

# UTK GEOGRAPHY

Newsletter of the University of Tennessee Department of Geography

2008/09 Academic Year

## Greetings from Shih-Lung Shaw



This is a year of accomplishments, changes, and challenges in the Department of Geography! I am very grateful to all of you who have contributed to the

success of our Department in many different ways.

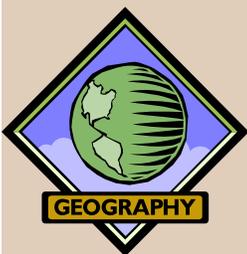
Let me first share with you the accomplishments we have achieved during my first year as the Department Head. After years of persistent requests for an additional office staff under the headship of Carol Harden, Bruce Ralston, and myself, we finally received an approval from the administration to add a third office staff member. I am happy to report that we now have Denise Stansberry, Tracy Branch, and Joyce DuVoisin working in our office to provide assistance to faculty, students, alumni, and the public.

Another major accomplishment of this year is the approval by the University administration to implement a pilot plan of increasing all graduate teaching assistant (GTA) appointments in the Department of Geography to 50% full-time equivalent (FTE) effective Spring 2009. Most of our GTA appointments have been at 40% FTE and their GTA stipend is far below those offered by our peer institutions. Raising the GTA stipend therefore has been among our top budget request items. Although the new GTA stipend at 50% FTE still is lower than many of our peer institutions, it is a major step forward for our graduate teaching assistants (moving from 40% FTE to 50% FTE translates into a 25% increase of annual GTA stipend). We appreciate this strategic decision by the University administration to

allocate resources to our GTA positions in this tight budget year. We must now demonstrate that we will use the resources efficiently and effectively.

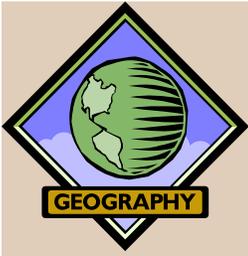
A third major accomplishment is an authorization from the College to add a new tenure-track faculty position for a joint appointment between the Department of Geography and the Center for Business and Economic Research in the College of Business Administration. We are currently searching for an analytical population geographer to fill this position. The above accomplishments are the outcome of many years of hard work by faculty, staff, and students in our Department! I am fortunate to be able to see them come to fruition during my first year as the Department Head.

Speaking of hard work, please allow me to share with you the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students this year. Carol Harden is elected to the Vice President of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). This is a high honor to Carol as well as to the Department. Lydia Pulsipher is the winner of the Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award from the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers. Peggy Gripshover is the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG). Shih-Lung Shaw is the winner of the Edward L. Ullman Award for outstanding contributions to the field of transportation geography from the Transportation Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). Shih-Lung was just also elected to the rank of AAAS Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. At the



Dept. of Geography  
304 Burchfiel Bldg.  
Knoxville, TN 37996

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University level, Sally Horn is selected as one of the inaugural class of Chancellor's Professors (the highest honor that can be accorded to faculty members by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville) and is a winner of the Faculty Excellence in Academic Outreach Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. Peggy Gripshover wins the National Alumni Association's Outstanding Teachers Award. Henri Grissino-Mayer is a recipient of the Team Excellence Award for his work with the Office of Disability Services. Kurt Butefish successfully secured an endowment of \$1 million from the National Geographic Education Foundation and the State of Tennessee for the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. Will Fontanez continues to operate a highly productive Cartographic Service Lab that contributes significantly to the Department. Our office staff, Denise Stansberry and Tracy Branch, worked very hard to learn and handle various tasks after the retirement of Pam Sharpe.

Our graduate students have been winners of awards that are too numerous to list individually here. The most significant ones include a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (\$120,000) and J. Wallace & Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship (\$15,000) awarded to Christine Biermann and another J. Wallace & Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship (\$15,000) awarded to Monica Rother. Dawn Drake is a winner of the Christopherson Geosystems Award from Gamma Theta Upsilon. Tracy Pollock wins the First Prize in Cartographic Design from the Tennessee Geographic Information Council. Ben Shultz receives the Everett S. Lee award for best graduate student paper at the 2008 annual meeting of the Southern Demographic Association. Chris Underwood is a recipient of Carlos Campbell Award from the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association and is elected to a director's position in the AAG Graduate Student Affinity Group.

Our Department went through some personnel changes this year. Charles Aiken retired this summer after thirty-nine years of dedicated service in the Department. Charles has made significant contributions to this Department, the University, and our profession. His outstanding scholarship and

his southern gentleman manner will be missed by all of us.

Pam Sharpe retired in spring 2008 after working in our Department for thirty years. Pam was so experienced and knowledgeable about budget, accounting, and personnel matters that everything appeared very easy and straightforward when she worked on those tasks. We began to appreciate more of what Pam had done for this Department after her retirement when we had to pick up those tasks ourselves. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Pam for her thirty years of excellent contributions to the Department of Geography.

Another significant personnel change occurred right after July Fourth of this year when Anita Drever and Ken Orvis informed us that they would move to the University of Wyoming effective Fall 2008. Anita was just awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor at UTK in spring 2008. However, a desire to move back to Wyoming and a job offer from the University of Wyoming enticed them to make this move. It was a big loss to the Department as two very talented faculty members left at the same time. We will miss them. I especially want to take this opportunity to thank Ken for his outstanding help as the Associate Head during my first year as the Department Head. I am also very appreciative that Bruce Ralston agrees to be the Associate Head now. I have benefited a lot from Bruce's experience and knowledge as past Department Head.

The departure of Anita and Ken, along with Charles's retirement, created three open faculty positions in our Department. With the budget cut this year, our College took back all open faculty positions and authorized only three faculty replacement searches out of about thirty open faculty lines across the entire College. All departments in the College were asked to submit proposals to compete for these three faculty lines. We presented a successful proposal based on our Department's strategic plan and were authorized to search for a tenure-track assistant professor in physical geography and spatial analysis this year. In addition, we were authorized to

# Investment Opportunities in Geography

Gifts to the Geography Department may be designed for a specific purpose or fund or given to the department's Enrichment Fund as discretionary funding. Be assured that it will make a difference! Existing funds are shown below. Please contact Shih-Lung Shaw if you would like more information or if you would like to target your gift for a purpose not shown. The Development Offices of the College and University would be pleased to have you ask about other forms of giving, such as bequests, charitable lead trusts, and gifts of the remainder interest in a personal residence or farm, and they are set up to help you evaluate the tax benefits of different gift options. All contributors making gifts of a hundred dollars or more are eligible for University recognition via the Gift Club.

**Stewart K. McCroskey Memorial Fund** – Established by the McCroskey family after Stewart's death. This fund supports field research and professional travel by Geography students and faculty.

**Sid Jumper Teachers' Scholarship Fund** – Established in 1995 when Sid Jumper stepped down from the role of Head of the department, this fund supports graduate training for K-12 teachers.

**Bill & Donna Cobble Geography Enhancement Endowment** – Proceeds from this fund, established in 1995 by Bill & Donna Cobble in support of undergraduate education in Geography at UTK, are used to enhance the educational experiences of undergraduate students.

**Edwin H. & Elizabeth H. Hammond Endowment Fund in Geography** – Established to honor Professor Hammond, who retired in 1987. Gifts to this fund help bring a distinguished geographer, the "Hammond Lecturer" to the department each year.

**Robert G. Long Outstanding Graduate Student Award Fund** – The Robert G. Long Award, established to honor Professor Long who retired in 1979, honors one or two graduate students each year for superior scholarship and service to the department. The students are recognized on a plaque and receive checks of \$50.

**The J. Harrison and Robbie C. Livingston Professorship Endowment** - This fund was established in 1997 by J. Harrison and Robbie C. Livingston to further teaching and research on population problems. Proceeds from this fund supplement the salary of a faculty member who specializes in population issues.

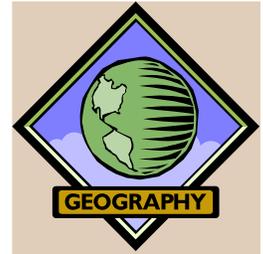
**Geography Department Scholarship Fund** – This fund provides one or more tuition scholarships to outstanding undergraduate geography majors.

**The Geography Department Enrichment Fund** – This fund may be used to meet special needs as determined by the department faculty. In recent years, it has supplemented our operating budget and provided travel support to professional meetings for faculty and students.

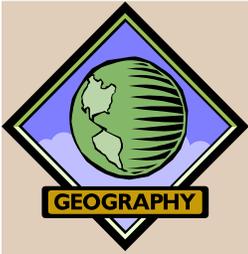
**The Geography Technological Enrichment Fund** – Established in 1995 by two anonymous donors, the funds are used to provide our computer research labs and classrooms with up to date equipment and software.

**Geography Endowment Fund** – Donations are invested by the university. The principal generates quarterly interest to the Geography Enrichment Fund.

**The Ralston Family Fund** - This endowed fund was established in honor of Bruce Ralston's mother and father. It enriches a designated faculty member's research opportunities.



Please send your gift to: Department of Geography, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925. **Make checks payable to: University of Tennessee, but also use the memo line on the check to indicate "Geography" and, if you wish, to indicate a specific fund.**



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hire adjunct lecturers this year to cover the courses that were taught by Anita Drever and Ken Orvis. These are positive outcomes in a year of major budget cuts. They also indicate that the College recognizes the hard work of our Department and is willing to support us.

With the current projection of an even worse state budget next year, we can expect more challenges ahead of us. Everything will have to be earned by demonstrating our competitive performance and efficiency. Although it is not going to be an easy task, I will continue to do my best working with all of you to best represent our Department. I am confident that we will sail through these tight budget years and emerge as a strong and very competitive department via our collective efforts.

I invite you to read through this newsletter to find out the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. Through the efforts of our attentive alumni and friends, who help spread the word of our accomplishments and who steer good students, opportunities, and resources our way, we will overcome the challenges ahead of us and make you feel proud of this Department. Please drop us a line or visit us. We greatly value the many kinds of support and feedback we receive from our alumni and friends.

Best wishes,

Shih-Lung Shaw  
Professor and Department Head



## **Charles Aiken Retires**

Charles Aiken came to the University of Tennessee as an Assistant Professor in 1969 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. During his tenure he served as an instructor in introductory world regional geography courses. Upper division undergraduate and graduate course responsibilities included Rural Geography, The



*Mary Ann and Charles Aiken enjoy the festivities at Charles' retirement colloquium held October 30, 2008.*

American South, and The United States and Canada. Graduate responsibilities included the Geography of the American South Seminar and the Rural Geography Seminar.

Charles served a number of elected positions with the Southeastern Division, Association of American Geographers including as Secretary, 1974-1976, Vice President, 1982-1984 and President, 1985-1987.

Charles also contributed his time generously to the Association of American Geographers where he participated in the Visiting Geographical Scientists Program, 1980-1986, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, 1989-1992, and the History and Archives Committee 1993-1998, serving as chair of that committee, 1995-1998.

His 1998 book *The Cotton Plantation South Since the Civil War* was awarded the 1999 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Prize by the Association of American Geographers. The book was also nominated for the Beveridge Prize, American Historical Society, and the Spiro Kostof Book Award, Society for Architectural History.



## Middle School Teacher Joins Carol Harden for Ecuadorian Field Research Experience

Ms. Crystal Yates, a science teacher at Northview Middle School in Kodak, Tennessee, traveled to Ecuador in May-June, 2007 with Carol Harden to assist with Harden's research on the effects of land-use change on the carbon and water content of soils in the high-elevation grassland páramos of the Ecuadorian Andes.

