counties of the Cumberland Plateau. Most recently, Carrie was involved in the 2001 Tennessee State Geography Bee. Carrie's thesis, which explores Eastern hardwood forest conversion, is in conjunction with the Dogwood Alliance's ForestWatch project, and she conducts her own research in Arctic environment and climatology. Carrie continues to assist with Dr. Charles Aiken's American South geography course. In her spare time, Carrie teaches children how to be "Nature Detectives" at Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville and is bossed around by two fat cats.

Lindsey Holderfield is a first year Master's student, working with **Lydia Pulsipher**, on the subject of tourism in the Caribbean, probably Antigua. She graduated from Auburn University with a B. A. in Geography in June. Lindsey also completed a minor in Spanish in San Jose, Costa Rica last year. After completing the coursework in San Jose she backpacked solo in Panama, which was amazing. Lindsey has done a good bit of traveling over the last 10 years or so, mostly in Central America and the Caribbean. At Auburn,

she served as President and Founder of the GeoExplorers Geography Club, as well as the President of the Eta Theta chapter of GTU. She volunteered for two years with Project Uplift, a similar program to Big Brothers, Big Sisters, with the same two children. She also worked with children through the Adopt-A-School program for two years, as a volunteer teaching assistant in a fourth grade classroom. Here at UT Lindsey is headed up the committee for Geography Awareness Week which, with lots of help from everyone, was a huge success!

Ola Johannsson had an eventful as well as productive year. The AAG meeting in Pittsburgh was a pleasant experience despite the confusing laws of Pennsylvania regulating certain consumer products (those mythical beer distributors remained elusive) and speedtraps along the way (a recommendation to all you leadfoots out there: avoid Summersville, WV!) The paper Ola presented, "Business Cycles and Urban Regimes," will hopefully work its way into his dissertation, and similarly, he'll present more dissertation-oriented research at a Urban Geography Specialty Group sponsored session ("Rescaling Urban Policy") at the upcoming New York meeting. After both teaching World Regional Geography and working at TVA last spring, Ola will limit his bread-winning activities this year to the research assistantship at TVA. His activities there involve issues like public policy, resource conflicts, and new trends in the electricity industry. A paper originating from my TVA work ("Spatial Effects of Electricity Deregulation"), which was co-authored with UT alumnus **Ted Nelson**, will be presented at the SEDAAG meeting in Chapel Hill this fall. In print, "Environmental Quality as a Post-Industrial Urban Growth Strategy" appeared in the *Geographical Bulletin*, and a book review is forthcoming in the *Journal of Cultural Geography*. Ola reports that his geographic experiences last year did not stop at the classroom or the library. A three-week trip to Spain and Morocco included hiking in the Sierra Nevadas and visiting wonderful, historic cities like Granada, Cadiz, Seville, and Fez. Finally, Ola sends "thanks" to Carol Harden and Ron Foresta for the successful application of the Arthur E. Yates Graduate Fellowship!

Don Kemp is a second year master's student with interests in geomorphology. He is from southern California where he attended UCLA as an undergraduate. At UCLA he conducted independent research under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Orme, where he looked at beach and sandbar movement associated with winter storm activity and a breached lagoon. At UT, he is interested in sediment movement from an area in Southern Tennessee, called Copper Basin. Working under Dr. Carol Harden, he is looking at present day sediment yields coming from this area by studying tributary streams at the head waters of the Ocoee River. Studying geography has fostered a respect for the science and has given him the desire to enter the field of environmental consulting. Don is also a Graduate Assistant with UT RecSports and is the Coordinator for the Outdoor Recreation Program. In working with the Outdoor Rec. Program he oversees two gear rental facilities, two sports clubs, an instructor leadership training program and is a wilderness guide. Guiding backpacking, kayaking and rock climbing trips for the Outdoor Rec. Program gives him the ability to introduce others to the wonders of the hills. With the instructor leadership training program he focuses on educating his students and fellow instructors in wilderness skills and also uses his background in geography to teach his students about the physical nature of the landscapes they visit.

