

# UTK GEOGRAPHY

Newsletter of the University of Tennessee Department of Geography

Spring 2006



## Growth and Change

by Bruce Ralston

The Department of Geography is going through a significant growth spurt. We will add two new faculty mem-

bers at the start of the next academic year. Dr. Liem Tran, who works in GIS and environmental geography, has accepted an appointment as an Assistant Professor. He already has research projects with our colleagues at ORNL and TVA. Also joining our faculty will be Dr. Ronald Kalafsky. Dr. Kalafsky is a leader in the study of global trends in industrial geography. His work is fascinating and appeals not only to geographers but also to anyone interested in the changing global economy. We are thrilled to have Drs. Tran and Kalafsky join our faculty. Another area of growth is in external funding. Drs. Sally Horn and Ken Orvis, along with Lynn Champion of the College of Arts and Sciences, have been awarded a \$1.97 million grant for earth science outreach from the National Science Foundation. That program will start this semester.

Change is also in the offing, as this marks my sixth and final year as Department Head. The past six years have witnessed substantial growth in the Department. When I became Department Head, we were just moving into the Burchfiel Geography Building. Over the past six years, the number of majors has increased by at least a factor of four, the amount of externally funded research has risen sharply, we have added three new faculty lines, our students have won numerous awards, and we have developed collaborative

research relationships with excellent faculty members in several other departments at UT. We have been able to increase our scholarship, improve our curriculum, and continue our outreach programs. I have enjoyed basking in the glow of the hard work of others.

I also have learned many new things in the past six years. Among the most important have been aspects of human nature (mostly my own), the importance of liberal arts education, and the central role we can play in that endeavor. The University of Tennessee is populated by many extraordinarily gifted and dedicated people, some of the best of whom are in this department. Working with the students, faculty and staff of the Department of Geography has reinforced my belief that cultures of excellence and civility need not be mutually exclusive. For this I will always be grateful.



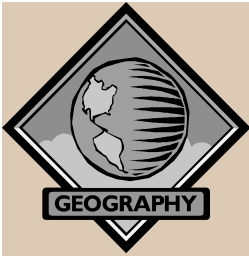
## The TGA Turns 20

The Tennessee Geographic Alliance was created in 1986 by Dr. Sid Jumper as one of seven pilot Alliances under the newly established Geography Education Program of the National Geographic Society. Mr. Gilbert Grosvenor, President and Chairman of the Board of the National Geographic Society, had created the Geography Education Program to address the alarming state of geographic illiteracy among the nation's youth, as well as among its adult population. Mr. Grosvenor offered a small amount of start-up funding (\$6,000), and a promise of matching up to \$50,000 in support obtained from state governments and other sources to help fund Alliance programs focused on K-12 geography literacy. Opportunities were also provided through the NGS Geography Education Program for the

*Continued on Page 2*



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



TGA...Continued from Page 1

Tennessee Alliance to select some seven teachers in 1986, five in 1987, and four during ensuing years, to attend four-week all-expenses-paid geography institutes at the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC. Those who attended the NGS institutes in 1986, 1987, and beyond, have joined hands with others completing Tennessee Alliance institutes to provide a core of excellent and dedicated Teacher Consultants which continues to grow and mature.

The Tennessee Alliance, initially operating only within the Knoxville area, decided that its first task should be to go directly to experienced teachers for information about their needs. In response to a randomly distributed invitation to local area schools, a surprisingly large turnout of 123 teachers attended an exploratory meeting on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus during the spring of 1986. The teachers were virtually unanimous in asking for help in acquiring geographic content, and in asserting an already sufficient background in teaching methods. They also asked for help in acquiring maps and teaching materials. Thus came the decisions of the Alliance to emphasize content over method, to provide as rich an array of materials to teachers as possible, to treat teachers as first class professionals, and to provide continuing opportunities for them to interact with distinguished university and private sector geographers. The Alliance has also been guided by a philosophy that promotes self-learning, that encourages development of "learning frameworks" rather than memorization of places and facts about places, that provides for active student involvement in their own learning, that emphasizes analytical processes through which students can adequately interpret the dynamic world in which they live, and that views the desired end product of education as an open door to discovery rather than "knowing" a particular set of facts and figures. Emphasis is given to an understanding of utilizing the "geographic perspective" rather than memorization of places and facts about those places.

Under the leadership of Sid Jumper and Ted Schmudde, who served as co-coordinators through the late 1990s, and now under the guidance of Kurt Butefish, the Alliance has grown to over 5000 members with area chapters in eight cities around the state. The organization has expended over \$3.5 million on geography



Sid Jumper

education, and provided 42 workshops of one to four weeks in duration to 1,061 teachers. Through partnering with organizations such as the Population Reference Bureau, the United States Geological Survey, American Geophysical Union, Public Education Foundation and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Alliance has been able to offer unusually creative and beneficial programs for teachers. Moreover, in 1997, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrison Livingston donated \$250,000, which was matched by the



Ted Schmudde

National Geographic Society Education Foundation (NGSEF) to establish a \$500,000 endowment for the Alliance. Additional sums were provided for the endowment (and matched by NGSEF) by the family of Bruce Ralston, and through contributions from teachers who had benefited from Alliance programs, to raise the endowment total to some \$740,000. Later, after declines in the stock market resulted in erosion of the endowment to approximately \$600,000, the National Geographic Society (NGS) transferred \$400,000 into the Tennessee Alliance endowment from the Williams Fund, a major

# 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 Bruce Ralston 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.

## **The Tennessee Geography Education Fund –**

This endowment began in 1997 with gifts from J. Harrison Livingston and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance that were matched by the National Geographic Society. Another endowment is being established and the National Geographic Society can match an additional \$500,000.

## **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 and who continues to match gifts to the fund, this endowment brings a distinguished 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.

## **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**

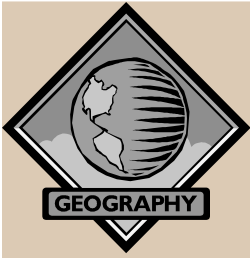
**Fund –** Established in 1995 by two anonymous donors, the funds are used to provide our computer research labs and classrooms with up to date equipment and software.

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



Please send your gift to: Department of Geography, 304 Burchfield 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.**





TGA...Continued from Page 2

gift to NGS through a trust fund established by a former resident of Knoxville.

With funding from the National Geographic Society Education Foundation that covers travel expenses and resource materials, The Alliance is currently providing two-week programs that help teachers prepare for the Geography PRAXIS exam and meet No Child Left Behind "Highly Qualified" standards. This program is in addition to bi-annual offerings such as spring and fall chapter programs and statewide Geofest conferences. As the result of gifts from generous benefactors, the Alliance also sponsors two geography teacher of the year awards, one for grades K-6 and one for grades 7-12, and an outstanding geography lesson plan of the year award.

\* Information for portions of this history of the Alliance was taken from Dr. Sid Jumper's article *Geography at the University of Tennessee* that appeared in the manuscript *The Role of the South in the Making of American Geography: Centennial of the AAG, 2004*, Edited by James O. Wheeler and Stanley D. Brunn.



## Writing Geography for the Public

by Lydia M. Pulsipher

Geographers have much to offer in the public forum. Our research can positively influence public policy and offer insights that modify the everyday attitudes of Americans. But too often geographers spend the lion's share of their time writing only for their colleagues and students, not the public.

After helping to organize several sessions at national meetings of the Association of American Geographers encouraging geographers to write more for the public, I decided to offer a seminar at UT in which graduate students would write several items for the public press all based on their own research: press releases, letters to the editor, OpEd pieces for newspapers, articles or stories for children, and pieces for popular magazines. An emphasis was placed on writing for a variety of audiences — young and old, and not just those who are likely to agree with the writer. The goal was to get the students to appreciate that writing for the public could be not only an important educational service, but also a rewarding career-enhancing experience, hence the agreement

was that during the semester each student would attempt to publish at least one piece in the public press. At our last session, all participants in the seminar mailed off a final draft of an article to the editor of a popular magazine.

Within days of the end of the semester, Paul McDaniel, who studies migration and immigration issues in the American South, announced that on December 20th he had published an OpEd piece, "Enforcement-Only Immigration Bill Ignores Underlying Issues," at the avowedly conservative opinion web-site, OpinionEditorials.com. Let's hope in the near future the work of UT Geographers will be read in airline magazines, in newspapers, on websites, and in other popular venues where geographers have heretofore feared to tread.