Ms. Yates is one of the 10 Teacher-Partners of the NSF-sponsored GK-12 Earth Project (directed by Sally Horn), and her participation in the Andean research

was supported by that project. For Ms. Yates, the trip was full of firsts—first time in South America, first time living and working at elevations above 10,000 feet, first time requested to subdue alpacas (by holding their ears), first time sampling páramo soils. After participating in the field work, traveling by various means (even on horseback), and sitting through long meetings (in Spanish) to negotiate research partnerships, Ms. Yates gained a first-hand view of visible and hidden dimensions of international scientific research.

Just before returning to the U.S., she and Carol Harden worked in a quick visit to the Equator, at a site where a monument commemorates the 1735–1739 French Geodesic Expedition (with French astronomers and Spanish geographers) to measure the length of a degree of longitude at the Equator and determine the roundness of the Earth.



*Crystal Yates (third from left) is pressed into service holding alpaca ears while returning to the city from field work in the Ecuadorian páramo.*

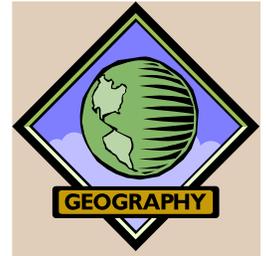
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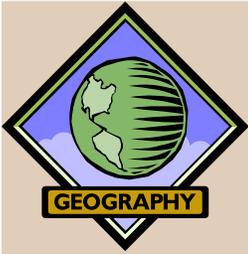
## Basketballers Make History

In April 2008 the Geography Department's graduate student intramural basketball team made history. After two years of getting blown out and having the "mercy rule" implemented game after game, our very own Burchfiel Basketballers didn't lose. They didn't actually win—they merely tied. But they didn't lose! In addition to being the only team in the league made up of graduate students, they were also were the only team to include a female player. Ben Shultz was voted team MVP.



*L to R: Ian Slayton, Christine Biermann, James Baginski, John Law, Jason Graham, Ben Shultz*





## 2008 Hammond Lecturer: Dr. James Dyer

On March 13, 2008, the Department of Geography hosted the 2007–2008 Hammond Lecturer, Dr. James Dyer, whose talk was titled “Historical Ecology in the Eastern Deciduous Forest: The Ghost of Land Use Past.” An Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Ohio University, Dr. Dyer integrates fieldwork, historical data, and computer modeling, exploring the consequences of environmental change, particularly within the forests of eastern North America. His research has been published in such diverse journals as *BioScience*, *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, *Climate Research*, *Plant Ecology*, *Ecological Modelling*, and *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. In keeping with his emphasis on active learning, he has developed “hands-on” field-based laboratories for all of his courses, including Physical Geography, Biogeography, Landscape Ecology, Field Methods, and GIS.

Dr. Dyer also brings his work home with him, establishing a native prairie and managing the forest on 65 acres surrounding the geodesic dome that he, his wife, and two children call home.

Dr. Dyer's visit was supported by the Ed and Elizabeth Hammond Lecture Fund, which they initiated at the time of Ed's retirement in 1987 and to which they have generously contributed.



*Henri Grissino-Mayer (right) served as host to the 2008 Hammond Lecturer, Dr. James Dyer (left) from Ohio University.*

## Dr. David R. Montgomery Talks about "DIRT"

David Montgomery, Professor of Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington, was our October 16 colloquium speaker. His talk, “Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations,” followed the theme of his 2007 book of the same title. He presented case studies from around the world in support of his thesis that civilizations throughout history have undermined their own futures by depleting their soil resources.

His visit to our department came only a couple of weeks after he received a MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant. Dr. Montgomery wrote *King of Fish: The Thousand-Year Run of Salmon* (also published by the University of California Press) and numerous papers in scientific journals.

A paper summarizing the arguments made in his colloquium presentation can be found in the *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science*, (2007, “Soil erosion and agricultural sustainability” 104(33): 13268–13272).



## Lydia Pulsipher to Lead Slovene Study Trip

Lydia Pulsipher will lead a study trip to the beautiful Slovene Adriatic coast in May 10-31, 2009. The course, taught in English, is called, *The Slovenian Dream: the formation of national identity in a post-Communist society (1991-present)*. It is listed as Geography Foreign Study 491, carries 3 credits, and is open to Graduate students, Sr., Jr. and Soph. level students with some background in social history or geography. There will be field trips and regular lectures and chats with eminent Slovene scholars, business people and government officials. There will also be ample time to do joint projects with Primorska University students who are eager to practice English. Slovene lessons will be available to those who are ambitious.

In June 1991, Slovenia, never before an independent country, seceded from Yugoslavia and embarked on changing from a communist to a capitalist economy, while simultaneously moving toward becoming a

modern liberal democracy. In 2004, Slovenia joined the EU, in 2007 it adopted the Euro currency, and in January 2008, Slovenia took over the Presidency of the European Union! While Slovenes embraced the opening of their society and economy, this remarkable transition from a little known ethnic enclave to a regional and even global leader left many Slovenes a bit breathless. In the face of such rapid change they worried about losing their identity. Villages disappeared under developers' bulldozers. Flashy new cars filled the cobblestone streets. Their ancient and distinctive language began to lose out to English, the new lingua franca. Students will join Primorska U. students to explore how Slovenes are dealing with what it means to be Slovene now and into the future.

Lydia Pulsipher is a Slovene American who has traveled to Slovenia repeatedly since 1959.



## **Awards for Faculty Continue to Roll In**

In October, Sally Horn was honored as one of seven UT Knoxville senior faculty members in the inaugural class of Chancellor's Professors -- the university's highest permanent academic honor. Those selected for this new honor embody UT's mission as a land-grant institution: to teach, conduct research and serve.

Chancellor's Professors are appointed by the chancellor based upon the recommendation of the provost. Going forward, the Chancellor's Professors themselves will recommend new members in the spring of each year. The total number of Chancellor's Professors will be capped at 18 to 20 honorees at any point in time. Their responsibilities include advising campus administration and participating in a Chancellor's Professors Lecture Series. With the honor comes a one-time research stipend of \$20,000.

Appointment as a Chancellor's Professor constitutes the highest lifetime honor that can be accorded to a member of the faculty of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. This new designation recognizes extraordinary, nationally or internationally

recognized, scholarly attainment in an individual discipline or field as well as a record of excellence in teaching and service to the Knoxville campus of the University of Tennessee.

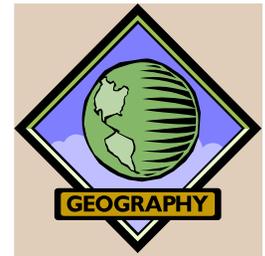
Sally Horn was also selected as one of four recipients of the 2008 College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Award for Academic Outreach. This award includes a professional grant of \$1,000. Sally was honored at the College's Winter Convocation in December 2008.

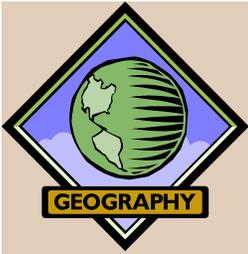
Peggy Gripshover was awarded the first ever Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG) Award for Excellence in Teaching at the SEDAAG meeting in November, 2008, in Greensboro, NC. The award is based on the nominee's effectiveness in teaching geography, student evaluations, pedagogical development, outreach and prior awards for teaching.

Peggy was also selected in 2008 as one of four recipients for the "UT National Alumni Association's Outstanding Teacher Award." The awards are given to faculty members, selected by their colleagues and students as the outstanding teachers in an academic year.

It was announced in October that Lydia Pulsipher will be recipient of the Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career Award by the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG). This award is given in recognition of a lifetime achievement towards understanding the geography of Latin America. Lydia's work on the cultural and environmental geography of the Eastern Caribbean is recognized as well as her outreach beyond academia through her collaborations with Smithsonian and the Seeds of Change exhibit. The award will be presented at the CLAG banquet on January 9, 2009 in Granada, Nicaragua.

Shih-Lung Shaw was the winner of the Edward L. Ullman Award for outstanding contributions to the field of transportation geography from the Transportation Geography Specialty Group of the AAG. He was also just elected to the rank of AAAS Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is being honored for "innovative contributions to the fields of geographic information systems and transportation geography."





# Alumnus Honored by the Tennessee State House of Representatives

Alumnus Dr. Hsiang-te Kung (M.S. 1972, Ph.D. 1980), Professor of Geography in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Memphis was honored by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee for his meritorious service to the State for founding a Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis. Hsiang-te Kung serves as director for the Institute. He is a 75<sup>th</sup>-generation descendant of Confucius.

In conjunction with its partner institution, Hubei University in China, the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis promotes understanding of the Chinese language and culture among the people of the United States, develops friendly relations between the U.S. and China, accelerates the expansion of multiculturalism, and provides opportunities for students studying the Chinese language.

Dr. Kung was born in China, and grew up in Taiwan before coming to the U.S. in 1969. He received his B.S. with a geography major and geology minor from the University of Chinese Culture and received both his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.



Since 1981, he has taught at the University of Memphis, where he served as chairman of the Geography Department from 1991 until 2001, when it merged with the Earth Sciences Department.

He has co-authored three books, published more than seventy-two refereed articles in professional journals, and received more than 70 research grants. He has been a visiting professor and lecturer in China and

University of Pittsburgh, and with the Institute of Shipboard Education – Semester at Sea program.

His major areas of interest are Water Resources, Urban Hydrology, Urban Physical Envi-

ronment, Land-Surface Systems, Fluvial Geomorphology, Landform and Terrain Analysis, and Asia/China.

He was nominated for the distinguished teaching service award four times. He twice received awards for Superior Performance in University Research (SPUR) for Outstanding Research Activities. He also received the College of Arts and Sciences Meritorious Award.

More information about the Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis may be found at:

<http://cas.memphis.edu/cium/>

## Life as an English Teacher in Beijing by Travis Kilgore

It has been one year and a half now since I walked across the stage and accepted my Bachelor of Arts diploma from the University of Tennessee. At that time, like many others upon graduation, I wasn't sure

exactly what career path had been paved for me, nor did I know what my next step in life was going to be. What I did know was that I had a passion for learning about the world around me and that my geography degree might allow me to explore all the interesting cultures and places that lay within it. I had not participated in any sort of exchange program or study abroad throughout my time at U.T., so I decided to join Dr. Shaw's

group that was heading to China for a month right after my graduation. Little did I know that it would steer my life in such an unforeseen direction.

During our study abroad group's travels throughout China, I was asked a couple of times if I had any interest in teaching English. I knew that my friend, Ian Feathers, had once mentioned that he was thinking about teaching English abroad post graduation, but it had never really crossed my mind. By the end of our trip though, I had fallen in love with China and wanted to return as soon as possible. One month was just not enough. So, I figured what better way was there to experience life in China than to move there and teach.

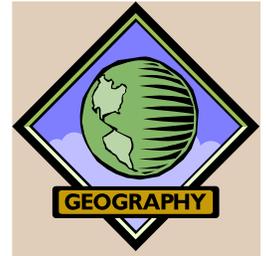
The jobs for English teachers in China are so numerous that it is almost impossible to know which ones are going to be good or bad. You just have to pick one that will get you over here and be optimistic. I signed on with a public primary school called ZhongGuanCun, which has an enrollment of about 1,500 kids from grades one to six. When I arrived, a roommate and myself were put up on the 11th floor of a high-rise apartment building overlooking a 'Women's Reproductive Health Clinic,' which was in the midst of being torn down. Most nights I went to sleep to the soothing sounds of jackhammers, bulldozers, and dump trucks hauling off rubble. The morning crew started up at 4 a.m.