Lisa Kennedy will soon defend her dissertation on fire-vegetation dynamics in the high-elevation pine forests of the Dominican Republic. She is using three main lines of evidence to investigate the long-term ecological role of fire in the Dominican highlands: pollen and charcoal in bog sediments, tree rings of fire-scarred pines, and post-fire vegetation regeneration. With her fieldwork completed during 1999, Lisa is now concentrating on laboratory analyses. The fieldwork to study vegetation and collect tree-ring data was supported by her NSF Dissertation Improvement grant. The sediment analyses and her research assistantship are supported by an NSF grant to Sally Horn, Ken Orvis, and Mike Clark (Geological Sciences), to investigate climate history in the Dominican highlands. Lisa is also working on other aspects of this larger project as part of her assistantship duties.

On a January field trip to Costa Rica, Lisa traveled from one end of the country to the other with Sally Horn and graduate students Marty Arford and Kevin Anchukaitis to collect lake sediment cores for Kevin's M.S. and Marty's Ph.D. research. Although Kevin's lake has a beer vendor on the side (this is unusual in our line of work), Lisa is especially fond of Marty's lakes, one of which is locally famous for its calf-eating crocodile. Lisa, a veteran driver on Costa Rica coring trips, kept her accident-free driving record alive by deciding not to drive across a raging river (Marty was on the other side screaming "No! No!"). But Marty smashed our coring team's long-standing record of never having lost a member over the side of a coring platform. The wind blew him overboard right in the middle of the crocodile lake! Marty now holds the world record for jumping out of the water and onto a coring platform with rubber boots on.

Lisa presented some of her Ph.D. research at the AAG meeting in Pittsburgh last April. She also traveled that month to Blacksburg, VA to give an invited colloquium lecture for the Department of Geography at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Once they saw the quality of Lisa's work, they hired her! (She starts this fall.) Last summer she continued to work with the Tennessee Geographic Alliance by giving several lectures at their summer teacher workshops on "Population and Natural Resources" and "How the Natural Environment Works". She is looking forward to finishing up her dissertation over the coming year.

Brad Kreps is hard at work finishing his thesis study of private conservation organizations in the Southern Appalachians. He spent a wonderful summer in the Great Smoky Mountains as an interpretive ranger and enjoyed teaching others about the social and environmental history of our Southern mountains. With summer also came a big garden and lots of time spent at various swimming holes. This fall is shaping up to be very exciting as data collection, cartography work, writing, and crisp weather are all under way. Also, the national conference in NYC should be a blast in February. In general, Brad is very happy to be spending a third and final year at UT and with all the folks in the geography department.

Jen Krstolic was usually found in the Burchfiel

Geography Building GIS Lab this year. She is a teaching assistant for our GIS class and seems to end up there even when she's not on duty. Jen also interns at TVA with the Public Power Institute where she is currently working on a project using Landsat TM imagery to analyze temporal mining trends. The study is part of an environmental impact statement for the EPA and may impact the U.S. policy on mountain top removal mining. Jen will be joining the USGS this summer!

Brandon L. League was born in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1976. His decision to study geography was based on an interest in science, and his desire to travel and to do work outdoors. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.A. in geography in 1998. He is now pursuing a M.S. in geography and will graduate in the spring of 2001. Brandon has focused on biogeography and paleoenvironmental studies, and has worked with the physical geographers at UT on a variety of projects as a field and laboratory assistant. His thesis research is a continuation of the work he did for his senior honors thesis, a study of sedimentary charcoal from a lake in the Costa Rican páramo. His research will improve the interpretation of the fire history of the Chirripó páramo that is based on the charcoal stratigraphy of sediments from this lake.

Daniel Lewis, a U.T. graduate with a B.A. in geography, is a first year graduate student in physical geography (with a strong interest in cultural geography.) Daniel hopes to do his master's research in El Malpais National Monument in New Mexico studying biodiversity in the area. His interests are backpacking, fishing, and pretty much any outdoor sport.

Dave Mann spent the past seven years as a corporate retail buyer that handled 80 million in sales a year (that was his past project)! Prior to that he was a staff sgt in the U.S. Army Airborne for eight years (whoa). Dave is married and recently welcomed his first child (his daughter) into the world. Dave's thesis project deals with 18th century Frontier Stations in East Tennessee involving spatial distribution, cultural influences in construction and defining the function of stations on the landscape. His research will involve the use of historical records, remote sensing, cartography and archeology. "Leben wie ein Koning in Bayern."