*Lydia Pulsipher was recognized as a National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Mentor at the November, 2005 meeting in Birmingham, AL. A special paper session was held in her honor. Department students Kendra McSweeney, Toby Applegate and Lisa Zagummy gave papers as part of that session.*



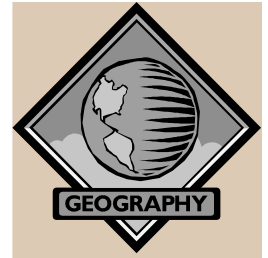
## Coming Attractions

Here is some biographical information about our newest hires.

**Dr. Ronald Kalafsky** received his M.A. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Ph.D. degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. His dissertation research focused on location trends in the tool manufacturing industry. After completing his degree he was an Assistant Professor in the Business Administration Department at Daemen College in Amherst, New York. In 2004, he moved to Geography at UNC Charlotte. His work takes him around the globe, studying the connections between local and global economic change.

# Geography Students Get Their Feet Wet

Students in Carol Harden's spring 2005 Water Resources class completed a set of broad- and reach-scale assessments of subwatersheds of Beaver Creek in Knox County to identify potential sources of water quality problems and to practice protocols and skills learned in class. This service learning project not only took the students to the streams, but also brought agency personnel into the classroom. TVA and Knox County Engineering provided support and training for the project; representatives from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the UT Water Resources Research Center also came to hear student presentations at the end of the semester. Students provided TVA and the county with written reports, PowerPoint presentations, and data entered into a customized database.

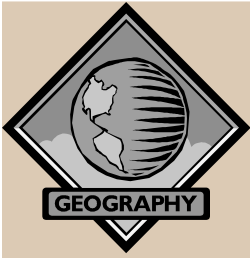


*Carol Harden (4th from left) and Geography 436 students during a training session on Third Creek.*



*Geography 436 students documenting a culvert location during training on Third Creek.*





**Dr. Liem Tran** was born in Vietnam where he received B.E. and M.E. degrees from HoChiMinh City University. With the help of a Fulbright Fellowship, he went on to obtain M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in geography from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In 1999 he went to Penn State as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Since 2003, Dr. Tran has been an Assistant Professor at Florida Atlantic University. Liem is the author of numerous articles and has received a good deal of funding from the National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency.

---

## Faculty and Staff News

---

**Charles Aiken.** Charles was a participant in the James Agee Celebration held during April 2005. He led a walking tour of the setting of *A Death in the Family*, which is largely in the Fort Sanders neighborhood. Humanities Tennessee, a state agency, provided a grant for printing a multi-color brochure of a self-guided tour. The brochures are at state and city welcome centers and are part of an endeavor to encourage elite tourism in Tennessee. Charles has a few of the brochures and will be glad to mail one to interested persons.

Charles' book, *William Faulkner and the American Landscape*, has been accepted for publication in 2007 by the University of Georgia Press. Charles read the paper, "One Place, Three Industries: The Evolution of American Manufacturing 1800-2005," at the 2006 National Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Chicago. The paper discusses the three eras of American manufacturing illustrated by three industries near the Knoxville airport.

Charles was to have given the banquet address, "William Faulkner and the American Civil War," at the 2005 joint meeting of the Pioneer Society of America and East Coast Historical Geographers at Louisiana State University in October. A field trip to New Orleans to view house types was plan-

ned. Unfortunately, the hurricane destroyed and flooded New Orleans to the extent that the field trip had to be canceled. Some house types may be totally lost. Persons displaced by the hurricane filled motels and hotels in Baton Rouge and caused the 2005 meeting to be canceled. Rain from the hurricane also destroyed approximately half of the cotton crop on the Aiken farm in north Mississippi.

**Tom Bell and Peggy Gripshover.** After receiving the "Dr. Radical" award from the graduate students this year, there was little else for Tom to accomplish---but alas, he is not resting on his laurels (besides, they are too itchy) and continues to pursue his eclectic interests in geography. Tom has been working with Dr. Larry Gorenflo, a biodiversity research scientist with Conservation International in Washington, DC on a major review article that examines the application of geographic location theory in anthropology and archaeology for the *Journal of Archaeological Research*.

Tom and Peggy's research on 30 years of retail change in central Iowa is set to appear as a chapter in Ben Ofari-Amoah's *Beyond the Metropolis* (University Press of America). Another chapter contributor to that volume is UT grad **Criss Smith**, who is an assistant professor at Clemson University. The book covers a variety of issues regarding smaller urban places. Tom also wrote another book chapter to be published by Routledge Press (2006) that focuses on the use of place and popular culture in the plays and movies of Neil Labute. Tom presented a paper based on his preliminary research at the recent SEDAAG meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida. Tom continues his interest in music geography and he and graduate student **Sara Beth Keough** and UT grad **Ola Johansson** organized two sessions on music geography for the Chicago AAG meeting. British music geographers George Revill, John Gold and Andrew Leyshon will be presenting papers there as will several other American geographers. They should prove to be exciting sessions. Tom is working with **Ola Johansson** on a paper that examines the geographical aspects of the tours of musicians on the road to support their music.

And speaking of music... Tom and Peggy were able to catch up with Tom's rock

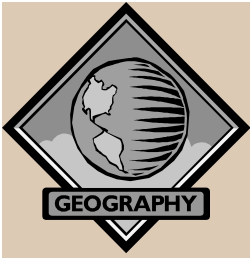
musician son Brian Bell when Weezer played Nashville this summer. They spent some time with Brian and Peggy (or “Peggy 2” as she is now referred to) touring the Nashville area and even took them to eat at the famous Loveless Café. Not exactly health food, but without a doubt, a cultural experience that Brian and Peggy wouldn’t get in Southern California! As this article is being written, Weezer’s third single (“Perfect Situation”) released off of their fifth album (*Make Believe*) is number five on Billboard’s modern rock chart. Tom’s daughter, Leia Bell, has become a major figure in the world of music poster art and produced the tour poster and three T-shirt designs for the most recent Weezer tour. She and her partner Phil Sherburne do their best to keep up with their two energetic young lads—Cortez, who just turned four, and Ivan, who will be two in January. Leia is having a major showing of her one-of-a-kind artistic prints this month and her work can be viewed (and purchased—hint, hint) at her website ([leiabell.com](http://leiabell.com)).

This past year Peggy Gripshover conducted research on such wide-ranging topics as motorcycle culture, dog agility diffusion, and the Chicago Cubs. She presented a paper at the 2005 SEDAAG meeting on, “The Dragon,” a stretch of U.S. Highway 129 that straddles the Tennessee and North Carolina state lines and has become a pilgrimage site for motorcyclists and sports car enthusiasts alike. Peggy’s 2005 AAG paper examined the diffusion of dog agility from Europe to the United States and the changing roles of companion animals in American families. She has also been busy doing research for a paper she presented in a special session on Chicago neighborhoods for the 2006 AAG meeting being organized by UT grads **Mike Cornebise** and **Ola Johansson**. Peggy’s paper focused on the cultural landscape changes within the Lake View neighborhood around Wrigley Field known as “Wrigleyville.” This research will serve as the basis for a book chapter that is set to appear in an edited volume on the social history of the Chicago Cubs (Routledge Press 2006). In November, 2005 she presented a public lecture in Jonesborough, TN, sponsored by Humanities Tennessee, on the cultural meaning of fences as part of a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit called, “Between

Fences.” Peggy’s teaching responsibilities include Cultural, Economic, World Regional, and the Geography of Tennessee. Last summer she led a Tennessee Geographic Alliance workshop for teachers preparing for the PRAXIS exam in geography as part of the “No Child Left Behind” program. She has served on two Knoxville community task forces, one concerning the proposed completion of the James White Parkway, and the second a planning committee for Hastie Park Natural Area. In her civilian life, Peggy volunteers for HABIT, an animal-assisted therapy organization run by the UT Vet School. She and “Sophie,” her Australian Shepherd, visit with Alzheimer’s patients at a local nursing home. Peggy still plays tennis when she can and has even gotten Tom out on the court. Tom and Peggy have also been taking some “Rails to Trails” bicycling adventures as part of an experiment to refute, once and for all, “Intelligent Design.”