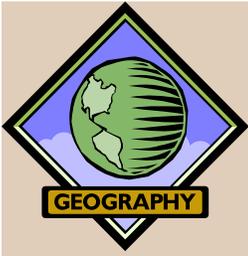
During weekdays, classes began at 8 a.m. Everyday I would set out on my bicycle amidst the madness of Beijing traffic; weaving in and out of buses, cars, and every other form of two-wheeled transportation known to man. Many mornings I would stop at a local street vendor on the way and pick up some juice and a fried egg pancake called *Jian Bing*, then ride on through the ZhongGuanCun electronic plaza to my school. As I would pull into the school, all of the kids would be filing out of the buildings into the main courtyard for their morning warm-up exercises, except for Mondays that is, when the raising of the national flag and singing of the anthem would commence. If I was ever late during warm-ups, I had to dodge a flurry of punches and kicks from exercising children just to make it to my office.

All of the English teachers were Chinese women aged 25 to 33 and they became my T.A.'s when I taught class. I taught roughly 22 classes a week of all grades, each class consisting of about 45 students. I'll have to admit, trying to remember names became quite the task. Fortunately, most had given themselves English names and it helped that there were a lot of Lindas, Bills, Annas and Toms. It was great though; if the student didn't have an English name then I got to give one to him or her. There were some humorous names indeed. Some of my favorites were Albert Penguin, Archimedes, Dragon, Strong, Harry Potter, Black Berry, Snow, and Gary Spider Soup!

Before coming to China, I had heard that the massive population made many aspects of life much more competitive for young Chinese people, but it didn't hit home until I began asking my students on every Monday what they had done the previous weekend. For most the answer was collective, "Teacher, I have a many class... English, Math, Chinese... so busy." So, I would try to make my classes as fun as possible with all sorts of games and activities, and not give them too much pressure. Although their pressures seemed overwhelming at times, it did not change the fact that they were all still normal, jolly, happy-go-lucky children with big hearts and a bright future. They actually revealed to me that there is a different concept here of what is appropriate and not appropriate to say out loud. For instance, it didn't take my students long to inform me of how big my nose was.

The days spent in at ZhongGuanCun bestowed on me a myriad of cultural insight. The way in which the school functioned was, in a way, a microcosm of how society sometimes functions here in China. We ate lunch in a communal canteen fashion. Every day the other teachers and myself would take our bowls to the canteen wherein we were all served the same food. For the kids, two big pots were wheeled into the classrooms alongside a big pan of rice. They ate what was served, if they did not like it, then too bad. The halls would often smell of cigarette smoke that had drifted out of the bathrooms or staff offices; this was apparently not so uncommon. And when it came time at the





*Kilgore continued from Page 9*

end of the semesters for me to conduct students' spoken exams, beforehand the T.A. would always remind me that everyone is to receive an A or B, so that if they failed their written exam they could still pass the course. I found this to be a bit disappointing.

Apart from the teaching life, I have been lucky enough to be able to spend a significant amount of time with my girlfriend's (Xiu Ming) family. They were all born and raised here in Beijing, and throughout the past year have served as mentors. Every Sunday, Xiu Ming and I take a trip back to her parent's place in east Beijing to spend the afternoon and evening with them. Their apartment is extremely clean and upon my arrival they usually make me change into the slippers and "home" clothes that they have reserved for me. They always prepare the most delicious food for us, and sometimes will disclose a little cooking secret to me.

Her mother is a retired nurse who frequently has some advice for me on how to be healthier, and her father usually takes a bit of time to help me with my Chinese character writing. I remember thinking how surreal the moment was this summer, when I was sitting with Xiu Ming and her mother in their apartment watching the opening ceremonies of the Olympics. As we were watching we could look out of their balcony and see the fireworks above the Bird's Nest in the distance. Spending time with a family here is truly an incredible experience that I wish all foreigners who come to China could have.

In September I moved to the opposite end of the spectrum and became a full time Chinese language student. Now, another chapter of my experience abroad begins as I study Chinese amongst foreigners from all over the world. In my class are students from Indonesia, Russia, Japan, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates. I can only hope that I will learn as much from my classmates in the months to come as I have from my experiences here in China over the past year.

## Degrees Granted Since May 2008

The following is a list of the Ph.D. and Masters degrees awarded by the Department since May 2008. The person granted the degree, dissertation or thesis title and committee chair are included.

### Ph.D.s

**Mann, David F.** (May 2008)  
Treeline Responses to Climate Change in High-Elevation Landscapes of Western Montana, U.S.A.

**Henri Grissino-Mayer**

**Rector, Kyle** (May 2008)  
Crossing the Rubicon: The Demise of Segregation and the Origin of Divergence in South Africa and the American South  
**Charles Aiken**

**van de Gevel, Saskia L.** (July 2008)  
Landscape-Level Dynamics of an Endangered Mountain Ecosystem, Western Montana, U.S.A.

**Henri Grissino-Mayer**

**Hellwinckel, Chad M.** (August 2008)  
Estimating Potential Economic Net Carbon Flux from U.S. Agriculture Using a High-Resolution Integrated Socioeconomic-Biogeophysical Model

**Tom Bell**

**Noltenius, Melanie S.** (August 2008)  
Capturing Pre-evacuation Trips and Associative Delays: A Case Study of the Evacuation of Key West, Florida for Hurricane Wilma  
**Bruce Ralston**

**Wenner, Daryl P.** (August 2008)  
Creation of an Ice Hockey Tradition in the South  
**Tom Bell**



## **Masters**

**Ahrens, Steve R.** (May 2008)  
Land Use-Transportation Interaction:  
Lessons Learned from an Experimental  
Model using Cellular Automata and Artificial  
Neural Networks  
**Shih-Lung Shaw**

**Morris, Christopher** (May 2008)  
The Impact of Historic Logging on Woody  
Debris Distribution and Stream Morphology  
in the Great Smoky Mountains National  
Park, North Carolina  
**Carol Harden**

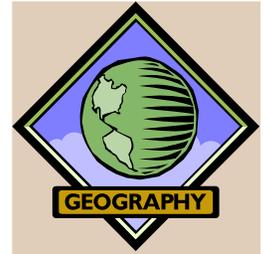
**Graham, Jason E.** (August 2008)  
Macroscopic Charcoal as Evidence of Local  
Fire near Laguna Martínez, Costa Rica,  
7600 14C yr BP to the Present  
**Sally Horn**

**Huang, Xia** (August 2008)  
Exploring Migration Patterns in Space and  
Time: A GIS-based Time-geographic  
Approach  
**Shih-Lung Shaw**

**Liu, Xumei,** (August 2008)  
Changing Geography of China's International  
Air Transport Served by Chinese Airlines  
**Shih-Lung Shaw**

**Remus, Brock A.** (August 2008)  
Testing the Usefulness of Pine Stomata as a  
Proxy in Lake Sediment Cores from  
Low-latitude Environments  
**Ken Orvis**

**Sumner, Joe D.** (August 2008)  
The Development of a GIS Logistics  
Decision Support System for DeRoyal  
Industries  
**Bruce Ralston**



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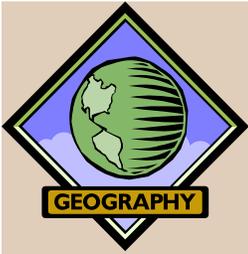
## **Some Familiar Faces Caught on Film at Charles Aiken's Retirement Colloquium**



*Len Brinkman and Lydia Pulsipher*

*Charles Aiken with Ted Schmudde*





## Faculty and Staff News

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### **Tom Bell and Peggy Gripshover.**

In 2008, the Bell-Gripshover geographic cabal continued in their peerless efforts to numb students into submission and colleagues into considering other career options. Needless to say, it has been a busy year. **Peggy Gripshover** won the “Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching,” in 2007, and in 2008 she was a recipient of the “UT National Alumni Association’s Outstanding Teacher Award.” Peggy also has been named the first recipient of the inaugural Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers’ (SEDAAG) “Excellence in Teaching Award,” presented at the SEDAAG meeting in November, 2008, in Greensboro, NC. The award is based on the nominee’s effectiveness in teaching geography, student evaluations, pedagogical development, outreach, and prior awards for teaching. Given all the recognition for her teaching, she now insists that her TAs carry her to class on a litter like Cleopatra, lay rose petals across the front of the classroom lest her feet touch the floor, and have a ready supply of peeled grapes on hand at all times.

While **Tom Bell** sits around waiting for his next award (it must have gotten lost in the mail!) and polishing up his acceptance speech, he and **Ola Johansson** (Ph.D. 2004), are busy editing a book for Ashgate Publishers, a compilation of essays titled *Turn Up the Volume: New Essays in Music Geography*. The contributors to the book include **Sara Beth Keough** (Ph.D. 2007) who wrote a chapter based on her dissertation research. The book, with any luck, should come out in 2009, and, in all likelihood, will be the next Oprah book club selection. Tom and Ola also collaborated on a music geography paper for the 2008 AAG meeting. In his copious free time, Tom also completed an entry in the *Encyclopedia of Geography* (Barney Warf, ed.) on “music and sound geography” that is scheduled to be out in 2009.

Peggy and Tom’s research on patterns of suicide in Chicago before the Great Fire is now in print in a special issue on Chicago of the *Bulletin of the Illinois Geo-*

*graphical Society*. That journal article was based on their 2006 AAG paper. And speaking of paper presentations, the dynamic duo also recently gave jointly-authored conference papers on such diverse subjects as suicide and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the geographic imagination of J. Paul Goode, and, for the 2008 SEDAAG meeting, a paper that asks the burning question, does Gatlinburg have “ambiance”? And the answer is...ummm...yes, but not the good kind!

Despite the failure of the Chicago Cubs to break the century-long curse and make it to the World Series this year, Peggy has tempered his disappointment with work on her baseball research. Her chapter on the cultural landscape of “Wrigleyville,” appeared in the newly published, *Northsiders, Essays on the History and Culture of the Chicago Cubs*, (Wood and Hazucha, eds., McFarland, 2008). She is continuing to work on her book-length manuscript on “Lucky Charlie” Weeghman, the man who built what we now call Wrigley Field and forever changed the North Side of Chicago. Peggy also had an article on the culture of dog fighting as a spring training pastime in early 20th century professional baseball in the *Baseball Research Journal*. In related research, Peggy also presented a paper at the 2008 AAG meeting on another animal cruelty topic, the origins of the abusive training practices in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry. Now, as for the Cubbies...there is always next year!

The biggest family news of 2008 for the Bell-Gripshover family was Tom’s mother, Lilah Bell’s 100th birthday bash. Members of the clan gathered in Bettendorf, Iowa, in July for a celebration of Lilah Bell’s life and family. Brian (on a break from touring with Weezer) was on hand as was Leia, Phil, and their three children, Cortez, Ivan, and Oslo. Tom made headlines in the local newspaper when a reporter was intrigued by Tom’s outfit—a seersucker suit, red bow tie, white belt, and white bucks. Some likened his appearance to that of Colonel Sanders. Lilah is truly an “Energizer

Bunny,” and while the rest of us whippersnappers were pooped out from the party, the birthday girl held court until way up into the night. She is truly an amazing lady! Nearly 300 people came to the reception for Lilah, who has now become a local celebrity. She was even chosen as the grand marshal for Bettendorf’s Fourth of July Parade! Lilah still lives on her own in the house that she and her husband (the late Bud Bell) built in 1932 for \$600. Lilah spends her free time, as she says, “volunteering to help old people.” Tom is crossing his fingers that he has his mother’s genes for longevity rather than just the genes for gray hair.

