

Heather A. Maxwell
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Department of Geography and Sustainability

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Education

Expected 2028	M.S., Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, Knoxville Advisor: Sally P. Horn, Ph.D.
2021–2025	B.A. <i>Summa cum Laude</i> , Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville Minor: Geography and Sustainability

Research Interests

Vegetation histories, fire history, conservation, paleolimnology, sustainability, human-environment interactions, landscape management practices, fieldwork.

Professional Experience

2026–Present	Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), University of Tennessee, Knoxville GEOG 131 Weather, Climate, and Climate Change
2025	Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Research and Field Experience

2025	Conducted field sample collection of soil cores for the project <i>Fire History at Loyston Point</i> , which contributes to a larger project for the TVA. Soil cores were examined to detect the presence of charcoal, which serves as an indicator of past fires. Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Geography and Sustainability at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
2025	Collected tree core samples from Frozen Head State Park, Wartburg, Tennessee. Cores were collected from Eastern Hemlock Trees to observe the effectiveness of

a hemlock woolly adelgid treatment from 2018. UTK Tree Ring Lab, Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

- 2025 Research Assistant for Dr. Kandace Hollenbach at the University of Tennessee, as a student in an undergraduate research course. Project focuses on charcoal samples from Thomas Jefferson's main kitchen and one of the enslaved persons' cabins at his Monticello Plantation in Charlottesville, Virginia. The charcoal was analyzed to identify the types of trees that were being utilized by enslaved peoples in both the kitchen and the cabin.
- 2025 Conducted data analysis using R of white oak tree response to drought in Virginia using the International Tree-Ring Data Bank (ITRDB) as a final project for a class entitled *Environmental History from Tree Rings*.
- 2024 Research Assistant for Dr. Sally P. Horn at the University of Tennessee, as a student in an undergraduate research course. Project focuses on charcoal in soils as an indicator of past fires, and is part of a larger project funded by the Joint Fire Science Program, entitled *Mapping Past, Present, and Future Hydro-Ecology, Fire, and Vegetation for Oak Ecosystem Restoration*.
- 2024 Organized a field sampling plan for a final project research proposal, looking at water quality near construction zones along the Tennessee River for class, *Geography of the Urban Environment*.
- 2024 Collected water samples to test water quality along Third Creek, Knoxville, Tennessee. Basic hydrology tests were also performed, such as streamflow. Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- 2024 Conducted excavation at a Chaco outlier site to learn more about past Puebloan culture as a part of the *Total Archaeological Project*. Learned and utilized standard archeological surveying and mapping techniques during the excavation. Processed and prepared recovered artifacts for analysis and dating in the lab. San Juan College, Farmington, New Mexico.
- 2024 Assisted with the collection of sediment cores to reconstruct the vegetation history of middle Tennessee in support of the *Fire and Vegetation History from Wetland Sediments Project at Arnold Air Force Base, Coffee County, Tennessee, U.S.A.*; Department of Geography and Sustainability, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- 2024 Assisted with collections and recataloging of archaeological artifacts as a volunteer. Archaeological & Environmental Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Presentations at Conferences

- 2025 Kandace Hollenbach, **Heather Maxwell**, Peggy Humes, Stephanie Hacker, John Jones, Crystal O'Connor, and Fraser Newman. *Wheat Agriculture, Forest Clearance, Wood Selection, and Plant Use in the late 18th Century at Jefferson's Monticello*. Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC), 5-8 November 2025, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- 2025 **Heather Maxwell**. *The Role of Fuelwood Selection in the Lives of Enslaved People at Jefferson's Monticello Plantation*. The Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement (EURēCA). Paleoethnobotany, Department of Anthropology, 15 April, 2025, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Community Outreach and Service

- 2024 *Lake Accotink Park Habitat Restoration* volunteer, Volunteer Fairfax, Springfield, Virginia
- 2024 *Can You Dig It?* Day education event volunteer, McClung Museum of Natural History & Culture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Honors and Professional Societies

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| 2026 – Current | American Association of Geographers |
| 2026 – Current | Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers |
| Inducted 2024 | Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society |
| Inducted 2023 | Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society |
| 2023–2025 | Undergraduate Anthropology Association |
| 2023–2024 | Alpha Sigma Kappa Women and Gender Minorities in Technical Studies |

Skills

Technical: ArcGIS, RStudio, Coorecorder.

Field & Lab Methods: sediment and soil coring, archaeological excavation, water quality testing, wet sieving, microscope analysis.

Soft: active listening, collaboration, verbal and written communication, adaptability, attention to detail.

Certifications

Chemical Fume Hood Safety, Compressed Gas Safety, Fire Safety, General Laboratory Safety, Hazardous Waste and Chemical Spills Training, and Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Training, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Scholarships

2021–2025 Recipient of the Beacon Scholarship, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
2021 Recipient of the VYI Scholarship, Vienna Youth Incorporated, Vienna, Virginia

Other Experience

2025–2026 Inova Health Care System, Alexandria, Virginia
2025–2026 Assistant Coach for Pride Girls Lacrosse Club, Great Falls, Virginia
2017–2022 Instructor and Administrative Assistant at Kaizen MMA, Vienna, Virginia
2020 Vienna Youth Lacrosse Coach for Vienna Youth Incorporated, Vienna, Virginia