

Luke Blentlinger

Education

- 2022– PhD student in Geography; University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Advisor: Sally Horn, PhD. Subject Area: Reconstructing Quaternary environmental change and human-environment interactions using lake sediments.
- 2019–2022 M.S. in Geography; University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Committee: Sally Horn, PhD (Advisor), Yingkui Li, PhD, Chad Lane, PhD.
Graduating in May 2022. Thesis: *Climate, Fire, and Human History in Central American Savannas: New Paleoenvironmental Records from Belize and Costa Rica*.
- 2015–2018 B.A. in Geography, *Summa Cum Laude*. Concentrations: Climate & Climate Change, Landscapes & Environment. Minor: Hispanic Studies (Spanish); University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Undergraduate Honor's Thesis: *Hydrogen Isotope Analysis of n-Alkanes in Sediments from Emerald Pond, Abaco Island, The Bahamas*.

Professional Experience

- 2020– National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (GRFP). Received in 2020 and on fellowship until 2025.
- 2018 National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Fellow in the Laboratory of Paleoenvironmental Research. Funded by a grant from the NSF to Drs. S. Horn, C. Lane, and D. Gamble.
- 2017–2018 Undergraduate Research Assistant in the Laboratory of Paleoenvironmental Research, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee.

Teaching Experience

- 2023–2024 Graduate Teaching Associate Department of Geography & Sustainability, University of Tennessee. Taught Geography 131: Weather, Climate, and Climate Change in fall 2023 and spring 2024 as the instructor of record.
- 2019–2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Geography & Sustainability, University of Tennessee.

Grants

- 2024 \$400 Student Research Grant Competition, Paleoenvironmental Change Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers.
- 2023 \$750 PhD Student Grant Competition, Biogeography Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers.
- 2019 \$4,367 Student-Faculty Research Award from the University of Tennessee Graduate School.
- 2017 \$2,000 Summer Research Internship grant from the University of Tennessee Office of Undergraduate Research.

Selected Awards & Honors

- 2022 Recipient of Paleoenvironmental Change Specialty Group MS-Level Paper Presentation Award, American Association of Geographers.

- 2020 University of Tennessee College of Arts and Sciences Chancellor's Citation for Extraordinary Professional Promise.
- 2020 Recipient of the Robert G. Long Award for Outstanding MS Student Award, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee.
- 2020 \$138,000 Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.
- 2019 \$4,000 W. K. McClure Scholarship for the Study of World Affairs from the University of Tennessee Center for International Education.
- 2018 Recipient of Gamma Theta Upsilon Excellence in Geography Award, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee.
- 2018 Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Rafie, S. A. A., **Blentlinger, L. R.**, Putt, A. D., Williams, D. E., Joyner, D. C., Campa, M. F., ... & Hazen, T. C. (2024). Impact of prescribed fire on soil microbial communities in a Southern Appalachian Forest clear-cut. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 15, 1322151.
- Blentlinger, L.R.**; Herrero, H.V. A Tale of Grass and Trees: Characterizing Vegetation Change in Payne's Creek National Park, Belize from 1975 to 2019. *Appl. Sci.* 2020, 10, 4356.

Selected Conference Presentations

- Blentlinger, L.R.**, Horn, S.P., Lane, C.S., Slayton, I., Kerr, M.T. An 1800-year record of hydrology from Great Abaco Island, The Bahamas. Virtual Paper Presentation. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, April 2024, Honolulu Hawaii.
- Blentlinger, L.R.**, Artavia, L.G., and Horn, S.P. A 12,000-year sediment record of fire history from a Costa Rican grass savanna. Paper presentation. Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, 23 March–27 March 2023, Denver, Colorado.
- Blentlinger, L.R.**, Horn, S.P., Lane, C.S., Cecil, J.A., Smith, C., Boehm, M.S. A 4800-year record of vegetation and hydrology from a Belizean savanna. Paper presentation. Annual meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers, 20 November–21 November 2022, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Blentlinger, L.R.**, Horn, S.P., Lane, C.S., Cecil, J.A., Smith, C., Boehm, M.S. Compound-specific stable carbon and hydrogen isotope analyses of vegetation and precipitation change in a Belizean pine savanna. Virtual paper presentation. Annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, 25 February–1 March 2022, New York City, NY.
- Blentlinger, L.R.**, Artavia, L.G., Horn, S.P., Lane, C.S. Organic microfossils and stable carbon isotope signatures in a savanna wetland. Virtual poster and lightning talk. Annual meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, August 2021, London, England.

Selected Professional Service

- 2022–2024 Graduate student representative, Paleoenvironmental Change Specialty Group, American Association of Geographers.
- 2020–2022 Graduate student representative to the McCroskey Memorial Fund Committee, University of Tennessee Department of Geography.