**Kurt Butefish.** Kurt continues in his role as coordinator of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. This past year was spent traveling across that state assisting the Alliance’s regional and chapter coordinators in conducting activities at the local level. More than 20 workshops were hosted from Memphis to Kingsport. Kurt also serves on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies and on the Education Committee for Discover Life in America.

He was honored to be selected by the National Geographic Education Foundation to participate in its on-going “Re-visioning the Geography Alliance Network” process which has the goal of guiding the future direction for the relationships and work of the NGEF and geographic alliances across the nation.

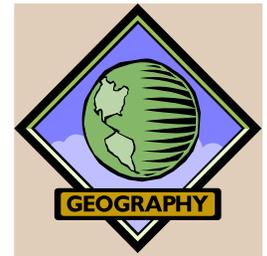
The highlight of the year, however was a cross-the-state tour with **Peggy Gripshover** and **Dr. Carole Bucy** of Volunteer State Community College. These two magnificent educators presented the one-day workshop “A Refreshing Look at Teaching the Geography and History of Tennessee” to 108 teachers from Knoxville to Memphis and the response by the teachers was most rewarding. **Tom Bell** accompanied the entourage. Much regional cuisine including BBQ and chocolate malts along with Tennessee geography and history were consumed on the back roads between Rocky Top and the Big Muddy.

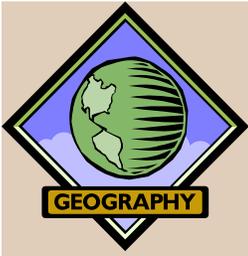
**Ron Foresta.** Ron recently completed his book on the Land Between the Lakes and is shopping for a publisher. He

continues to serve as a reviewer for several journals including the Professional Geographer and Historical Geography. Fall semester he took over the undergraduate major proseminar course and implemented many revisions to the course structure, incorporating numerous guest panels. Ron heads up the department’s human geography working group and chairs the undergrad program committee. He is beginning work on what he hopes will become a book on Santa Fe and the making of the Southwestern style.

**Henri Grissino-Mayer.** During the last academic year, Henri and his students continued to rack up airline miles traveling to and from field sites and attending numerous regional and national meetings. Meetings at which Henri and his students presented included the Southeastern Archaeological Conference held in Knoxville (7 presentations), the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers, the Mid-States Division of the Association of American Geographers, the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting held in Boston (12 presentations), EuroDendro 2008 in Hallstatt, Austria, and the First AmeriDendro Conference held in Vancouver, British Columbia (2 presentations). Henri also gave invited talks to the Department of Geography at Ohio University, the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky, the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society, and the Tennessee Historical Commission.

For two weeks in June 2008, Henri attended and again helped organize the North American Dendroecological Fieldweek held at Apex Mountain in British Columbia’s Rocky Mountains. Henri helped collect samples with his colleagues from the University of British Columbia from a treeline site where the native species are in rapid decline, which some believe may be caused by global warming. After the fieldweek, Henri traveled to Vancouver to attend the First Ameri Dendro Conference. Henri served on the Organizing Committee of the conference, served as a Faculty Mentor for graduate students who attended the conference, and served as Chair of the Awards Committee. For this latter position, Henri had earlier convened an international panel of respected leaders in the field to develop the first named





awards ever in the field of dendrochronology, and also arranged to have the individuals for whom the awards were named to attend the conference.

After his return in early July, Henri immediately turned around and headed to New Mexico with students **Mark Spod**, **John Sakulich**, and **Ian Feathers** for a two week adventure collecting samples from centuries old trees growing on the rugged lava flows of New Mexico's El Malpais National Monument, about 100 km west of Albuquerque. The team also collected samples from the Paxton Springs Lava Flow located in the Zuni Mountains of the Cibola National Forest. Some living trees are being found to be over 1000 years old and this research will form one important aspect of the dissertation research of **Mark Spod**. Important fieldwork was conducted in Great Smoky Mountains National Park by Henri's students **Lisa LaForest** (fire history), **Christine Biermann** (climate change), and **Ian Feathers** (fire and land-use history), all as part of the students' respective dissertation or master's topics. In October 2008, Henri helped coordinate a field trip with Anthropology student **Daniel Brock** to collect samples from log structures at the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site in Johnson City, Tennessee. Those that helped on this field work included undergraduate geography majors **Ruby Munoz**, **Kevin Patrick Russell**, **Alexander Pooler**, and **Josh Brown**, assisted by geography graduate students **Lisa LaForest**, **Grant Harley**, **Nancy Li**, **Monica Rother**, and **Matthew Kookogey**.

In October 2008, Henri and several of the students in his Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science were filmed as part of a documentary soon to air on a new off-shoot of the Discovery Channel called the "Investigation Discovery Channel" in a new series called "Solved" about how applied science helps solve forensics cases. This particular episode will focus on the use of wood to help solve homicide cases and will highlight the research conducted by Henri and his colleague at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, **Dr. Madhavi Martin**, to help solve a tragic homicide in

Collin County, Texas that occurred in March 2004. In the meantime, Henri and his students are currently airing in various documentaries on the History Channel ("Little Ice Age: The Big Chill") and the National Geographic Channel ("Naked Science: Hyper Hurricanes").

In the last newsletter, we mentioned how Henri was helping to organize a special issue of the journal *Tree-Ring Research* dedicated to the archaeological research being conducted by his students, which provides vital training in the education of a geographer as it crosses boundaries of both human and physical geography. We're proud to report that 8 manuscripts were submitted in the last year, all underwent a rigorous review process, and all are now formally accepted without revision by the journal (rated in the Top 20 of all journals in Forestry). Authors and titles include:

Henri D. Grissino-Mayer. An introduction to dendroarchaeology in the Southeastern United States.

David F. Mann, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, Charles H. Faulkner, and John B. Rehder. From blockhouse to hog house: The historical dendroarchaeology of the Swaggerty Blockhouse, Cocke County, Tennessee.

Jessica D. Slayton, Maggie R. Stevens, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, and Charles H. Faulkner. The historical dendroarchaeology of two log structures at the Marble Springs Historic Site, Knox County, Tennessee.

Joseph P. Henderson, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, Saskia L. van de Gevel, and Justin L. Hart. The historical dendroarchaeology of the Hoskins House, Tannenbaum Historic Park, Greensboro, North Carolina, U.S.A.

Saskia L. van de Gevel, Justin L. Hart, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, and Kenneth W. Robinson. Tree-ring dating of old-growth longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Mill.) logs from an exposed timber crib dam, Hope Mills, North Carolina, U.S.A.

Sarah A. Blankenship, Meta G. Pike, Georgina G. DeWeese, Saskia L. van de Gevel, and Henri D. Grissino-Mayer. The dendroarchaeology of Cagle Saltpetre Cave: A nineteenth century saltpetre mining site in Van Buren County, Tennessee.

Daniel B. Lewis, Whitney L. Nelson, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, Edward R. Cook, and Robbie D. Jones. Dendrochronological dating of eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana* L.) logs from Alfred's Cabin, The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson.

Shannon D. Koerner, Henri D. Grissino-Mayer, Lynne P. Sullivan, and Georgina G. DeWeese. A dendroarchaeological approach to Mississippian culture occupational history.

Former graduate students of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science have been very successful in procuring academic jobs. We're pleased to announce that **David Mann** (Ph.D. 2008) is now in the Meteorology and Oceanography Command of the United States Navy, and will be serving as a Visiting Lecturer in the Department in Spring 2009 teaching courses in Meteorology, Climatology, and Climate Change. We're also very pleased to announce that **Saskia van de Gevel** (Ph.D. 2008) is now serving as a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Planning at Appalachian State University, and we're hopeful that this position will soon turn into a tenure-track position.

**Carol Harden.** Carol was elected Vice President of the Association of American Geographers in March 2008. As VP, she works with the AAG council and leadership and represents the AAG at regional meetings when the president, **John Agnew**, is unable to attend. In fall 2008, she represented the AAG at the SWAAG meeting in San Marcos, Texas, and the NESTVAL meeting in Plymouth, New Hampshire. She will be on the ballot (unopposed!) for AAG President in 2009.

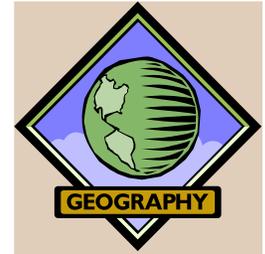
In 2008, Carol Harden was named Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Physical Geography*. After years of being an author, reviewer, and editorial board member, she finds the new view from the editor's perch very encouraging—publication is competitive and the review process requires effort, but the need to fill journals creates ongoing opportunities for new submissions and the satisfying achievement of getting new research into the published literature.

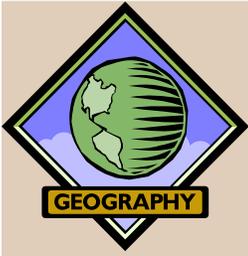
This year was Harden's second of a 3-year term on the Geographical Sciences Committee of the National Academies of Science. The GSC is a standing committee of the National Academies that identifies topics and financial support for National Research Council studies and publications related to geography. In 2009, Harden will also join the Research and Exploration Committee of National Geographic Society.

On the research front, Harden obtained a Professional Development award from the University of Tennessee and traveled to the Ecuadorian Andes in May-June 2008 to begin a field-based investigation of the effects of land-use change on carbon and water in high elevation páramo soils with colleague **Dr. Kathleen Farley** (San Diego State University). They used outcomes from their field work and meetings with Ecuadorian research partners to strengthen a research proposal, now in review at NSF.

Harden continues to use the Little River watershed as a living laboratory in her research funded by the EPA through the Blount County Soil Conservation District. This year's research emphasis was on streambank erosion pins at 17 sites on five tributary streams. Many geography graduate students assisted in this research. In spring 2008, students in Harden's Watershed Dynamics seminar focused their research on the Little River watershed. At the end of the semester, the class presented the research at a public meeting at the Blount County Public Library.

**Sally Horn.** Sally continues to direct the NSF GK-12 Earth Project (<http://web.utk.edu/~gk12/index.html>), which pairs graduate student "Fellows" from Geography and Earth and Planetary Sciences with teachers in seven rural middle schools in east Tennessee to improve science instruction.





The project's goal is to link the world of middle school science with the (rather different) world of scientific research by involving middle school students and teachers in authentic scientific research. It's a lofty goal, but ten talented graduate students from Geography and Earth and Planetary Science are making it happen! In March, Sally attended the annual GK-12 meeting in Washington DC, along with GK-12 Fellows **Jorene Hamilton** and **Saskia van de Gevel** from Geography, and **René Shroat-Lewis** from Earth and Planetary Sciences, and Teacher-Partner **Betsy Tillet** of Carpenters Middle School. The group presented a poster on "Sharing Fellows' Research and Doing Research with Middle School Students: Examples from the University of Tennessee GK-12 Earth Project," that attracted wide interest. In April, Sally, Co-PI **Ken Orvis**, and Fellow **Daniel Lewis** participated in a panel session on GK-12 activities at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers. Sally gave a paper at the AAG meeting on the research she, **Ken Orvis**, and students are doing on long-term fire and environmental history on Abaco Island in the northern Bahamas. The island is a particularly interesting laboratory for this type of study because archaeological evidence indicates that it was colonized much later than other sites in the circum-Caribbean region (perhaps not until AD 800-600), offering the possibility of obtaining sediment records of environmental conditions unaffected by human activity.