Mike Meyers, while still a student, is now employed by the University as a Senior GIS Specialist in the Institute for Public Service, County Technical Assistance Service. This public service branch of UT is involved with transferring technology to local governments, which are increasingly using GIS to solve problems related to land use planning, property tax assessment and collection, law enforcement, public works, and congressional reapportionment. The Geography Department was recently praised by Dr. Gilley for having the first and best formal arrangement for technology transfer to local governments. Mike has recently purchased a sailboat and will be seeking crew among the department on windy days.

Leah Manos continues to work on her dissertation, studying the applicability of tourism destination lifecycle models to Sevier County, Tennessee. She will present some preliminary results in a paper at the 2001 AAG meeting in New York. Leah is currently enjoying teaching her best Geography 101 class ever - they come to class, ask good questions, and even visit her during her office hours!

Dave Ralston spent his summer working on a combination of cartography and GIS. In June, he was selected to serve as one of the student interns at the ESRI conference in San Diego. Furthermore, he worked on developing the TEA (Tennessee Electronic Atlas) and was involved in setting up the GIS lab after the move into the new facilities.

Jennifer Rogalsky is ABD and will soon finish her field research and begin writing her dissertation. Her research involves the urban and transportation geography of Welfare Reform and she's been actively conducting ethnographic and travel diary research with low-income, working, single mothers who are transitioning off of welfare. In addition to her dissertation work, Jennifer is in the process of revising the *Instructor's Resource Manual* and *Student Workbook and Mapping Guide* for **Lydia Pulsipher's** upcoming second edition of *World Regional Geography*. She also continues to work part-time as a GIS Specialist at the local Metropolitan Planning Commission. In recognition for her hard work, she was awarded the Hilton A. Smith Fellowship, which will pay her tuition and a monthly stipend. In her "free time," she has been

working on her house in the historic Fourth and Gill neighborhood and is beginning to enjoy the Southern spring season with lots of hiking and camping trips. Jennifer was the top rated student in the University for the Hilton Smith Fellowship!

Blake Sartin continues to work as a Research Associate for the Systems Development Institute GIS Group. Over the past year, he has managed the development of a national rail database for the military and the continued development of the National Highway Planning Network for USDOT. Blake designed the new lab and helped to organize the GIS Group's move to the National Transportation Research Center in October. He has also continued background research for his thesis, which will focus on some aspect of suburbanization and city design. His wife Tonya gave birth to their first child, a little girl named Henley Taite, on August 24, 2000. Needless to say, this past year has been a hectic one.

Erin Schwartz graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Science from David Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN in May 1999. She is presently in her first semester of Masters degree study in the Geography Department. She has worked as a lowly lab tech at Advent Group, Inc in Brentwood, as a Legislative Intern to the Tennessee Department of Human Services, and as an Intern at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program. Her current employment is with the Office of Evaluation Services at UTK. When she is not working, Erin participates in various activities of the GSA as a Representative from the Geography Department. She is also President of the UTK Circle K (not the gas station), an international service organization. In her true free time, Erin enjoys sleeping, hiking, dancing and sleeping.

Del Scruggs has been continuing his thesis work on the spatial variability of infiltration rates measured in situ in the Luquillo Mountains, Puerto Rico. In the fall of 2000, Del was a T.A. for **Carol Harden's** Population and Environment class. Del served as lecturer for Physical Geography 132 for the spring semester 2001. In his "spare" time, he has built a cabin/house in the outback of Morgan County, Tennessee. The house is "off the grid," built mostly from recycled materials and employs a few alternative systems, i.e. composting toilet, solar

panels and, most interesting, a hydraulic water ram. The water ram supplies the house with water from a creek 150 feet below the house without the use of electricity and was built from common materials obtained from most any hardware store. Adjacent to the house, Del grew an organic garden that included such crops as hops, habanero peppers and other totally useless plants. He also coached for the Sunbright Tigers Boys Club little league basketball (10-0) and was head coach for the grasscutter football team. Del says, "we are getting better."