**Kurt Butefish** continues in his role as coordinator of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. This past year saw the Alliance concentrate on getting Tennessee teachers prepared to meet the qualifications mandated by the No Child Left Behind Legislation. In 2004, the Alliance received a two-year grant for \$93,000 from the National Geographic Education Foundation to design and host workshops across the state to see that geography teachers in grades 7-12 meet the qualifications by the deadline of August 2006. During the summer of 2005, the Alliance hosted workshops in Memphis, Nashville, and Knoxville. During the summer of 2006, it will again host a workshop in Knoxville. Focus of the workshops has been preparing teachers to pass the Geography PRAXIS exam, one of the qualifying benchmarks for teachers. To date, all of the teachers that have completed the workshop and taken the PRAXIS exam have passed. The Alliance also hosted a one-week workshop on Geography and Educational Technology at Mt. Juliet High School in Mt. Juliet Tennessee during summer 2005. Eighteen teachers received special training in software and web-based resources that will help them add a spark to their teaching and satisfy the students insatiable appetites for all things technological.





**Anita Drever.** Last summer Anita completed a two year summer fellowship at the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin. During that time she finished up the analysis for a project looking at the role of ethnic networks and neighborhood geography in the job search process for immigrants. She is hopeful that her findings will have a positive impact on welfare to work programs in Germany.

A recent article of Drever's in *Urban Studies* on ethnic neighborhoods in Germany has received considerable attention in both academic and political circles. The German Federal government commissioned a report on the state of immigrant integration in Germany and Drever's controversial findings in the *Urban Studies* article were favorably reviewed therein. Drever was invited in March to join a small group of segregation experts from Germany and around Europe to provide input for another government commissioned report on immigrant segregation and integration in Germany. Drever will not be traveling to Germany this summer, but she will continue her work on immigrant issues in Germany from this side of 'the pond' instead.

Drever's research on Latino migration to Tennessee and the American South is also going well. She received a professional development award to study Spanish in Cuernavaca, Mexico last year and she submitted an NSF grant to look at how changing labor recruitment strategies are affecting the geography of Latino settlement in Tennessee this winter. A book chapter she wrote on Latino migration to Tennessee will appear in print this coming summer. Drever has enjoyed presenting her Latino migration research to community groups and getting both undergraduate and graduate students interested in immigration issues.

**Ron Foresta.** Ron chaired the department's search committee for an urban/economic geographer this spring. He finished up the *Land Between the Lakes* book, which will go out to publishers this summer. A paper based on that research was presented at the AAG meetings in Chicago in March. One of his students, **Jen Rogalsky**, will defend her dissertation in May after several years teaching in New York State. Last summer, Ron spent two weeks at the Universidad Andina in

Quito, Ecuador as part of UT's exchange program with that university. He continues chairing the department's undergraduate program committee, which oversaw extensive catalog changes to bring our offerings into conformity with the new Arts and Sciences curriculum, and he continues serving on the advisory board of Virginia Tech's department of geography.

**Carol Harden.** Carol has ongoing research in East Tennessee and in the Ecuadorian Andes. Her work in the Andes focuses on the water-retention properties of páramo soils and the glacial history of Cajas National Park, where old surfaces are well-preserved under the páramo soil. She presented the paper, "Cajas National Park as Water Source: Soil-water Relationships in a Glaciated, Andean Watershed," at the AAG meeting in Denver in April 2004. Following a month in Ecuador in May-June 2005, she submitted a report to the National Park and in September 2005 presented the paper, "Glacial geomorphology and soil development in Cajas National Park, Ecuadorian Andes" at the Sixth International Conference on Geomorphology in Zaragoza, Spain. The paper is now under review for publication. She also presented "Soils and the Glacial History of Cajas National Park, Ecuador" as a poster at the SEDAAG meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida in November 2005. She continues to pursue her interest in the relationships between headwater streams and their watersheds, particularly in East Tennessee. This year, she has been involved in the Beaver Creek Task Force and the Little River Association.

Carol was honored with the Distinguished Career Award of the AAG Mt. Geography Specialty Group at the 2005 meeting in Denver. Also in 2005, she was elected as a national councilor of the AAG and completed a 3-year term as the Publication Officer of the International Association of Geomorphologists. With former student **Judy Grable**, Carol has an article in press in *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, and, with former student **Glenn Hyman**, a chapter on South America in press in the forthcoming book in *The Physical Geography of Latin America*. [T. Orme, T. Veblen and K. Young (eds.) Oxford: Oxford University Press]. She



has two additional articles and a book chapter in review.

Carol served as advisor for two Ph.D. students who graduated in December 2005.

**Lisa Boulton's** dissertation was "Spatio-temporal patterns of geomorphic adjustment in channelized tributary streams of the lower Hatchie River basin, West Tennessee." She is now an Assistant Professor of Geography at the U. of Alabama. **Martin Lafrenz**, now an instructor at Portland State Univ., completed his dissertation "A watershed classification system based on headwater contributing areas in Great Smoky Mountains National Park."

**Sally Horn.** Sally traveled to Costa Rica in March 2005, along with **Ken Orvis** and graduate student **Scott Roberts**, for field work funded by The A.W. Mellon Foundation. Their goal was to add new sediment cores to the suite of samples from highland and lowland sites that are under study as part of efforts to document prehistoric human activity and climate change on Costa Rican ecosystems. In May Sally returned to Costa Rica as a Visiting Professor in the Laboratory of Archaeology. While in Costa Rica she gave several lectures and workshops and was made an honorary member of the Costa Rican Anthropological Association, in recognition of her efforts (along with collaborators and students) to understand the environments and environmental impacts of early Costa Rican societies.

During the Summer and Fall of 2005, Sally focused on soil and sediment coring at several sites in the Knoxville area and in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A number of students, faculty, and friends of the department assisted with the field work.

Several publications on research in Costa Rica and elsewhere finally appeared in 2005, including her co-edited book with Maarten Kappelle of The Nature Conservancy, "Páramos de Costa Rica" ([http://www.inbio.ac.cr/ES/compras/carrito/detalle\\_producto.phtml?146](http://www.inbio.ac.cr/ES/compras/carrito/detalle_producto.phtml?146)), which focuses on modern and ancient landscapes, biota, and human interactions on Costa Rica's high, treeless mountain peaks. The book contains several chapters authored by Sally, **Ken Orvis**, and former UT graduate student **Brandon League**, and a photo by **Carol Harden**, who has also conducted research in

the Costa Rican páramos. Other 2005 publications include:

Driese, S.G., Li, Z-H, and Horn, S.P. Late Pleistocene and Holocene Climate and Geomorphic Histories Interpreted from 23,000 yr B.P. Paleosol and Floodplain Soils, South-eastern West Virginia, USA. *Quaternary Research* 63: 136–149.

Haberyan, K.A., and Horn, S.P. 2005. Diatom Paleoecology of Laguna Zoncho, Costa Rica. *Journal of Paleolimnology* 33: 361–369.

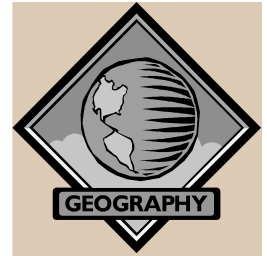
Anchukaitis, K., and Horn, S.P. 2005. A 2000-year Reconstruction of Forest Disturbance From Southern Pacific Costa Rica. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 221: 35–54.

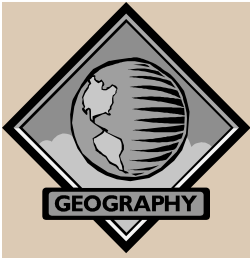
Kennedy, L.M., Horn, S.P., and Orvis, K.H. 2005. Modern Pollen Spectra from the Highlands of the Cordillera Central, Dominican Republic. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* 137: 51–68.

Orvis, K.H., Lane, C.S., and Horn, S.P. 2005. Laboratory Production of Vouchered Reference Charcoal From Small Woody Samples and Non-woody Plant Tissues. *Palynology* 29: 1-11.

**C. W. (Bud) Minkel.** Bud completed a two-year term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the South-East Consortium for International Development (SECID) and continued to serve as President of the U. S. National Section, Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), a specialized agency of the OAS. He traveled to Peru for the presentation of a new book, *Análisis Urbano de Piura-Castilla*, Peru, 2005, which summarizes the results of a five-year research project on the boundary region between Ecuador and Peru. In October 2005, he chaired a panel on the history of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers and presented a paper on "Background to CLAG" at a meeting of that organization in Morelia, Mexico.