In May 2008 Sally traveled to Costa Rica to participate in research on soil stratigraphy in archaeological sites in Costa Rica with Professors **Maureen Sánchez** of the University of Costa Rica and **Bill Woods** of the University of Kansas. She returned to Costa Rica in Fall 2008 as a guest of the National State Distance University, to present a lecture on "Clima y Cambio Ambiental en Costa Rica: Historia y Posibles Implicaciones Para El Futuro" and to lead a workshop for University faculty on collaborative research and research funding.

Sally was a co-author on six journal articles published in 2008, most with students, and has several other manuscripts in review or in press with students and other collaborators. Two of Sally's M.S. students, **Jason Graham** and **Alisa Hass**, finished

their M.S. theses in 2008, Jason in August and Alisa in December. Both students found jobs quickly, showing that paleoenvironmental research combined with GIS coursework is a winning combination in the job market!

In October 2008, Sally was selected as a member of the inaugural class of Chancellor's Professors at the University of Tennessee, one of only two professors from the College of Arts and Sciences to be so recognized. (The other was **Hap McSween** of Earth and Planetary Sciences). This award recognizes Sally's scholarly attainment in her research field as well as her record of excellence in teaching and service to the University.

**Ron Kalafsky.** Ron's current research continues to explore the challenges of manufacturers located in industrialized countries. Recent research in Japan looked at the resilience of the country's advanced machinery manufacturers and the importance of exports to these companies. He also spent time in both China and Canada examining the obstacles that North American manufacturers face when attempting to engage the rapidly changing Chinese market. Ron is also teaching a new course during the fall semester, Geography of East Asia, which integrates case studies based on his research.

**Lydia Pulsipher.** Lydia is using her semi-retirement to pursue research interests in two radically different parts of the world: the Eastern Caribbean and Central Europe. The following are chronicles from recent adventures.

Eastern Caribbean: Lydia recently made a rush trip to Montserrat that turned out to be unexpectedly rewarding and was a lesson for academics: Don't jump to conclusions!

She had been warned that developers were encroaching on a historic site recently deeded by the government of Montserrat to the Montserrat National Trust. Montserrat and Pulsipher hoped that the site could become a replacement for the Galways site lost in 1997 to a massive volcanic pyroclastic explosion (Pulsipher worked on this site with **Mac Goodwin** from 1980 to 1997).

Upon arriving at the site, she learned that the warning was not accurate. Quite the contrary. Developers' bulldozers were indeed clearing all around the historic site for the new town of Little Bay (to replace the now buried capital city of Plymouth), but had not intruded on any of the "sacred ground." More importantly, the developers (British with local affiliates) were quite cognizant of the value of the site to their planned town and were willing to help with finding funding for the needed archaeological research and eventually for the interpretation of the site for the public. Pulsipher and her archaeologist colleagues, **Mac Goodwin** (her husband) and **Mary Beaudry** of Boston University had produced four proposals over the last year to fund the archaeology at Little Bay (to TourismCares, Earthwatch, NEH, the Government of Montserrat). None were successful, mostly because of (unnecessary) worries about the volcano, which is miles to the south of Little Bay. Now a fifth proposal has been submitted to GHK International, the British development firm in charge of the Little Bay development.

While this is the first proposal the team has submitted to a commercial firm and negotiations and revisions are expected (and things may not work out in the end), it was a revelation that at least some developers now recognize the human capital that historic sites represent and warmly receive proposals to incorporate them into their development plans. GHK seems to think that as the center piece for their new town, an attractive interpreted historic site would be better than a weed patch with stone ruins peeking out.

Central Europe: In line with her Central European interests, Lydia was recently elected to the executive board of the Slovene Studies Society, a transnational group of scholars who focus on a wide range of research pursuits in Slovenia. Lydia and her father, Joseph Mihelic, were founding members of SSS in 1973. In November 2008, she attended the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies meetings in Philadelphia, a large interdisciplinary group of which the Slovene Studies Society is a prominent member. She will be a co-editor of an future issue of the SSS journal dedicated to the human physical geography of Slovenia. Those within range of this Newsletter who may be interested in

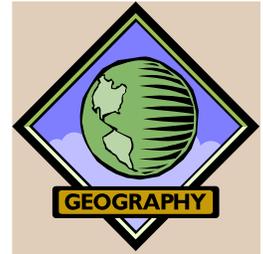
contributing are advised to contact her - [lpulsiph@utk.edu](mailto:lpulsiph@utk.edu) .

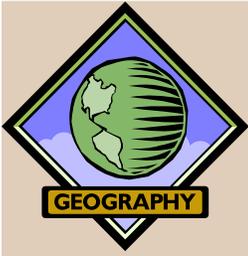
**Bruce Ralston.** Bruce is enjoying being a regular faculty member. In his thirty-third year at UT, he likes to sit in his office and reminisce about the days when his retirement accounts had non-negative rates of return! Ah, those were the days. A few milestones this past year included directing **Melany Noltenius'** Ph.D. dissertation on pre-evacuation trip behavior. He and Melany have had a chapter accepted for inclusion in a forthcoming book on geospatial advances in hazard studies. He also has worked with **Josh Streufert** on developing thematic mapping tools for use with Google Earth and Google Maps. In November, Bruce traveled to Irvine, CA to present a paper on the topic at the 2008 ACM-GIS meeting. (The ACM is the Association for Computing Machinery and is composed mainly of computer scientists.) Their paper was included in the edited Proceedings document from that conference.

In October, Bruce learned that a proposal he developed with **Dr. Nicholas Herrmann** was funded by the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. They will work on developing geospatial solutions for the National Missing Unidentified Persons System. The goal is to develop GIS databases and tools for aiding the search of unidentified remains information to identify cases that could match entries in missing persons databases. Bruce is excited to be working in the area of forensic GIS. Dr. Shaw is excited to get the overhead!

**John Rehder.** John has been a professor here since 1967 and shows no signs of slowing down. His latest book, *Tennessee's Log Buildings: A Folk Tradition*, is in its final stages of publication at the Center for American Places. The book will be distributed by the University of Georgia Press. The project contains over 100 color and black and white photographs and mapped data on 4,208 log buildings in 42 Tennessee counties. He presented a paper on this subject at the Pioneer America Society meetings in Baton Rouge, LA in October.

Rehder has started another book project called *An Architectural Guide to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. This one examines the 80+ structures that may





have historical meaning to the Park. Color photographs, measured floor plans, maps and historical narratives are the core content. Unique to this project will be the inclusion of all of the structures on Mount LeConte and the fire tower on Mount Cammerer, places that require a lot of hiking to reach.

Last Spring Rehder was the keynote speaker at the Appalachian Geography Conference in Pipestem, West Virginia and also participated in the Appalachian Studies Association Conference at Marshall University in Huntington, WVA. On September 17, he made a presentation on Appalachian folk culture at Western Carolina University at the invitation of **Dr. Jeff Neff** (UT 1975 PhD in Geography).

John remains terrible at golf but still enjoys it. He and Judy have taken up kayaking. Judy retired from her principal's job, but then took on two more jobs. Daughter, Karen teaches eighth grade English. Son, Ken (a dentist) and Angie along with field assistant grandkids - Allen (9) and Emma (7) - are doing fine.

**Shih-Lung Shaw.** A highlight of this year for Shih-Lung is being presented the Edward L. Ullman Award for outstanding contributions to the field of transportation geography at 2008 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) in Boston. Shih-Lung feels honored being recognized by his peers in the AAG for his work that integrates transportation research with geographic information science. As a winner of the Ullman Award, Shih-Lung is invited to give the Fleming Lecture at the 2009 AAG Annual Meeting. Shih-Lung (PI) continues to work with **Dr. Hongbo Yu** (Co-PI, Ph.D. of this Department, 2003) on their National Science Foundation's (NSF) project on extending Hägerstrand's time-geographic framework to develop a space-time GIS for studying human activities in a hybrid physical and virtual space (visit the project web site at:

<http://web.utk.edu/~sshaw/NSF-Project-Website/default.htm> for additional information). In 2008, this research project produced an article in *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* and another article in *Transactions in GIS*. A third article based on this research is accepted for publication in *Journal of Transport*

*Geography*. In addition, Shih-Lung has an article on air transportation in China forthcoming in *Journal of Transport Geography* and another publication forthcoming in *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. After completing a three-year NSF grant with **Dr. Louis Gross** (PI, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UTK) on grid computing for ecological modeling and spatial control, Shih-Lung is a research collaborator on a new five-year NSF grant of "National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis" led by **Dr. Louis Gross** (PI, 2008-2013 with a total funding at \$15.9 million).

On top of his busy administrative job, Shih-Lung managed to make several trips to professional meetings this year. In March of 2008, Shih-Lung was invited and funded among 18 researchers from Europe, North America, and Asia to participate in an invitation-only *Specialists Meeting on Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Everyday Life and Urban Change* held at the University of the West of England, Bristol, UK. In April of 2008, Shih-Lung attended the AAG Annual Meeting in Boston at which he and his research team delivered five papers. Shih-Lung was then invited to Taiwan in late May-early June and gave presentations to the Department of Geography and to the Graduate Institute for National Development at National Taiwan University, to the GIS Research Center at Feng Chia University, and to the Office of the President at Chinese Culture University. In October of 2008, he was invited to visit the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Transportation Research Center at Wuhan University. Shih-Lung also presented a paper at the Conference on Energy Resources and Green Economy held at Shanghai University on this trip to China.

Shih-Lung graduated three master's students this year – **Steve Ahrens** graduated in Spring 2008 and **Xumei Liu** and **Xia Huang** finished in Summer 2008. Both Steve and Xumei are employed by a private consulting firm (Steve in Oak Ridge, TN and Xumei in Orlando, FL), and Xia is pursuing another graduate degree. On professional services, Shih-Lung successfully completed his first year as the Department Head while

juggling among the equally demanding responsibilities of teaching, research, and service. He continues to serve on the editorial boards of *Journal of Transport Geography* and *Southeastern Geographer*. He reviewed manuscripts in 2008 for *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, *The Professional Geographer*, *Journal of Transport Geography*, *Transactions in GIS*, and *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*. He also reviewed three grant proposals for the National Science Foundation and was invited to serve on an NSF review panel. In addition, Shih-Lung was invited to serve as an external reviewer of three promotion and tenure cases this year. One important lesson Shih-Lung has learned this year is that it is a 24-7 job to be a Department Head while continuing research, teaching, and other professional service activities. Nevertheless, he feels very rewarded to see all of the wonderful accomplishments by faculty, staff, and students of this Department.

**Liem Tran.** Liem's two-year project entitled "Cross-scale interactions and ecological system dynamics: pattern-process relationships through space and time" was funded by the UT Science Alliance in early 2008. The study is an attempt to characterize ecological landscape pattern in the context of cross-scale interactions and dynamics of ecological systems and pattern-process relationships through space and time with the use of complex adaptive systems (CAS) approach. Project development activities are being successfully pursued along several fronts. (1) Collaboration with **Dr. Dale's** group at ORNL has been steady and promising. Liem has attended several of their weekly meetings to exchange results and findings. Dr. Dale's group will have support from the DOE's Office of the Biomass (OBP) for the next steps and we will have more collaboration to continue and expand the research. (2) Discussions are also ongoing with several people at EPA about what can be learned from this approach and how it can be applied.