Jim Speer is starting his fourth year in the PhD program. In the spring of 2000 he finished his last classes for his PhD and is working on finishing his dissertation. He was fortunate to be married to Karla Hansen on January 8th 2000. Karla started a PhD program in Archaeology at Washington University in St. Louis. So Karla and Jim moved to St. Louis over the summer from where Jim is finishing the analysis and writing of his PhD. His projected graduation date is now May 2001. Earlier in the year Jim and his co-authors had a paper from his master's work accepted for publication in *Ecology*, which will hopefully be printed around the end of the year. The paper "Changes in pandora moth outbreak dynamics during the past 622 years" will be the first paper published about using dendrochronology to reconstruct pandora moth outbreaks and is one of the longest insect outbreak histories in North America. In April of this year he traveled to Mendoza Argentina to present two papers at the International Conference on Dendrochronology. He co-authored one paper with **Ken Orvis** and Katie Greenberg which was the preliminary results of his dissertation work and was titled "The methodology for oak mast reconstruction in the southeastern United States". The other paper "Initial tree ring analyses of *Pinus occidentalis* in the highlands of the Dominican Republic" illustrated work that he had conducted with co-authors **Lisa Kennedy, Sally Horn,** and **Ken Orvis.**

Esther Sullivan became a Master's student in Spring 2000, and is focusing on physical geography with **Carol Harden** (and still honing down her thesis topic). Esther was a GTA for Cartography/**Will Fontanez** in the spring and is now a GTA for Geography 131/**Sally Horn.** Prior to coming to UTK, Esther got a B.S. in Geology

and Geophysics from Yale in 1994, spent a year working as an oil well logging engineer in Oklahoma with Schlumberger Wireline & Testing, and then worked as an environmental consultant in Oak Ridge for nearly five years. Esther just got married on October 7th, and so her name will be changing to Esther Parish in the near future.

Daryl Wenner completed his undergraduate degree at Penn State, his Master's at South Dakota State, and now he is starting the PhD here at UT. His thesis was on sports and their impact on the landscape. Daryl will probably do a dissertation on some aspect of sport in culture, but has yet to nail down the specifics.

Melanie White, when she's not surfing in the warm Pacific waters of Costa Rica and Mexico or backpacking in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains, is competing with any one of her five feline friends for space at the computer. In June of this year, she worked as a student assistant for the Environmental Research Systems Institute at their annual user's conference in San Diego. The remainder of her summer was spent working with **Bruce Ralston, Will Fontanez,** and **David Ralston** on the Tennessee Electronic Atlas (TEA) Project, designing and developing a web-based GIS for the state of Tennessee. Recently, Melanie began working with the Knoxville Police Department (KPD) in developing a web-based crime mapping program which will be the focus of her Master's Thesis. In addition to her work on the TEA project and with the KPD, Melanie works as a GIS intern in Tennessee Valley Authority's Knoxville-based River and Navigation Group.

Philip Young grew up in Nashville and has lived in Knoxville for the past decade. He attended Georgetown University and the University of Tennessee where he received a B.A. in English literature. He has interest in a variety of water resources issues, including water supply, erosion, and dam relicensing. Philip's research focuses on sediment as a pollutant in rivers and how sediment is addressed in state and federal policy (he's also pursuing a minor in Environmental Policy). He is a teaching assistant for the department's introductory physical geography course. In his spare time he enjoys whitewater paddling and collecting jazz recordings.

News From Alumni

Here are some news items submitted by our illustrious alumni

Michael Cornebise (ABD) accepted a at Eastern Illinois University, a campus of around 10,000 students located in Charleston (about 45 minutes five from Terre Haute, IN and Champaign-Urbana, IL.) He is responsible for teaching four classes per semester (he was hired to teach three, but it's a long story) and he tries to work on his dissertation in between his class preps and mountains of grading. (Bruce, can you spare a Teaching Assistant?!) He seems to be adjusting to life in the small town although supply runs to Champaign-Urbana are becoming a way of life. Michael received news this summer that the journal "Caribbean Geography" will publish his article on the ecotourism development in Cuba.