**Bruce Ralston.** Bruce is currently working on three GIS related projects: the Tennessee Overhill Project sponsored by Humanities Tennessee, the Legal Aid Internet Mapping Project sponsored by the East Tennessee Legal Aid Society, and the KGIS software migration project. This year he has





been serving on several Boards of Directors including the Tennessee Geographic Information Council, Humanities Tennessee, and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. He also serves on the United States Geographic Information Foundation Academic Panel, and the Association of American Geographers Census Advisory Committee. This summer Bruce will work on developing a new course on GIS database systems. He also hopes to work with his long-time friend and colleague, **Dr. Cheng Liu**, on a book on GIS software development.

**John Rehder.** John begins his thirtieth year this fall at Tennessee. His book *Appalachian Folkways* has been honored with two awards. In October 2004, The Pioneer America Society awarded him with the Fred Kniffen book award. As some of you know, Kniffen was John's major professor at LSU in the 1960s so it was a special honor for John to receive the Kniffen Prize. In 2005, the Association of American Publishers recognized his *Appalachian Folkways* with honorable mention in the Sociology and Anthropology category of awards. In the spring of 2005, his paper "Hensley, Kentucky: A Twentieth-Century Pioneer Folk Settlement" was published in *Material Culture*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Pioneer America Society.

John continues his research on the ongoing book *Tennessee's Log Buildings* for the Center for American Places. His field research this year has taken him over much of Tennessee from Mountain City in the northeast corner of the state to Giles County and beyond; and so far this year he has encountered no more rattlesnakes and no meth labs, whew! The book project is moving along slowly with over 4,300 log structures in 42 counties in the catch. At the moment, this is as far as the data will allow so he is now mapping and writing up the material.

John's grandchildren, Allen (7) and Emma (5) have been delightful recently "helping" him photograph some of the log structures up at the Museum of Appalachia near Norris, Tennessee. In November he was the Showcase speaker for the pregame festivities prior to the football game with Vandy. He still enjoys serving on the editorial board for the University of Tennessee Press

and has re-upped for another three years. Still only fair at golf and no fishing to report, John says he needs to get out and do more hiking and fishing this year even though he recently went on a two day+ overnight hike to Mount LeConte. Judy, Karen, Ken and Angie along with his field assistants Allen and Emma are doing fine this year.

**Shih-Lung Shaw.** Shih-Lung has stayed busy and traveled a lot! After his stay in China during his leave from UT and an invited trip to The Netherlands for an *International Specialist Meeting on Information and Communications Technologies, Everyday Life and Urban Change*, Shih-Lung returned to Knoxville near the end of 2004. He then taught three courses in Spring 2005 (including the first-time offer of GIScience Seminar) to make up the teaching load while he was away. In March of 2005, Shih-Lung was invited by the Transport Department of Hong Kong Government to offer a *Geographic Information Systems for Transportation (GIS-T) Workshop* to transportation managers, planners and engineers in Hong Kong. In April of 2004, he gave a paper at the annual AAG meeting in Denver. Of good news at the AAG meeting was that his Ph.D. student, **Hongbo Yu**, won the First Place of Student Paper Competition of the GIS Specialty Group. This was the third consecutive year that Dr. Shaw's graduate students had won a student paper award from either the Transportation Geography Specialty Group or the GIS Specialty Group of the AAG. At the end of Spring 2005, Shih-Lung was invited back to Hong Kong by The Chinese University of Hong Kong to be a visiting professor. The Transport Department of Hong Kong Government also invited him to offer a second *GIS-T Workshop*. During his five-week stay in Hong Kong, he was also invited to give two talks at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China. Shortly after his return to Knoxville, Shih-Lung went on another invited trip in July of 2005 to deliver a lecture at the *Spatial Perspectives on Analysis for Curriculum Enhancement (SPACE) Workshop – GIS and Spatial Modeling for the Undergraduate Social Science Curriculum* at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, which was funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation. In October of 2005, Shih-Lung was

invited to participate in a *Peer Exchange and Specialist Meeting of GPS and Time-Geography Applications for Activity Modeling and Microsimulation* that was organized by the Center for Spatially Integrated Social Science at University of California, Santa Barbara and sponsored by the U.S. Federal Highway Administration. In November of 2005, he co-presented a paper with **Hongbo Yu** at *Research Symposium of Societies and Cities in the Age of Instant Access* held on the campus of University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

On the funded projects, Shih-Lung is working with Louis Gross (EEB), Michael Berry (Computer Science) and Suzanne Lenhart (Mathematics) on a three-year, \$1.4 million National Science Foundation (NSF) project. In addition, he has an ongoing research project to design and develop an Environmental Justice GIS application for Tennessee Department of Transportation. Shih-Lung also recently received a UT Professional Development Award to work on *Space-Time GIS for Analyzing Population Migration Histories*. Shih-Lung and **Bruce Ralston** also are on a project team with CH2M HILL and ESRI that has been selected by Knox County/KGIS/KUB/City of Knoxville to design and develop a comprehensive GIS solution. In addition, Shih-Lung has a research grant proposal, with colleagues at Hong Kong Baptist University and Hong Kong University to develop spatiotemporal GIS analysis functions for infectious disease modeling (e.g., avian flu). This proposal is currently under review by Hong Kong Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases (RFCID).

On publications, Shih-Lung has a co-authored article with former student **Andrew Dye**, titled "A GIS-Based Spatial Decision Support System for Tourists of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park", that has been accepted for publication in *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*. He also has an article of "Spatial Patterns of Domestic Passenger Transport and Competitive Situations of Chinese Airlines", co-authored with researchers at the Chinese Academy of Science, published in *Geo-Information Science Journal* (a Chinese journal with English abstracts). In addition, Shih-Lung has a co-authored manuscript with former student

**Jessica Tharpe**, titled "An Empirical Study of Telecommuting Patterns in the Atlanta Region", that is currently under review by *Urban Geography*. Shih-Lung also has worked with **Hongbo Yu** on a manuscript submitted to *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* and a book chapter based on their paper submitted to the *Research Symposium of Societies and Cities in the Age of Instant Access*.

In the Geography Department, Shih-Lung continues to serve as Chair of the Graduate Program Committee and shares responsibilities of managing the computer labs. He also chaired the search committee for a new faculty in Geographic Information Science/Physical Geography and served as a search committee member for another new faculty in urban/economic geography. In addition, Shih-Lung serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Transport Geography* and *Southeastern Geographer*.

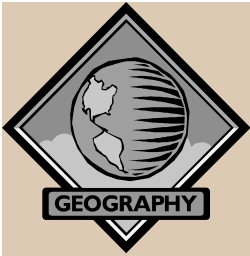
**Lydia Pulsipher**. Lydia's textbook, *World Regional Geography: Global Issues, Local Lives*, W.H. Freeman, NYC (co-authored with her son, Alex, with the essential help of husband Conrad Goodwin) is now being revised for the 4th edition to come out in 2007. The book is used in nearly 200 colleges and universities in the U.S. and in several other countries. This year the course for which this book is used at UT, World Geography, was chosen as the focal point for the prominent UT lecture series, *Conversations about World Affairs*, which is part of the Quality Enhancement Project of the university. Many of the 10 speakers featured are people Lydia came across while doing research for the textbook.

Lydia and her husband Mac have restarted their work in Montserrat with a project on a 17th century ruin that will be the center of the new post-volcano capital city for the island. Whenever possible they travel to Slovenia and Central Europe where Lydia has three graduate students doing their research.

**Will Fontanez, Henri Grissino-Mayer, Ken Orvis, Pam Sharpe, and Denise Stansberry** were unable to contribute to this edition of the newsletter. However, please know that they are all well and remain integral to the success of the Department.







---

# Graduate Student News

---

**Andy Baker** is a first year Ph.D. student working under the tutelage of Tom Bell. He received his B.S. in Geography and B.S. in Finance from Eastern Illinois University in the spring of 2003. In June 2005, Andy completed his M.A. in Geography at Ohio University, successfully defending his thesis titled, "When the Engines No Longer Roar: A Case Study of North Wilkesboro, N.C. and the North Wilkesboro Speedway." His thesis research was published in the Fall 2005 edition of *Now & Then: The Appalachian Magazine*. Andy has presented his research on the historical geography of NASCAR at the 2005 Appalachian Studies Association. As a graduate student in the UT Geography Department, Andy hopes to continue research in cultural and sports geography, adding a specialization in Geographic Information Science. During the summer of 2005, Andy instructed at Ivy Tech Community College in his hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana, teaching a course in World/Regional Geography.