Liem has had several meetings with **Elizabeth Smith**, director of the ReVA program, and other EPA scientists on the applicability of the approach to the U.S. EPA's Future Midwest Landscapes (FML)

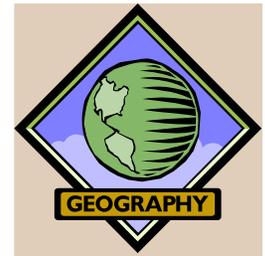
Study. As a result of those meetings, EPA will support the effort of developing the Analytical Hierarchy Process model and the optimization model to look at the ecosystem services of FML under various scenarios. Also in terms of research, Liem has collaborated with colleagues in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department on two NSF proposals. In relation to teaching, he and his students are having fun with various issues in his GEOG 436 course – Water Resources – in Fall 2008.

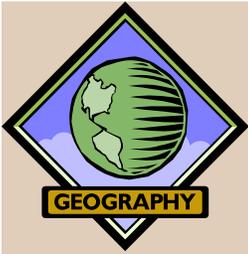
### **Micheline van Riemsdijk.**

Micheline joined the Department in August 2008 after finishing her Ph.D. in human geography at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is excited to be part of the Geography Department in Knoxville and sincerely appreciates the warm welcome.

Micheline is primarily interested in international migration and labor market issues, and she is currently studying the work experiences of skilled migrants. For her dissertation research, Micheline conducted one year of fieldwork research in Norway. She investigated the working conditions of Polish nurses who were recruited by the Norwegian government to fill a nursing shortage. She interviewed Polish nurses, Norwegian nurses and employers, and people who were involved with the nurse recruitment project to investigate barriers to the incorporation of Polish nurses into the Norwegian nation. She conducted four months of participant observation in two Norwegian nursing homes to observe interactions between Polish nurses and Norwegian patients, coworkers and employers. This fieldwork phase was followed by three months in Warsaw to study the nursing system in Poland and to better understand factors that contribute to the out-migration of Polish nurses.

Micheline recently started a new project that investigates the mutual recognition of nursing qualifications in European Union member states. She is especially interested in ideas about belonging and territoriality that are embedded in policies that govern the valuation of foreign educational credentials and professional experience. Micheline presented this research project at the Race, Ethnicity and Place conference in Miami, FL in November. In





addition, she presented a paper at the SEDAAG conference in Greensboro, NC on the implementation and outcomes of new public management strategies in Norwegian nursing homes and the effects of these

strategies on foreign-born nurses.

Micheline taught World Regional Geography this fall semester, and she will teach Cultural Geography and Population and Environment in spring 2009.

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## Students and Faculty in Action



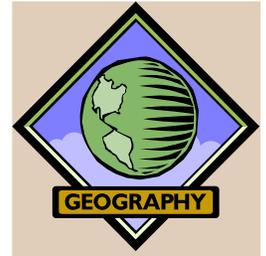
*L to R: Christine Biermann, Monica Rother, and Jorene Hamilton assisting Carol Harden with a study of streambank erosion rates in the Little River watershed.*



*The "Grissino Gang" had just extracted cores from underneath the house they're standing in front of at the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site in Johnson City, TN. They are trying to establish if this is the original house built by Colonel Tipton upon arrival in 1783 as part of Daniel Brock's master's research in Anthropology. Front row, left to right: Lisa LaForest (Grad), Grant Harley (Grad), Matthew Kookogey (Grad), Ruby Munoz (UG), Kevin Patrick Russell (UG), Alexander Pooler (UG), Henri Grissino-Mayer, and Daniel Brock (Grad in Anthropology). Back row: Nancy Li (Grad), Josh Brown (UG), and Monica Rother (Grad).*



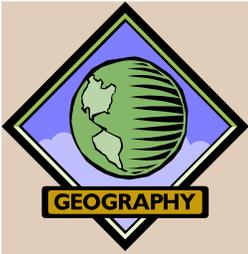
*Graduate students Yanan Li (right) and Yitu Xu (left), both from China, sample their first chocolate malt at Tinsley Bible Drugstore in downtown Dandridge, TN. The two had accompanied Kurt Butefish (center left) to Jefferson County High School where they presented a program about their home country to Mark Finchum's (center right) world geography classes.*



*L to R: Christine Biermann, Lily Ahrens, James Baginski, Dr. Ronald Foresta, and Drew Gaskins. To supplement course instruction, Dr. Foresta led the students of his "Special Topics in Urban Geography" course on a field trip to Chattanooga to interpret the built environment and developmental path that the city has experienced in recent decades.*



*Geog 633 graduate students in the Little River research seminar in a tributary of the Little River. From left: Ingrid Luffman, Tim Green, Chris Morris, Maggie Stevens, Joyce Coombs, Guy Janekitkarn, Jorene Hamilton, Latha Baskaran.*



# Grad Student News

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**Lily Ahrens** is a first year M.S. student originally from Spokane, WA. She received a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from St. Olaf College in Minnesota in 2005. Since that time she has worked in Chicago as a Research Associate for a publication on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. Under the guidance of Dr. Ron Foresta, she plans to combine her interests in music and human geography by studying the arts and community in Asheville, N.C. Lily is currently a TA for the introductory physical geography course.

**Joshua Albritton** is a second year M.S. student working under the direction of Dr. Sally Horn. He received his B.A. in Geography with a minor in Spanish from the University of Tennessee in the fall of 2006. His thesis research focuses on fire and vegetation history in the pine rocklands of the National Key Deer Refuge in the southern Florida Keys. As a physical geographer, Joshua's interests include biogeography, environmental conservation, and climatology.

**James Baginski** is a third-year M.S. student working under the direction of Dr. Tom Bell. He received his B.A. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2005 from the Department of Geography and Regional Planning. His academic interests include economic, urban, cultural, and transportation geographies. James is currently finishing his thesis, entitled "On the Trail of Fine Ale: The Role of Factor Conditions in the Location of Craft Breweries in the United States," a study that explores the role of various attributes at the state and metropolitan levels and their relationships to the establishment of craft breweries. In addition to his research of the craft brewing industry in the United States, James was awarded a grant from the university's McClure Foundation to conduct exploratory research, focused on inland waterway transportation in central China in the summer of 2007. James has also assisted with several other graduate students' research, including Annie

Wambersie and Angela Danovi's projects involving the collection of water and sediment samples, and Christine Biermann's dendro-chronological study of shortleaf pine trees in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He was awarded the Robert G. Long Outstanding Graduate Student award from UT for the academic year 2007-08, and received the Geography Department's Outstanding Teaching Award the previous year. James has been active in the department's major outreach program, Geography Awareness Week, as well as independent outreach in elementary classrooms in rural East Tennessee. Additionally, he has held the position of student editor for the department's annual newsletter for the last two years. James also served as a co-coordinator of the Department of Geography's first circus in the spring of 2008. When he is not busy writing his thesis, James enjoys playing Frisbee golf, cycling, gardening, and fly fishing.

**Andy Baker** is a fourth year Ph.D. student working under the tutelage of Dr. Tom Bell. He received his B.S. in Geography and a B.S. in Business (concentration in Finance) from Eastern Illinois University in the spring of 2003. In June 2005, Andy completed his M.A. in Geography at Ohio University where he studied both the historical and cultural geography of NASCAR. As a graduate student in the UT Geography Department, Andy is pursuing research in cultural and sport geography, adding a specialization in Geographic Information Science. Beginning Fall 2006, Andy taught the introductory World Regional Geography course where he earned the "Outstanding Teaching Associate" award from the department. Andy also has served University of Tennessee as a Graduate Student Senate Department Representative, Graduate Student Representative to Geography Faculty, and Graduate Program Committee member. Andy is currently a Lecturer of Geography at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

**Latha Baskaran** is a second year Ph.D. student. She received her M.S in Geography from the Pennsylvania State University in 2003, and her B.E (Bachelor of Engineering) in GeoInformatics from Anna University, India in 2001. Since 2003 Latha has been working at the Environmental Sciences Division at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She continues to work there as a full-time research staff member. Latha's work at ORNL has ranged from habitat modeling, land cover mapping, spatial data QA and more recently along the lines of bioenergy crops and resources and their environmental implications. Latha's Ph.D. will be in the area of modeling impacts of bioenergy crops on water quality and habitat of species.

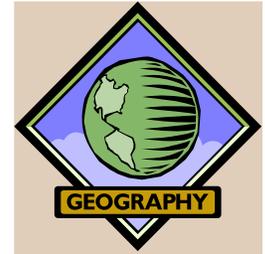
**Christine Biermann** received her B.A. in Geography in 2007 from SUNY Geneseo and promptly headed south. A member of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science, she is a second-year M.S. student studying the climate response of yellow pines in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. As part of her thesis fieldwork, she spent much of the past summer bushwhacking through dense rhododendron thickets on the trail of the elusive shortleaf pine. Also, Christine was the recipient of a J. Wallace and Katie Dean Fellowship through the College of Arts and Sciences (2007-2008) and is currently supported by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Her non-academic interests include plott hounds (a dog breed native to southern Appalachia), dollar stores, and gardening.

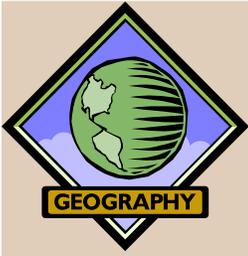
**Michelle Brym** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Geography Department. She received her M.A. in Geography (2002), and her B.A. in Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs with a minor in Latin American (2000), from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Michelle's research interests lie in the study of borderlands, cultural geography, population studies, political geography and qualitative methods, with a regional specialization in Central Europe. Her dissertation, entitled, "The European Union Integration of Borderlands: A Case Study of Cross-Border Mobility and the Expression of National Identity in the Polish Border Region," looks at the recent changes in the border crossing experiences of

people living in cities along the Polish/German border, and the discourse they employ to describe the vanishing political border. For the last three summers she has traveled to Poland, as part of her preliminary research, with support from the W.K. McClure Fund, McCroskey Fund and the University of Viadrina. She spent the fall 2007 academic semester in Poland finishing her research, thanks to the support of the Kosciuszko Foundation, AAG cultural geography specialty group, and the UT Geography Department. While in Poland, she also taught an undergraduate course on European borderlands at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. She is currently teaching a section of Geography 101 at UT.

**Charlynn Burd** is a second year Ph.D. student. She received her B.S. in Geography from Western Kentucky University in the spring of 2001. She received her M.A. degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC Charlotte). She worked for the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute where she was a Research Assistant. She is currently a Graduate Teaching Associate. Her research interests include Urban and Economic Geography.

**Thomas Burley** is a third-year M.S. student with research interests in GIScience, water resources management, human and environmental risk assessment, and landscape ecology. He graduated cum laude from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a B.S. in Business Administration/Supply Chain Management and a B.A. in Geography in December 2004. He is currently a full-time staff Research Associate with The Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment (ISSE) at the University of Tennessee. He has been working with the National Biological Information Infrastructure-Southern Appalachian Information Node (NBII-SAIN) Program of the U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources Discipline since June of 2004 on two projects focused on biological informatics and adaptive natural resource management. The latter projects have been in collaboration with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the A.T. MEGA-Transect initiative as well as management partners of the high-elevation grassy balds of the Roan Mountain highlands. He is





also an FGDC metadata trainer with the NBII national metadata training program. His graduate work involves working with **Dr. Liem Tran** (major professor) on a state funded Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) grant project. The project focus is on analyzing the spatiotemporal relationships between land-cover change and water quality in the Little River watershed in East TN and the Harpeth River watershed in Middle TN using multivariate analysis techniques and land-cover change detection.