Brian D. DiBartolo (M.S. 1999) completed his long awaited thesis, Minor League Baseball in the Sunbelt: The Historical Geography of the Southern League of Professional Baseball Clubs, in December. He will now not watch another baseball game until*well, yeah right. He helped organize two graduate student trips to the new, Smokies' ballpark in (yuk!) Sevierville, TN. He said he will miss the camaraderie of the graduate students at Knoxville. Over the past year, he has been almost killed a half dozen times by his 16-year old student drivers and playing basketball with Roger Brown. His parents in NJ, who own the driving school, were still happy to see him whenever he visited, no matter how ghostlike he looked. In the spring, Brian was an emergency instructor at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate (Cumberland Gap), TN. He quite enjoyed the classes and helped him gain valuable experience. The 1.5 hour drive from Knoxville was therapeutic and helped him sharpen his motorcycle riding skills. Brian is now the Earth Science and Geography professor at Gaston College in Dallas, North Carolina. He teaches various courses and labs, including earth science, world regional geography (using Dr. Pulsipher's new textbook and Jen Rogalsky's workbook), cultural geography and geology. He is integrating the Internet into most of his

classes and loves to keep his students on the ball. Most of his time is spent preparing for classes and lectures. In his spare time, he very much enjoys refereeing youth and high school soccer in the Charlotte area.

Luisa Freeman (Menendaz)

Farvardin is still working in the energy field, doing mostly freelance work but mostly associated with my old firm, Applied Energy Group, Inc. out of New York. I work out of my home in Vienna, Virginia where I keep one eye on my computer screen and the other on my four year old, Sammy. My energy practice has been very rewarding and interesting these few years, I am now managing probably the most interesting project of my career over the next five years; one that even has a good geographic analysis aspect to it. Most of my work still involves the adoption of energy efficient technologies and practices among various market segments to help achieve a variety of societal goals (reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, reducing the energy burden of low income families, creating sustainable economic development, etc.)

This year my firm won a million dollar project to evaluate the Efficient Lighting Initiative (the ELI program), a multi-country program that is being funded by the World bank International Finance Corporation under the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction program. This program involves IFC investments in each of seven countries – Peru, Argentina, Latvia, Czech Republic, Hungary, South Africa and the Philippines – to help accelerate the adoption of high efficiency lighting products through market transformation policies and programs. I am the project manager for the evaluation activities, which involve assessing changes in the market for lighting from manufactures, suppliers, distributors and consumers, and how these targeted investments are affecting both local, national, regional, and (ha ha – with us luck!) global lighting markets (e.g., are they dumping the bad stuff elsewhere? Yes, probably.) It is quite complex, and the challenge of determining how to compare market activities

across such different cultures and economic development environments is truly fascinating. Plus I get to travel some, when I can get someone to help my supportive husband Siavash with Sammy. I've been to South Africa and Czech Republic so far this year (that will do it for 2000, I think). This program is the first item that the Bank is attempting a multi-country initiative, and the outcome of our evaluation will help determine if they go forward with further funding of similar GHG mitigation strategies. Of course, the overall program funding level of \$25 million over seven countries tells you something about their REAL level of commitment (as compared to billions of dollars for development projects), and one might suspect the ELI could be weakly veiled attempt at appeasing those demonstrators in Seattle and DC...But hey! Might as well have an UT Geography alumna evaluate the program as well as anybody right? (By the way, a vote for Nader is a vote for Nader is a vote Nader...but then I digress). We evaluators have to stay neutral in all our research, but not in our e-mails to old colleagues.

Other current projects involve assessing the status and implications of the restricting electric industry, with special emphasis on its potential impacts on (and opportunities for) local governments. It is my view that the globalization of energy – particularly in all the merger activity with electric power companies, will eventually cause a reaction on the part of consumers toward more local control via municipal suppliers, or at least consumer aggregations. I've written a lot about that topic lately, including research to examine what is happening to low income energy consumers in all of this restructuring and realignment. It looks like consumer choice isn't necessarily so, so far, for this segment, and there are many concerns about the potential loss of consumer protections that can occur as the availability of affordable energy changes dramatically.

The work mostly involves secondary and primary research, quantitative methods (thank you, Bruce for all that quant coursework – remember those card readers? continuous feed green lined paper with our SAS results? wow – that dates me!) and good conceptual thinking (thank you Tom, for those great urban courses and theoretical concepts). Lots of survey and demographic analysis work, too. Plus, of course, effective writing skills (thank you,

Charles Aiken for Singleton Station Road, an exercise which you may like to know I repeated at our first global meeting of my international project in the Czech Republic this summer. I had all evaluation work ship participants – some 30 folks from 10 countries – observe a stretch of country road outside Prague and write one page of impressions to show how people'd differing perspectives can affect how they evaluate a situation. It was quite effective and brought back good memories. I wonder what Singleton Station Road looks like now!)