**Joe Burgess** is a second-year M.S. student working in the Paleoenvironmental Research Lab. His M.S. research will focus on modern pollen distribution in lakes in Costa Rica, as affected by distance from shore and other factors. These data are critical for interpreting signals of past environmental change in sediment cores. Joe visited study sites in October 2004 along with graduate students **Marty Arford** and **Zack Taylor**. He was most impressed with the poisonous snakes he encountered.

**Kendrick Curtis** is a second 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. Kendrick's research

interests include land development on the urban/rural fringe and GIS. His current research is focused on the emerging use of decentralized wastewater treatment technology and its potential for freeing development of traditional wastewater infrastructure constraints.

**Jeff Dahoda** is an M.S. student focusing on GIS applications in water resources, working with Carol Harden. His thesis, GIS Analysis of Factors Affecting Acidity in Crab Orchard Creek Watershed, Cumberland and Morgan Counties, Tennessee, analyzes flow paths to sampling sites relative to the spatial distribution of factors affecting stream acidity in a watershed with a history of surface mining. He previously received a B.A. in Geology from Miami University (Ohio, 1980) and a M.S. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Wyoming (1996), entering the Geography graduate program in 2003 following a 16-year strength and conditioning coaching career. The spring and summer of 2005 Jeff worked on the Beaver Creek Land Use Mapping Project for the Tennessee Valley Authority and University of Tennessee Water Resources Research Center. In the previous summer of 2004 he did GIS mapping for the Southeastern Water Policy Initiative, specifically mapping databases of elements important to clean coal power production for the Southern States Energy Board. Previous work experiences include Exxon Coal Resources, Mobil Nufuels Exploration, ARCO and Chevron Exploration Divisions (oil & gas), The Wyoming State Archeologist Office, and Larson-Tibesar Archeological Consulting, Inc.

**Angela Danovi** is a first year M.S. student. She received her B.S. degree in Plant and Soil Science concentrating in Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources from the College of Agriculture at the University of Tennessee in May 2003. Her current interests are in physical geography and water quality. This year Angela's research has involved analyzing relationships between sediment and water quality in Beaver Creek. After completing her Bachelor's degree, Angela spent a year on the AmeriCorps water quality team of Knoxville providing research and data collection assistance to TDEC and TVA. During that time, she also implemented

the Adopt-A-Watershed program within the Knox County Schools. Recently, Angela completed a six-month internship with Strata Environmental of Knoxville.

**Sarah Deane** is a first year M.S. student. She received her B.A in Geography from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in the spring of 2003. Her current focus is on GIS and Climatology. Currently she is working on a USDA Forest Service project with TVA, involving research in the Cumberland Mountains region. Her thesis work will likely focus on paleoclimatology and the study of mineral sediments using a scanning electron microscope. From February of 2004 through August of 2005, Sarah worked as a mapping analyst in Fairfax, Virginia before she decided to pursue her Master's degree at UT. She is interested in possibly pursuing a career in conservation after graduation.

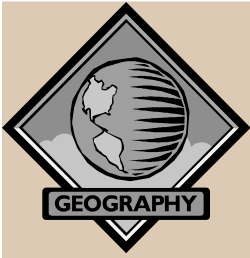
**Justin Hart** is a second year Ph.D. student with concentrations in Biogeography and Forest Dynamics under Henri Grissino-Mayer. He received a B.S. degree in Environmental and Earth Science in 2002 from the University of Memphis. In 2004, he received a M.S. degree with concentrations in Biogeography and Environmental Science under Dr. David Shankman at the University of Alabama. His thesis research investigated the viability of disjunct eastern hemlock populations at its southern boundary in central Alabama. Justin's Ph.D. research concerns disturbance dynamics in secondary hardwood forests on the Cumberland Plateau. The results of this study will be implemented into landscape level conservation efforts for the region coordinated by multiple private, state, and federal agencies. In addition to his Ph.D. research, Justin has a number of ongoing projects including: documenting the cumulative effects of alien species on forest decline in the southeastern U.S., relating vegetation patterns to physiography, documenting forest change in an East Tennessee natural area, quantifying the influence of charcoal hearths on ridgetop forest communities on the Western Highland Rim, and comparing stand characteristics of old and second growth forests in the Tennessee Valley.

**Chad Hellwinckel** is a third year Ph.D. student. He received his M.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Tennessee in 1996, and a B.S. in Economics and Urban Studies from St. Olaf College in 1991. Chad has served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama and with the U.S. Forest Service as a wilderness trail crew member in New Mexico and a fire lookout in Arizona. Chad received world renown for breaking the consecutive back-flip record in January of 2001. Chad is currently working full time with the University of Tennessee's Agricultural Policy Analysis Center. His work focuses on computer simulation model design and implementation for agricultural land-use and policy scenarios. Current projects include building a geographically precise terrestrial carbon sequestration model, and a model to estimate potential quantities of biomass available from agricultural lands for energy uses. He is married and has a three year-old son.

**Sara Beth Keough** is a third year Ph.D. student. She received her B.S. in History and her B.A. in Spanish from Jacksonville University in 2000, and her M.S. in Geography from Virginia Tech in 2003. Her research interests lie in urban/economic geography, music and cultural geography, with an emphasis on Canada. Sara Beth's dissertation research looks at how local music radio programming in Newfoundland, Canada influences local and regional identity. She currently teaches World Regional Geography and has served as a guest speaker on music geography topics with the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. This past summer, Sara Beth attended the Canadian and Australian meeting of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music in St. John's, Newfoundland, and she has presented numerous papers at the SEDAAG and AAG meetings. In her spare time, Sara Beth can be found running, road biking, hiking, or playing trumpet in a local community band.

**Chad Lane** is a third year Ph.D. candidate. He received his M.S. in Geography here at the University of Tennessee in the spring 2003 and received his B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Denver in the spring of 2001. Chad is interested in human-environment interactions, variations in





tropical vegetation through time, and climate change. Past variations in climate have had drastic impacts on human populations and vegetation worldwide and will continue to do so well into the future. Understanding these climate variations and their environmental impacts is essential for predicting and preparing for future climatic changes. Chad's study sites are small lakes located at mid-elevations on the southern flank of the Cordillera Central in the Dominican Republic. He is analyzing stable isotopes in organic matter and calcareous deposits, fossil pollen grains, and fossil charcoal fragments in sediment cores from multiple lakes to reconstruct human, climate, and vegetation history. His dissertation research grew from a National Geographic Society-funded project on environmental history in the Dominican Republic directed by Professors Ken Orvis and Sally Horn. Chad is also co-advised by Dr. Claudia Mora in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. Chad was awarded a Yates Dissertation Fellowship from the University of Tennessee this year for his dissertation research. He was also very excited to receive two dissertation grants this year, one from the Association of American Geographers (AAG) and one from the Biogeography Specialty Group of the AAG. In addition, Chad was elected to be the first ever Graduate Student Representative for the Biogeography Specialty Group of the AAG. Chad is currently the Head Graduate Teaching Assistant for Geography 131: Geography of the Natural Environment.

**Evan Larson** successfully defended his M.S. thesis entitled "Spatiotemporal Variations in the Fire Regimes of Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis* Engelm.) Forests, Western Montana, USA, and Their Management Implications" in the fall of 2005, and will graduate with an M.S. in Geography and a graduate minor in Environmental Policy in the winter of 2005. His graduation will culminate a short but exciting career at The University of Tennessee, during which he garnered extensive knowledge (and hopefully wisdom) from his committee of Henri Grissino-Mayer, Sally Horn, Ken Orvis, and Dave Feldman, and from other professors whom he was fortunate enough to have worked with while at the same time exploring the area and mountains that surround Knoxville. During his two years at

UT, Evan was awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship Honorable Mention, a Biogeography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers Research Grant, Honorable Mention in the Biogeography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geography Master's Student Paper Competition, two Stuart K. McCroskey Memorial Fund Research Grants, and the Robert G. Long Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the Department of Geography. He also greatly enjoyed his time as a Graduate Research and Graduate Teaching Assistant for his first three semesters and as the Head Graduate Teaching Assistant his final semester. Evan was involved with several research projects conducted by Henri Grissino-Mayer and the personnel of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science, and also initiated an age-structure analysis of the forests in the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge on the French Broad River in eastern Tennessee. He bids a fond farewell to the faculty, staff, and students of the UT Geography Department as he continues his graduate education as a Ph.D. student, University Graduate Fellow, and EPA STAR Graduate Fellow in the Geography Department at the University of Minnesota.