**Maria Caffrey** is currently working on her Ph.D. investigating changes in Caribbean climate using a sediment core collected from Laguna Saladilla in the Dominican Republic. She is working with Dr. Sally Horn (Geography) and Dr. David Finkelstein (Earth and Planetary Sciences) to look at changes in isotopic sediment signatures in addition to environmental reconstructions based on pollen, diatoms, and microscopic charcoal. She was also awarded a grants-in-aid-of-research grant from Sigma Xi to visit the University of Arizona Accelerator Mass Spectrometry lab to learn more about radiocarbon dating. Maria just had an article co-authored with Rebecca Beavers (National Park Service) entitled "Protecting Cultural Resources in Coastal U.S. National Parks from Climate Change" published in George Wright Forum.

**Kendrick Curtis** is a fifth year Ph.D. student. He graduated with a B.S. from the University of North Alabama in the spring of 2000. In December 2003 he graduated with a M.S. in geography from the University of Tennessee. From 2002 until 2004 Kendrick was employed as a Community Planner with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's Local Planning Assistance Office. His research interests include land development on the urban/rural fringe and GIS. Kendrick's dissertation research concerns the emerging use of decentralized wastewater treatment technology and its potential for freeing development from conventional wastewater infrastructure constraints. In August of 2006 the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) granted Kendrick funding to research the relation of these "decentralized"

developments to the state's comprehensive growth policy under Public Chapter 1101. In July of 2007 Kendrick returned to work for Tennessee's Department of Economic and Community Development in the role of GIS Coordinator for the Local Planning Assistance Office. Kendrick has successfully defended his dissertation and will graduate this fall.

**Jeff Dahoda** is an M.S. student working with advisor Dr. Carol Harden on GIS applications in water resources. His thesis, "GIS Analysis of Factors Affecting Acidity in Crab Orchard Creek Watershed, Cumberland and Morgan Counties, Tennessee", analyzes flow paths to Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation sampling sites relative to the spatial distribution of surface mining and other factors affecting stream acidification. He previously received a B.A. in Geology from Miami University (1980) and a M.S. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Wyoming (1996). Following 11 years of coaching at UT, Jeff returned to graduate school in 2003. After completing his coursework and fieldwork, he began working for an engineering firm in Oak Ridge in fall of 2006. He is a GIS Analyst at Tetra Tech, Inc., working on environmental remediation of ammunition plants, while completing the writing of his thesis.

**Sarah Deane's** M.S. graduate work involves scanning electron microscope analysis of quartz sand grains from Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. She is most interested in the glacial microtexture signature patterns found on the surfaces of sand grains. She is advised by Dr. Ken Orvis. Sarah is currently working as a teaching assistant for Physical Geography 131, and is also an avid rugby player.

**Dawn Drake** is a second year Ph.D. student from Pennsylvania. She has a B.S. in social science secondary education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She substitute taught in high schools in Western Pennsylvania before entering the Masters Program at the University of Delaware where she completed an M.S. in geography this past May. Her thesis, "Connections between Mastitis and Climate: A Study of Holsteins on

Pasture in Northampton County, Pennsylvania” found a relationship between factors of climate, such as soil moisture and relative humidity, and mastitis incidence, which can have long-term impacts on the milk supply in the face of future global climate change. Dawn’s current research focuses on location decisions made by the “Big Three” U.S. farm machinery producers (AGCO, CNH North America, and John Deere), using Porter’s framework for competitive advantage as a model. Her advisor is Dr. Ron Kalafsky. She is currently a TA for world regional geography and economic geography as well as serving on the Executive Committee of Gamma Theta Upsilon as the Senior Student Representative and as Student Representative on the Board of the Rural Geography Specialty Group.

**James Durland** is from Deltona, FL and graduated from Deltona High School in 1990. He then served 2+ years in the United States Navy. After a couple of more years, James served a Latter-day Saints mission in the Dominican Republic for 2 years. He graduated from BYU in April of 2008 and now plans to finish his Master’s at UT by the end of 2010.

**Ian Feathers** is currently in the second year of the graduate program working to complete his Master’s degree. Ian is using dendrochronology to develop a history of wildfire in Great Smoky Mountains National Park from areas of differing land-use history. This will help show current vegetation composition and structure and aid in determining the future successional patterns of the eastern temperate forests.

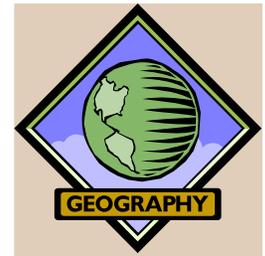
**Ryan Foster** is currently studying the effects of streambank angle and shape on streambank erosion in the Little River watershed. Ryan took a break from this while working for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in North Dakota this summer. He has spent much of his time at UTK helping others with field research. Some examples of this are: collecting Whitebark Pine samples in western Montana with Dr. Dave Mann and Daniel Lewis; coring trees and collecting data under canopy gaps with Dr. Justin Hart; helping with Chris Morris’s research on large woody debris and stream morphology in old

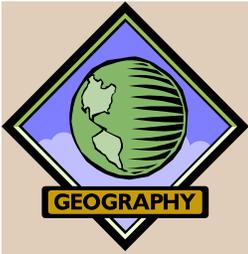
growth and secondary growth forests in GSMNP; assisting Annie Wambersie monitor stream flow and E. coli levels in tributaries of the Little River.

**Drew Gaskins** is a first year M.S. student in the Department of Geography. He received his Bachelor of Arts in geography from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in spring of 2008. His research interests are in urban geography, more specifically in downtown revitalization, housing dynamics, and city histories. In his free time, Drew enjoys going to concerts, spending time with his friends, and sipping Shiraz.

**Joe Guttman** is a Ph.D. student working with Dr. Tom Bell. He received his B.A. in history from Wake Forest University in 1995. After attending Marshall University, he earned his M.A. in Secondary Education in 2000 and an M.A. in Geography in 2001. Joe’s working dissertation title is "Agricultural Land Use Change and Local Context: A Comparison of Three Apple-Growing Districts in the Eastern United States." He is a reader for the Advanced Placement Human Geography exam.

**Grant L. Harley** is a first year Ph.D. student working in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science under Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer. He received his B.A. degree in Geography from University of South Florida in December 2005, during which he became involved with a research project involving the use of Belizean cave sediments (clastic) as proxy for climate change. In December 2007, Grant received a M.A. degree in Geography from University of South Florida under Dr. Philip Reeder. His thesis research investigated the dynamics of public and private terrestrial cave management in Florida, during which he created the Florida Cave Management System. Grant recently became involved in a research project at UT’s Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science dating a historical structure in Florida. With much still to be determined regarding his dissertation research, he plans to build a project around dendrohydrology and climate change. This fall, Grant was awarded a GK-12 fellowship through a National Science Foundation grant awarded to Drs. Sally Horn, Ken Orvis, and Lynn Champion to





help bring the excitement of climate and environmental history research to rural middle schools in East Tennessee.

**Rusty Kirby** once received a fortune cookie that told him his feet would touch the soil of many countries. To this end he is pursuing a Master's degree in Geography. His interests are eclectic at best, at worst hopelessly scattered. They include rural and urban studies, development, and Southeast Asia. Rusty is from Knoxville and fairly in love with the town. An ideal life would be far-flung travel in pursuit of the peculiar divided by periods of settled living among family and friends.

**Matthew Kookogey** is a first year M.S. student from Newnan, GA. He received his B.A. in biology with a minor in psychology from Georgia Southern University in 2006. After opening a branch of a business in Savannah, GA, which failed miserably, he went back to school for a teaching certificate and found geography. His focus will be on biogeography and environmental factors through use of GIS. He is also a TA for Geography 131.

**Lisa B. LaForest**, a Ph.D. candidate, is researching past wildfire regimes in pine and mixed pine-oak forests at three study sites in the western end of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She works under the guidance of Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science, and has been funded through the Joint Fire Sciences Program. Lisa presented on her Gold Mine Trail site at the April 2008 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Boston. Sample collection has been completed for all three of her sites, and results from newer analyses will be presented at the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network meeting in Spring 2009. In her free time, Lisa enjoys helping colleagues with their fieldwork. She also delights in traveling to exotic locales, such as Mexico and Costa Rica, to learn more about their cultures and natural environments.

**Yanan Li** is a first year M.S. student. She received her B.S. degree from Beijing Normal University (June, 2008), majoring in geography. She is interested in climate

change and dendrochronology. Her current advisor is Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer. Under his instruction, she is participating in a project about fire reconstruction in Morrell Mountain with tree rings. Additionally, Yanan is now practicing in the Laboratory of Tree Ring Science. She is currently a teaching assistant in Geography 101-World Regional Geography and Geography 320-Cultural Geography.

**Ingrid Luffman** is a second-year Ph.D. student. She received her B.S. in Math-Science and her M.S. in Earth-Sciences from the University of Ottawa in Canada, and spent 10 years in the workforce prior to returning to the academic world as a student. Her research interests lie in the areas of physical geography and hydrology, while the current focus is on land use and its effect on water quality. Specifically, she identifies livestock, wildlife, and domestic animal population and distribution in a target watershed with the goal of using this information to project pathogen concentrations in the target stream and to identify sites where Best Management Practices (BPMs) can be most effectively implemented to improve water quality. Ingrid has received grants from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to complete land use assessments for six 303(d) listed streams in the Boone Lake area of the Tri-Cities, TN. She currently serves as Secretary for the Boone Watershed Partnership and is a lecturer in geography at East Tennessee State University.

**Tracy Pollock** is a third year M.S. student. She received her B.S. in Geology from the University of Tennessee in May 2003. After completing her Bachelor's degree, she spent three years doing soil analysis and studying karst topography for Geotek Engineering in Nashville, Tennessee. Her interests are in cartography and GIS and she currently works in the UT Cartographic Services Lab. Tracy has presented her maps at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) and won first place for cartographic design at the TNGIC conference in Chattanooga. She is currently creating a natural hazards atlas of Tennessee.

She is also a teaching assistant for Cartography 310.

**Linda Rust** is a first-year M.S. student advised by Dr. Tom Bell. She studied architecture at the New York Institute of Technology and urban planning at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Australia before graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Tennessee in 1992. Linda works with numerous Knoxville community organizations, serves as a group facilitator with the East Tennessee Community Design Center, and is a community development program manager for Knox County government. Linda's research interests include the use of GIS as a tool for both neighborhood organizations and government to measure success of federal community development programs. Other interests include urban planning and sustainable communities, affordable housing, and homelessness.

**John Sakulich** is a second-year Ph.D. student working in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science with Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in geography from the Pennsylvania State University. John also spent two years working as a laboratory research assistant in the tree ring laboratory at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Here at the University of Tennessee, his dissertation research focuses on understanding how the distributions of tree species respond to climate change and other disturbances. He is using tree-ring analysis to examine the processes of tree establishment, growth, and mortality in oak-pine forests throughout the central and southern Appalachian Mountains. The goal of John's research is to inform conservation efforts aimed at preserving biological diversity and mitigating the effects of rapid climate change on ecosystems.