Louis Fatale. I recently started my 13th year with the U.S. Army Topographic Engineering Center, a Corps of Engineers Laboratory in Alexandria, VA, specializing in terrain analyses to support Army tactical applications. My most recent work was a study to characterize the effects of vegetation on Line-of-Sight for dismounted infantry. During the two year initiative, field data was collected at 15 differing vegetative biomes in 13 climates, including those in Panama & Alaska (Dr. Schumde ALWAYS said that field work was my element!!). The resultant report won the “Wilbur B. Payne Award for Excellence in Analysis,” one of the Army's most prestigious honors. A follow-on study to further characterize undergrowth parameters from remote imagery is currently in the works.

When not in the field, I have been attending technical conferences and meetings in support of the Army's modeling & simulation and mapping communities. To that end, the American Congress of Surveying & Mapping (ACSM) has invited me to their spring conference in Little Rock, AR to present a paper entitled “A Field Evaluation of Precise Lightweight GPS Receiver (PLGR) Accuracy”. The work is based on field projects conducted over the last four years. Maybe I'll see some UTK Geography Professors there!

Besides the traffic, everything is OK up here in the D.C. area. My wife's feline-only veterinary practice is thriving (she recently became one of the first “diplomates” in feline medicine). I finally tore her away from work for our first BIG vacation in three years. We spent two CLOUDNESS weeks in the Redwood forest, on the Oregon coast, at Yosemite & in the S.F. Bay area – what a spectacular trip!! In the millennium, I have FOUR

Ski trips planned in WV, MD, PA, & CA (Tahoe); that's DOWN from SIX (yes, SIX) in six different states last year!! I challenge ANYONE to top that!!! I didn't start skiing until I was 38 (three years ago), but I'm sure making up for lost time – IT'S A BLAST!!

Fondest regards to all my "OLD" professors & friends. My field team will be working in the Smokies this summer, and I hope to see everyone there.

Kevin Kane, (Masters 1984). It was good to read the UTK Geography Newsletter in the lobby of the Hollywood Hotel adjacent (or Charles, should that be to the immediate west) of Scotland's new Parliament building. The building, designed by a Catalan, for Europe's most beautiful city (hard for a Glaswegian to admit!) talks to a positive Europe of the Regions agenda and not the tired old, nation statism that has plunged Europe into war so often in the past. So much for Ron Foresta's view from a summer vacation in darkest South Wales, where nationalism is very much a cultural and language issue anyway!

I now head up a team of Scottish Enterprise looking at "creative industries" – industries defined as having their origin in the individual creation and exploitation of intellectual property – film, TV, multimedia, games, music, publishing, design, architecture etc. In essence, the content industries – the creative flip - side to all this talk of technological convergence. It's really existing and I am enjoying it. I am Chairman of Glasgow Film Fund Ltd., a publicly funded film investment fund that invests in low budget, high talent movies. We put Ewan Macgregor on the map with his first movies, *Shallow Grave*; got Peter Mullen best act at Cannes with *Orphans* and have just completed the soon-to-be showcased (Cannes 2000) *House of Mirth*. Word of mouth is: is this a classic or does it just miss it.

Hope the Masters class of '84 is doing well – especially Walter (Ger.), Rick (TX), Jim (N.Y. or DC?), and Sally (Eng) – Y'all email now.

I'm off to Borders – oh no they're anti-union so somewhere else – to see if I can pick up a copy of Charles's magnum opus on the cotton south. Surfed amazon to find no reviews as yet!

Jennifer Caldwell-Kurka (BA 1994), Environmental Specialist for the Florida

Department of Environmental Protection's Recycling Program since 1997. In charge of Educational Outreach, producing "Renewable News" publication, managing Innovative Recycling Grants, and the web site www.development. For more information see: www.dep.state.fl.us/dwm/programs/recycling.com.

Michael Mark (B.A. 1994), received his M.A. in Geography from the University of Georgia this past May. My Master's Thesis essentially chronicled and investigate the global AIDS epidemic from 1987 to 1997. While finishing up my thesis, I have been living in Atlanta and working as a CAD/GIS Editor for Photo Science, with whom I am still employed.