**Jonathan Law** is a first-year M.S. student. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Auburn University in December of 2004 with a B.A. in Geography. He is interested in many topics, such as gentrification and urban sprawl, and his thesis will focus on topics relating to urban geography. He has worked as an intern with the City of Columbia, SC Planning Department and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honorary.

**Xumei Liu** is a first-year M.S. student. She received her Bachelor Degree in Surveying and Mapping Engineering from China University of Geosciences in the summer of 2003. Her current focus is on GIS, transportation and urban geography. Upon her arrival in August 2005, she was highly impressed by the gorgeous landscapes in the U.S., especially in the southern part of the country. Currently, she is working as a Teaching Assistant for Geography 101. She is fascinated with Geography and determined to dedicate her life to Geography study and teaching.



**David Mann** is a second-year Ph.D. student. His M.A. research focused on dendroarcheological investigations at the Swaggerty Blockhouse in Cocke County, Tennessee. His current focus is on environmental processes in the Subalpine ecosystem of western Montana. Specifically he is researching the response by high-elevation trees to both recent and past climate variability caused by oceanic-atmospheric circulation patterns (such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation) which operate across hemispheric spatial scales. His doctoral dissertation assesses how climate shifts have caused treelines to advance upslope or retreat downslope in the Northern Rocky Mountains. Objectives of his research include the assessment of short-term (<100 yrs) variability in air temperatures in a high elevation mountain ecosystem, development of an understanding of the response by trees to monthly and seasonal climate variability, and the reconstruction of the climatic history and variability of the ecosystem as they relate to broad-scale changes in ocean-atmospheric circulation patterns. In the summer of 2004, David conducted fieldwork in western Montana to collect wood samples from living trees and remnant wood at high elevation sites. Three hundred sixty one samples were collected at eight sites. Wood samples were processed during August 2004 and resulted in a base line tree-ring chronology dating from AD 1250 to AD 2003 in western Montana.

**Paul McDaniel** is a second year M.S. student. He received his B.S. in Geography with minors in History and Geographic Information Science from Samford University in the spring of 2004. As a human geographer Paul's research interests focus on migration, particularly to the U.S. South. He is also interested in the regional geography of Asia and Latin America. His master's thesis research examines immigrant-owned entrepreneurial establishments in Birmingham, Alabama. At the SEDAAG conference in 2005, Paul presented a paper, "*¿Cuál es su trabajo?*": Labor Characteristics of the Hispanic Community in Birmingham, Alabama". He received an outstanding teaching assistant award in spring of 2005, and in the summer of 2005 he received a grant from the McClure Fund for the Study of World Affairs

to study Spanish in central Mexico. He also helped to coordinate Geography Awareness Week in November 2005. Each semester, Paul has enjoyed delivering a guest lecture about his travels in Thailand and Burma to a section of Geography 101.

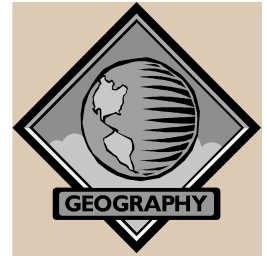
**Hal Millegan** is a first year Ph.D. student. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in the Spring of 1980 and his M.S. in Civil Engineering in the Fall of 1997. His Masters Thesis was "*An Assessment of Potential for Benefit from Integrating Geographic Information Systems Technology into Life Cycle Management of Infrastructures; A Focus for Infrastructure Management Practice,*" A&M Press, 1997.

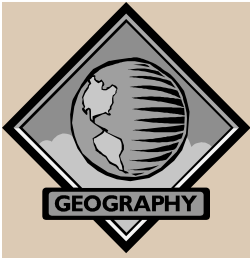
Some of his published articles include: "*How to Save Time and Money With a GIS*", Local Government Agenda Magazine, with Rebecca Von Gotten, and "*GIS — An Old Dog with New Tricks*", Milepost Magazine.

Some Committees and Boards on which he has served are: Smithwick Water Supply Corporation, Board of Directors, (2000-2002), Capitol Area Planning Council (CAPCO) GIS Planning Council (1996-97), Western Infrastructure Leadership Institute, Board of Directors, University of New Mexico and Arizona State University (1993-94), and Texas Department of Information Resources Advisory Committee, (Member Subcommittee on GIS Application Spatial Data Standards; 1991-92).

Hal is a Registered Professional Engineer (P.E.), licensed to practice in Tennessee and Texas. He has worked in state and local government, academia, and private practice over the last 25 years.

**Melany Noltenius** is a second year Ph.D. student. She received her B.S. in Communications in 1990 and M.S.P. in Planning in 2004 from the University of Tennessee. Her thesis was titled "*Transit Oriented Development, Park and Ride, and Transit Station Placement along Bus Rapid Transit Corridors: A Study of the Sevier County, Tennessee Route.*" She hopes to continue studying transportation planning issues, specifically the transportation options selected during emergency evacuations. She





placed first in the 2003 district wide technical paper competition sponsored by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), and has led a discussion on the possibility of passenger rail in East Tennessee at the Tennessee Chapter ITE meeting. In 2005 she won the 2004 Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) scholarship.

**Scott Roberts** is a second year M.S. student. He received his B.S. in Geography from Appalachian State University in the spring of 2002. He is currently an intern with Tennessee Valley Authority's Environmental Impacts and Controls division. His research interests include examining the relationships among dynamic landscapes and watershed resources and biogeographical patterns, as well as the use of Geographic Information Systems for environmental modeling. He is conducting an on-going assessment of the influence of hemlock on riparian environmental conditions and the potential impacts to riparian ecosystems from the decline and loss of hemlock in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This study is being funded by the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Carlos C. Campbell Fellowship.

**Allison Stork** is an M.S. student working with Professors Horn, Orvis, and Grissino-Mayer to unravel the environmental history of Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas. She received her B.A. in Geography and English from the State University of New York at Geneseo in May 2003. Allison is conducting pollen and charcoal analyses of sediment cores, from West Pond, in the Paleoenvironmental Research Laboratory to determine vegetation change, fire history, and any anthropogenic influences on the landscape. One goal is to try to tie the fire record in the sediments to tree-ring evidence of fire in the surrounding watershed. She is also working with Dr. Tankersley at TVA, doing environmental GIS.

**Zack Taylor** received his M.S. in Geography from UT in August and immediately began Ph.D. work. His thesis reconstructed 5000 years of environmental history using a sediment core from a lake in lowland Bolivia. He is still trying to identify a dissertation topic, but is interested in using

paleoenvironmental data to help understand the relationships between prehistoric humans and their environments. This past summer Zack taught an introductory physical geography class and mentored students for the Math and Science Regional Center at UT. His mentoring class evaluated the effects of stream restoration at IJAMS Nature Center in South Knoxville.

**Elizabeth Trail** is a second year M.S. student. She received her B.S. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee in the summer of 2003. Her current focus is the urban form of post apartheid South African cities. Specifically she is researching the effect of national and local policies on the spatial form of Cape Town. She is using GIS to map new development and informal settlements data and is finding the apartheid layout still very entrenched. This past summer she worked in MCA planning offices in Cape Town, South Africa. She dealt mainly with local economic development and urban growth boundaries in various cities in the Western Cape Province.

**Chris Underwood** is a second year M.S. student. He received his B.S. in Environmental Health from East Tennessee State University in the fall of 1997. His current focus is on dendroclimatology. Specifically, he is interested in climate reconstruction in the Pacific Northwest. Upon finishing his M.S. research, Chris will move into the Ph.D. program here at the University of Tennessee, where he will continue his research in dendrochronology. He is an active member of AAG and SEDAAG. He is a volunteer with the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, assisting with its workshops as well as with the annual Geographic Awareness Week activities. Currently, along with completing his M.S. requirements, he is working on a dendrochronology project with the United States Forest Service in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon.