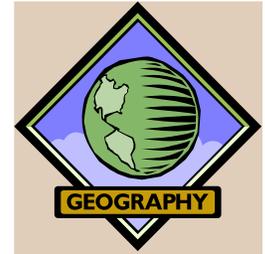
**Benjamin Shultz** is a second year Ph.D. student. He received his B.A. in Geography from the University of Kentucky in 2004 and his M.A. in Geography from Indiana University in 2007. His current focus is on knowledge economies in small cities. Specifically, he is interested in examining how knowledge workers contribute to economic

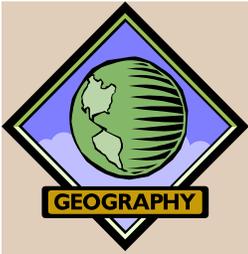
growth in small cities and comparing these findings to urban settings. His Master's degree research involved field interviews with Latino immigrants in rural Kentucky about their migration experiences and adjusting to life in a rural community.

**Mark Spond** is a second year Ph.D. student in the Department of Geography. Mark earned a B.A. at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (2003) and an M.A. at the University of Arkansas (2007). As an undergraduate, Mark served as a student associate at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, a Student Conservation Association Resource Interpretation Intern at Arches National Park, Utah, and as an employee at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. While earning a Master's degree, Mark studied under Dr. David Stahle and Dr. Malcolm Cleaveland, and was an employee of the University of Arkansas Tree-Ring Lab. Mark's Master's thesis addressed the age structure and spatial distribution of select old-growth cypress-tupelo forest parcels at the Dagmar Wildlife Management Area, Arkansas. Currently, Mark is a GK-12 fellow and is continuing his studies in dendrochronology with Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer and the other associates of the University of Tennessee Laboratory of tree-Ring Science.

**Robert Stewart** is a Ph.D. student in the Geography Department and a senior research associate in the Institute for Environmental Modeling at UTK. Robert is developing geospatial decision model software systems that incorporate various and sometimes uncertain sources of qualitative and quantitative information. These geospatial methods are linked with human health and ecological risk models to provide a spatial perspective of environmental risk. His Ph.D. emphasis will be in GIS and will parallel his ongoing work at the Institute. His second area of expertise will be in transportation modeling.

**Josh Streufert** is a second year M.S. student. He received his B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Tennessee in 2002. His focus is on web-based GIS and multi-variable thematic mapping utilities using common web-based mapping





applications. His latest project with Dr. Bruce Ralston involves mapping CENSUS data in Google Maps and Google Earth. This was presented at the 2008 AAG meeting in Boston and can be found online at: <http://ctasgis02.psur.utk.edu/tokml/>

**Zack Taylor** (M.S. University of Tennessee, B.S. University of Denver) is a fourth year Ph.D. student. He uses a variety of techniques to analyze lake sediment cores for evidence of climate and environmental change, including studying pollen, charcoal, and stable carbon isotope ratios. Zack's M.S. thesis work used these methods to compile a 5500 year record from a lake in eastern Bolivia. For his dissertation, Zack is building on earlier work done at UT using stable carbon isotope ratios of organic matter in lake sediments to estimate the extent of prehistoric agriculture. By analyzing multiple cores from the same lake, he hopes to improve techniques for reconstructing the extent and impacts of prehistoric agriculture from lake sediments, as a first step toward separating the amalgamated signals of climate and human impact on lake watersheds. The field work for that project was completed in June 2007. Zack, Dr. Sally Horn, and middle school teacher Greg Metcalf spent two weeks in Costa Rica collecting sediment cores, funded in part by the National Science Foundation through the GK-12 Earth Project. The laboratory portion of the project is currently underway in the Laboratory of Paleoenvironmental Research. The National Science Foundation recently awarded Zack \$11,388 to support his research, in the form of an NSF Doctoral Dissertation grant. He also received a grant of \$2,130 from the Geological Society of America. While at the University of Tennessee, Zack has been a research assistant, teaching assistant, and teaching associate, and is currently serving as an NSF GK-12 Fellow, working to improve earth science education at Seymour Middle School. Zack is an author on a forthcoming paper in the *Journal of Latin American Antiquity*, and is preparing manuscripts for resubmission to *Palaeogeography*, *Palaeoclimatology*, *Palaeoecology* and the *Journal of Biogeography*. He is currently serving as a graduate student representative to the Paleoenvironmental Change specialty group

of the AAG and will be presenting a paper about his dissertation research at the March 2009 meeting.

**Chris Underwood** is a Ph.D. student working with Dr. Sally Horn to study long-term fire history in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. His dissertation research, supported in part by the University of Tennessee GK-12 Earth Project (NSF Grant DGE-0538420), the Joint Fire Science Program, and the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association Carlos C. Campbell Memorial Fellowship, focuses on the use of soil charcoal to reconstruct forest-fire histories. For the past two years, Chris was supported by a National Science Foundation fellowship through the GK-12 Earth Project. This project, currently in its third and final year, places ten graduate students from Geography and Earth and Planetary Sciences in middle school classrooms. The goal is to improve science education by linking classroom activities with current scientific research. For the 2008-2009 academic year, Chris will be a graduate teaching associate, responsible for teaching Geography 131: Geography of the Natural Environment.

**Matthew Valente** is a second year Ph.D. student. He received his B.S. in Botany (concentration Ecology and Evolution) from Auburn University in 2004. He completed his M.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee in 2007. Matthew's Ph.D. research is investigating the fire history and paleoecology of the Cuatrocienegas, Mexico. He spent much of summer 2008 in Mexico improving his Spanish and conducting fieldwork funded by a McClure Scholarship for the Study of World Affairs and The Nature Conservancy. Matthew is currently supported by an NSF GK-12 Earth Project Fellowship, bringing the excitement of research to the 8th grade science students at Halls Middle School. He is also involved in outreach with the Upward Bound Mentor program, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Wildflower Pilgrimage, and as President of Darwin Day Tennessee.

**Annie Wambersie** is currently a third-year master's student under the

direction of Dr. Carol Harden. Her thesis looks at relationships between suspended sediment and E .coli and how they are impacted by various flow regimes in two tributary streams of the Little River. She is planning on defending her thesis in fall, 2008. Her interests include: fluvial geomorphology, human impacts on the environment, and environmental geography. She received her B.A. in Geography at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA in May 2006.

**Brian Watson** is a third year M.S. student working in the Laboratory of Paleoenvironmental Research. He received his B.A. in Environmental Studies, an interdisciplinary program, from the University of Tennessee. His current research interests include global change, biogeography, and human interactions with the physical environment. His thesis will focus on using pollen and charcoal found in high elevation lake sediments from Costa Rica to reconstruct past environments, and to particularly look for evidence of the 8200 year BP climatic event. He has worked in the Laboratory of Tree Ring Science on a project for the Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon, and has assisted Dr. Saskia L. van de Gevel with her research in Northwest Montana during the summer of 2006. Brian has also had three years of experience as a student activist, working with the organization Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville (SPEAK).

**Yitu (Frank) Xu** is a first year graduate student in the Master's program. He received his Bachelor's degree in Engineering from China University of Geography and a Bachelor's degree in Economics in Wuhan University in 2008. He is currently working under the direction of Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw, focusing on the topic of Space-Time GIS on location-based service. Frank is also a teaching assistant for the World Regional Geography class.

**Ling Yin** is a third year Ph.D. student. She received her M.S. in GIS and B.S. in Geography from Nanjing University in China in 2006 and 2003, respectively. Her research interests include transportation, time-geography, GIScience, and environ-

mental modeling. During her years at Nanjing University, she participated in several research programs about land use management, land use planning and land use planning information systems. In her first year of Ph.D. study, Ling worked as a research assistant on a National Science Foundation project about grid computing for ecological modeling and spatial control. Specifically, she developed a GIS-based fire break optimization model with fire spread simulations within the ArcGIS environment via ArcObjects, which also takes advantage of parallel computing. In her second year, Ling joined the NSF project "Towards a GIS-based Analytical Time-geographic Framework with Physical and Virtual Activities". As a research assistant, she used GIS analysis tools to explore the influence of Information and Communication Technologies (such as internet and cell phone) on people's activity opportunities. This research is directly related to her dissertation. Based on the two years worth of work, she has given two presentations at AAG and now is preparing a journal paper.

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## Alumni Updates

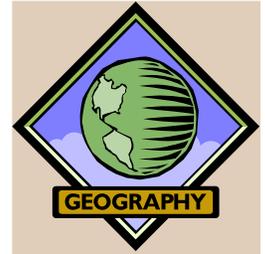
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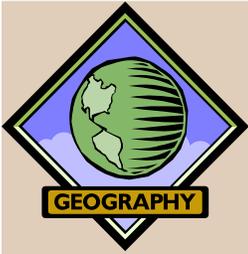
*We heard from one of our alumni after the request sent out in the 2007 edition of the newsletter. Thank you for letting us know how you are doing. If you would like to provide an update for the '08/'09 newsletter, jut email it to Kurt Butefish at [kbutefis@utk.edu](mailto:kbutefis@utk.edu) or complete the form on page 31 and mail it to the department.*

**Meryl Scott**  
180 Milligan Ln  
Johnson City, TN 37601

*Meryl sent the following email:*

"I am currently a student at ETSU working toward a BS in Nursing. I worked for a while as a student for KUB's mapping department, then for Quantum Environmental & Engineering LLC in Knoxville. But, in the midst of trying to find a GIS oriented job close to home, I decided to volunteer at the





*Alumni Continued from page 29*

hospital and got hooked on learning health care. Occasionally, I'll think of some kind of regional study that could be done around here on certain populations (the rural and

even more rural areas) and think back to days in Dr. Bell's class. I enjoyed my education at UTK and remember the Geography classes fondly (especially when I see my illustrated tee-shirt by Dr. G)! Hope all is well and growing bigger and better!"

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**Sally Horn and Carol Harden Caught up with these Alumni  
at the 2008 AAG Meeting in Boston**



*Carol Harden and  
Dan Royal*

*Jim Speer and  
Georgina Wight*



*Roger Brown,  
Charles Lafon,  
and Ola Johansson*

# Please Keep Us Up To Date

Please share your news with us, and other alumni, *especially if you have a new address*. Return this form to Kurt Butefish, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925, or email to [kbutefis@utk.edu](mailto:kbutefis@utk.edu). We'll include your update in the next newsletter.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree(s) if any; and Year(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

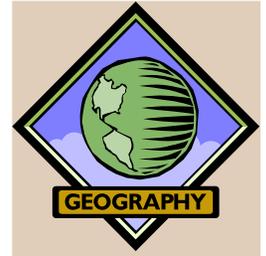
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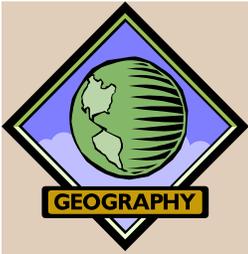
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**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEWS... (employment, career activities, family, achievements, awards, publications, travel, other... please attach additional sheets as necessary):**





*This year, the Tennessee team placed second in the Geography Bowl at the SEDAAG conference in Greensboro, NC. Six graduate students from the Geography Department at UT plus two undergraduate students from the University of Memphis won eight out of nine rounds and qualified for the finals against the Florida team. The team benefited from coaching from Peggy Gripshover. Micheline van Riemsdijk organized the team and Tom Bell helped them understand Bowl regulations and established contacts with participants from the University of Memphis. Students who participated in the Geography Bowl were ( left to right, back row) Mia Murray (Memphis), Quinton Caples (Memphis), Christine Biermann, Charlynn Burd, Ben Shultz, Jorene Hamilton, (front row) Ingrid Luffman, and James Baginski (team captain). Ben, Christine and James placed in the top-fifteen of all participants in the Geography Bowl. Congratulations to the Tennessee team!*

**The Newsletter of the University of Tennessee Department of Geography**

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