Joshua McDuffie. I am now in the MS program at South Carolina. I am excited, and writing to strut my stuff. It was a tough semester, and I thought a lot about just quitting and getting a job, but I made it. I received 3 A's and one Satisfactory, in a pass/fail course. I got A's in Advanced Economic Geography with Dr. Matthews, Seminar in European Geography with Dr. Minghi, and an "S" in Research Trends in Geography. Also Dr. Minghi want me to work on this paper I wrote for a class so I can submit to present it either at the South Carolina Academy of Science or at the SEDAAG next year.

Tyrel (Tink) Moore (Ph.D. '84) was one of five finalists for the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, the most prestigious honor for teaching offered at UNC Charlotte. This award has been given annually by Bank of America and its predecessors since 1968. Congratulations, Tink!

Michael L. Oaks (B.A. 1982), My wife, Julie Renee and I, announce the birth of our second son, Robert Lee Oaks, on November 28, 1999. I've completed my GIS studies and SDSU and am job hunting.

Chris Schultz. Looks like the department finally caught up with Mr. Schultz. And he's been trying so hard to shake'em! He moved numerous times after Tennessee – TN to York, PA; to Lancaster, PA (2 different apartments); to Harrisburg, PA (1 apartment, 1 house) – and now he's moving to Michigan. What is he thinking? Well, Chris is making some changes in his life. He's selling the house, has brought a motorcycle

(whoo hoo!), and is planning to move in January 2001 to Grand Rapids, Michigan to pursue a job in computers. Sometime in the future, Chris then expects to direct his computer expertise toward more geographical pursuits. But right now, the digital age is calling his name...Oh, by the way: if you're driving and see a red sport bike flash past you, just stick out your hand and wave. He promises to wave back.

Colonel Harry D. Scott, Jr. (M.S. 1984)

Promoted to Colonel in the United States Army on December 1, 1999. Recently completed 25 months as the Division Operations Officer (G3) of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Ft. Campbell, KY. Now serving as the Executive Officer to the Deputy Commander United States Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia. Will be moving to the Hawaii in May to serve as the Brigade Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Larry Skipper. We purchased 23 acres of a Tennessee hill with a small creek that runs across the front of our property. The scenery is beautiful in this part of Tennessee. We are enjoying the nice fall weather to do a lot of work outside.

Larry still works at Intergraph, it's a bit of a drive. He fell in love with these Tennessee hills the first time we drove through them, so he felt it was

worth the extra time on the road to live here. Donald, David, and I are halfway through our 5th year of Home School. According to their tremendously high scores on the SAT last spring, all is going well. Last spring, I gave a presentation Teaching History and Geography to the faculty of North Alabama Christian School. That's the Home School group that we have been working with for several years. In July, Larry and I went to Lima, Peru, with a group from the Madison Church of Christ. It was our second medical mission trip to Lima. We made many friends in Peru, many of which we correspond with regularly via e-mail.

We visited Larry's family in Nebraska at the end of October. His Grandpa owns a large farm near Valparaiso. The boys had a wonderful time petting his rabbits and chickens.

Devin is still in Germany in the Army. He works with the Apache helicopters. He came home for a visit in October. Adam is now living in Madison, Alabama. He has taken off from school to save money. He wants to attend a Christian University which is quite a bit more expensive than a State University. He is a very determined individual, so I'm sure he can reach his goal. For all of my worry and tears, both of my boys have brought me great pride. They are both dedicated Christian young men, and they have learned a lot about being responsible adults.



Mrs. Montgomery gives a wonderful speech at the Burchfiel Geography Building dedication



Various dignitaries, including Sid Jumper and Mrs. Montgomery, celebrate the cutting of the ribbon



Ken Orvis receives the Outstanding Service Award from Smokey and Provost Woods

Keep Us Up to Date

Please share your news with us, and other alumni, especially if you have a new address. Or share news of other alumni! Return this form to April Roysden, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, 37996-0925, or fax us at (865) 974-6025, or email at utkgeog@utk.edu.

Name: _____

Degree(s) if any: and Year(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone(s), email, et cetera: _____

NEWS... (employment, career activities, family, achievements, awards, publications, travel, other):



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