**Saskia L. van de Gevel** is a Ph.D. candidate working in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science under Henri Grissino-Mayer. She received her B.S. degree in Forest Science from Pennsylvania State University in 2000 while working on dendroecological

projects in Dr. Marc Abram's Forest Ecology Laboratory. In 2002, Saskia received a M.S. degree in Forest Ecology from Southern Illinois University under Dr. Charles M. Ruffner. Her thesis research investigated the influence of land-use history on the forest development of the Illinois Ozark Hills. Saskia has also worked on research projects in eastern hardwood forests (Harvard Forest, Petersham, Massachusetts) and longleaf pine ecosystems (Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, Florida). Saskia has been involved with many research projects at UT's Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science including dating historical structures and quantifying land-use history through forest composition changes. In July 2005, Saskia volunteered as a group leader at the North American Dendroecological Fieldweek in McCall, Idaho. Currently, her dissertation research investigates the complex stand dynamics and disturbance history of endangered whitebark pine ecosystems in the northern Rocky Mountains. Saskia's whitebark pine research is supported by a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. This Fall semester, she is teaching Geography 131: Introduction to the Natural Environment. Saskia has presented papers at AAG meetings in New Orleans, Philadelphia, Denver and the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation meeting in Glacier National Park, and has helped present outreach talks to community groups over the past year. Saskia also received the Department of Geography's Robert E. Long Outstanding Graduate Student award in May 2005.

**Jonathan Witcoski** is a second-year M.S. student. He earned a B.A. in Geography and Anthropology from Pennsylvania State University in 2004. His research interests are in GIS, cultural geography, and archaeology. He worked as intern for National Geographic in the fall of 2003, and obtained the McClure Grant to learn Greek in Athens, Greece. He was also one of the 2005 Geography Awareness week Coordinators for the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. He has worked on archaeological projects in Southeastern Oregon and Maine, and in Tennessee has worked or volunteered on projects in the Cumberland Gap National Park, Falls Creek Falls State Park, and Townsend.

**Andrew Wunderlich** is a third-year M.S. student in Geography. He received a B.A. in Geography from the University of Tennessee in the spring of 2002. His graduate work has focused primarily on urban planning and development utilizing GIS analysis. Current projects include overseeing GIS analysis and cartographic production for the Beaver Creek Green Infrastructure design plan. This project is part of an ongoing effort to plan and manage the natural and community resources of a rapidly developing suburban watershed in north/northwest Knox County. The plan is being developed under the guidance of two professors in the School of Architecture and Design at UT. In the fall of 2003 and spring of 2004, Andrew was an intern and contract employee of the National Geographic Society Maps Division as a GIS analyst at their headquarters in Washington, D.C. Projects there included page maps and foldout supplement maps featured in the National Geographic magazine, as well as data quality control and creation of thematic maps for the *National Geographic Atlas of the World, Eighth Edition*. Additionally, Andrew has worked as a cartographer in the Cartographic Services Laboratory since the summer of 2000, and is currently a teaching assistant for the introductory cartography class.



### Degrees Granted Since 2004 (Through December 2005)

The following is a list of the Ph.D. and Masters Degrees awarded by the Department since 2004. The person granted the degree, dissertation or thesis title, and committee chair are included.

#### PhDs

**Johansson, Ola B.** (Aug. 2004)  
Changing Governance, Business Elites, and Local Regulations in Nashville

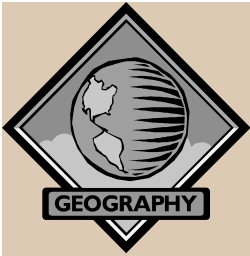
**Ron Foresta**

**Foraker, Margaret D.** (Aug. 2004)  
A Socio-spatial Analysis of Rural Poverty in East Tennessee

**Charles Aiken**







## Students and Faculty in Action



*[Left] Carol Harden high in Cajas National Park in the Ecuadorian Andes. Carol was studying the water-retention properties of páramo soils and the glacial history of the National Park. A Fulbright and UT's Global Environmental Change Research Group provided funding support for the project.*

*[Below] Graduate student Jason Graham sieving soil charcoal samples in the Advanced Physical Geography Teaching Lab in the Burchfiel Geography Building.*



*[Above] Eight students from Anita Drever's Fall '05 Urban Geography class tour the Monterey Mushroom facility in Monterey, TN. Robert Moore (white shirt), Quality Assurance Manager for Monterey Mushroom, hosted the class. Ken Orvis (far right) was along for the ride. The trip allowed the students to observe the kind of work being done by Latinos in East Tennessee as well as meet with workers to discuss their immigration experience.*





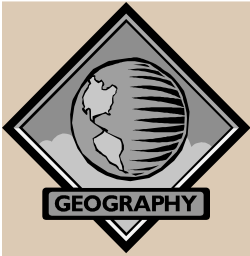


*[Above] Bringing up submerged, subfossil wood for tree-ring analysis from a lake in the Bahamas as part of research funded by the National Geographic Society. From L to R: Sarah Deane, Allison Stork, and Ken Orvis.*

*[Right] Undergraduate Jim Sexton recovering a soil core in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, as part of a study by Sally Horn and Henri Grissino-Mayer of charcoal in park soils as evidence of fire history.*



*[Left] Sampling the mud-water interface core from a lake in the Bahamas, as part of research on Holocene climate history funded by a grant to Sally Horn, Ken Orvis, and Henri-Grissino-Mayer from the National Geographic Society. Photo shows R to L: Ken Orvis and graduate students Sarah Deane and Allison Stork.*



*Degrees...Continued from Page 17*

**Yu, Hongbo** (Aug. 2005)  
Temporal GIS Design of an Extended Time-geographic Framework for Physical and Virtual Activities  
**Shih-Lung Shaw**

**Boulton, Mary Alice** (Dec. 2005)  
Spatio-temporal Patterns of Geomorphic Adjustment in Channelized Tributary Streams of the Lower Hatchie River Basin, West Tennessee.

**Carol Harden**

**Lafrenz, Martin D.** (Dec. 2005)  
A Watershed Classification System Based on Headwater Contributing Areas in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

**Carol Harden**

#### **Masters**

**Dye, Andrew S.** (Aug. 2004)  
Developing Habitat Suitability Models: An Example from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee and North Carolina, USA, Using the Land Snail *Vitrinizonites Latissimus Lewis*

**Henri Grissino-Mayer**

**Ralston, David M.** (Aug. 2004)  
Non-thesis Project - GIS Software Application Design, Customization, and Implementation.

**Shih-Lung Shaw**

**Jolly, Brooks A.** (Dec. 2004)  
The Effectiveness of the Chemical Perturbation Index for Monitoring Water Quality in Three Mixed-use Urban Watersheds, Knoxville, Tennessee

**Carol Harden**

**Hall, Kelley Ann** (May 2005)  
The Transition to Neotraditionalism: The Case of Huntersville, North Carolina

**Ron Foresta**

**Schlachter, Kyle J.** (Aug. 2005)  
Macroscopic Sedimentary Charcoal as a Proxy for Past Fire in Northwestern Costa Rica

**Sally Horn**

**Larson, Evan R.** (Dec. 2005)  
Spatiotemporal Variations in the Fire Regimes of Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis* Engelm.) Forests, Western Montana, USA, and Their Management Implications  
**Henry Grissino-Mayer**

---

## Alumni Updates

---

*We heard from a number of our alumni after the request went out in the 2005 edition of the Newsletter. Some sent brief updates (below) and a couple sent letters with fond remembrances of their time at UT (following pages). Thank you for letting us know how you are doing. If you would like to provide an update for the '07 newsletter, just email it to Kurt Butefish at [kbutefis@utk.edu](mailto:kbutefis@utk.edu). or complete the form on page 23 and mail it to the department.*

#### **Ben Bayless**

B.A. 1984

Ben wrote that he is still flying for FedEx as a co-pilot on MD-11s, mostly on international routes. He now lives in Columbia, TN.

#### **Derrick T. LeSueur**

B.A. 1989

Derrick has worked with United Parcel Service since 1986. He married the former Karen Porter in 2000. Karen is also a UTK alumnus (B.A. 1985, Biology) and currently works for the University in Telephone Services.

#### **Kim Pilarski**

M.S. 1996

I have been working as the Senior Wetland biologist with TVA's Natural Heritage Project since 1997, in charge of wetland assessment for TVA projects across the 7-state TVA region. My son Ian is now (2004-2005) a freshman at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN studying Environmental Studies and running track and cross country. My daughter Alex will be a freshman next



year (2005-2006) at Mars Hill College, where she received a scholarship to play NCAA Div. II soccer. My parents are healthy and happy and living in Naples, FL where my dad is helping Dr. Jack Benhart (John Benhart's dad) research a book on development in Collier County and it's impact on the environment. My dad at age 82 is enthusiastically serving as Dr. Benhart's tour guide and "regional advisor."

### **Blake Sartin**

B.A. 1996, MIA ABT student  
1280 Echo Trail  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

I have been employed as the GIS Manager for the Northeast Georgia Regional development Center in Athens, GA since October 2001. I serve as the primary GIS contact for 12 counties and 54 cities, which equals lots of questions. Also busy with plenty of GIS development projects, as well as training intern staff on the care and feeding of GPS units. I was also one of the first group to receive the GISP certification in October 2003. When I'm not at work, my wife Tonya and I are staying busy with two young'uns, 5 and 2. We also are expecting a third (and final!) in early November, so we are gearing up for a hectic winter. Still surviving in Bulldog Country, but always taking weekend trips back to Tennessee; in fact, more trips than should be considered healthy.

### **Jessica Wall (formerly Jessica Tharpe)**

M.S. 2003

Jessica is GIS Coordinator at ARCADIS in Atlanta, Georgia. She wrote Dr. Shaw to thank him "...for all the time you took with me making sure I was prepared to take on real world GIS." She is happy to report that her department is currently undergoing rapid growth.

### **Megan York**

M.A. 1997

I recently moved back to the mainland after living in Honolulu for seven years. While in Honolulu, I worked in affordable housing and as an urban planner. I had the opportunity to work on diverse projects in Hawaii, Japan,

and Diego Garcia. For example, I developed a comprehensive plan for over 15,000 acres of land owned by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in Kauai. I am now living in Montclair, New Jersey with my husband and two sons. Currently, I am working for a planning firm specializing in affordable housing, community planning, and grant writing. Despite the change in climate, I am happy with my new life in Jersey.

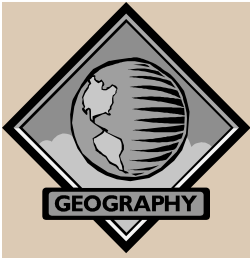
### **C.Bickley Foster**

B.A. Geography, 1952  
2818 N. Edwards Street  
Wichita, KS 67204-4621  
[fosterszone@aol.com](mailto:fosterszone@aol.com)

Although you probably are hoping to hear about the career activities of recent graduates, I thought some might find it interesting to look back 52 years from a 1952 graduate. [*Mr. Foster sent this letter to the Department in February of 2005 – Editor*] After my B.A. in geography, I was encouraged by a woman professor and the director of the Tennessee State Planning Commission to go to the University of North Carolina, one of the five colleges teaching city planning at that time. This was somewhat unique because geography did not appear to position a person for employment other than teaching. I was the only geography graduate in the Planning Course. Most students were from liberal arts. I naively thought that I could work for TWA and travel the world! After receiving my MCRP at U.N.C., I worked 19 years as a planner/director: for Bucks County, Pennsylvania when it was the fourth fastest growing county in the U.S.; for Lancaster County, PA., for Wichita-Sedgwick County, KS; and then for Campus Planner of Wichita State University. For the past 32 year, I have operated Foster & Associates, Planning Consultants during which we've worked for over 100 municipalities in Kansas. In 1984, I received my law degree from Washburn University. My point is – geography gave me a great start in my employment career – and as an avocation, my wife and I have traveled to 27 countries. We find life more interesting and can relate to the world better because we are global minded people.

Now for the reason I decided to respond to the invitation for "news." Having





read the [2005] Department Newsletter with considerable interest, I am amazed and pleased that the students and faculty are engaged in so many different fields of geography for study and research. Not only is geography a wonderful background for employment today, but it provides a personal perspective for the dynamics of living in the world. I think that world geography should be a prerequisite introductory class for all undergraduate degrees.

A little more history. Our classes were made more interesting at the time by the insight and stories of veterans from W.W.II. Whereas the professors had not always traveled as much due to the war and post-war conditions, the veterans were often called on to provide an additional learning experience. One veteran had been captured by the Germans near the end of the war and marched across Germany at night while staying in barns during the daytime. With the Russians approaching from the east, the prisoners were turned around and marched back westward until finally liberated. He had first hand knowledge of German agriculture and particularly the potato skin soup and boiled pig's liver he was fed that actually kept him healthy.

For the students learning to use GIS mapping, I am reminded in my cartography class that I researched and made a dot map of the density of mules in Tennessee by counties based on 1950 Census data. This was an important indicator of socioeconomic conditions in that county. The dots had to be completely round and I was proud of my efforts. Since the class was immediately after lunch, I had to carry my map to the cafeteria. Now while I may have forgotten the major cash crop of Columbia (not cocaine then) from my college education, I will never forget that I got gravy on my map in the lunch line. The professor was an understanding person and I received an A grade, became a Phi Kappa Phi honoree and learned to never place food or drink near an important map!

My congratulations to the students who chose to major in geography. You can look forward to a productive, interesting and enjoyable life.

**Luisa Freeman**

UTK Geography Master's degree, 1983

Greetings UTK Geographers!

Sorry I have been out of touch for so long. I really enjoy receiving the departmental newsletter and reading about faculty, alumni and student activities. Seems like the physical plant is a far cry from when I was there in the late 70s (very impressive!), and that the enthusiasm and intellectual capacity are still as strong as ever. I need to come visit, perhaps later this year. Tell me when would be a good time. Are you still keeping an Advisory Committee of alumni? I would love to speak to the students if an opportunity presents itself – particularly if a post-lecture cocktail party is also involved.

I have stayed firmly within energy research throughout the past 20 years (!) since leaving UTK Geography. The late 70s energy efficiency movement has maintained momentum, waxing and waning with the various administrations, but a constant in the utility industry. I have been working as an independent consultant to electric and gas utilities in the U.S., regulatory agencies here and overseas and more recently for a few bigger organizations such as The World Bank and United Nations Development Program. (I mean programme.) While throughout this time I have continued to evaluate energy programs as my bread and butter, my more recent work has involved capacity building and training of regulatory staffs at nascent government agencies that are being formed as government-owned energy sectors undergo privatization. (That is, privatisation.) Editorial quirks aside, this international work has been the most fun of all, taking me to South Africa and Egypt several times each, and also to exotic spots such as Zambia, the Czech Republic and Albany, New York.

I can hear Sid Jumper asking me, "But what's geographic about all of that?" (Bless him, he never did quit needling me about my undergraduate degree in Economics, but I loved him anyway...) Well, the skill sets for one – all those Quant Methods courses so ably taught by Bruce, and the Urban Geography concepts for another, thanks to Tom Bell. I do a lot of primary research in my evaluation work, and always examine whether geo-

graphic differences exist in acceptance rates, behavior, market accessibility and other variables when examining the impact of a technology, program or policy. In my work overseas, what is always most fascinating are the more extreme differences in energy sector challenges that exist in urban versus rural contexts – everything from technology, delivery systems, governmental policies to populations’ socio-demographics and even languages. These are great, interesting and fun research challenges and I hope to keep at them for many more years to come.

To mention yet one more UTK professor, I must note that the basis of my career success has been in an ability to

communicate relatively technical results in clear, simple language for policymakers, regardless of the fancy or not-so-fancy methods used to get there. So thanks too must go to Charles Aiken and Singleton Station Road, which taught me not only to observe with a careful eye, but to be able to tell about it with a good story.

I’ve been living in the Washington, DC area for the past ten years, working at home and being a mom to my 8-year-old son Sammy. I hope you are all well and thriving under Chairman Bruce. My very best wishes to you and give me a holler as to when might be a good time to visit. Don’t hesitate to call me either if you are ever in town – it would be fun to catch up.



## 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):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

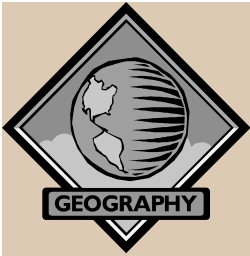
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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





*The University of Tennessee does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status in provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. This policy extends to both employment and admission to the University.*

*The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1979, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.*

*Inquiries and charges of violations concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) or any of the other above referenced policies should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the UTK Office of Human Resources, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37996-4125.*

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

Department of Geography  
University of Tennessee  
304 Burchfiel Geography Building  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925

**U.S. Postage  
PAID  
The University  
of Tennessee**

E01-1038-001-06

*Spring 2006*