



2008

## UTK Geography Newsletter 8 (2008)

Department of Geography

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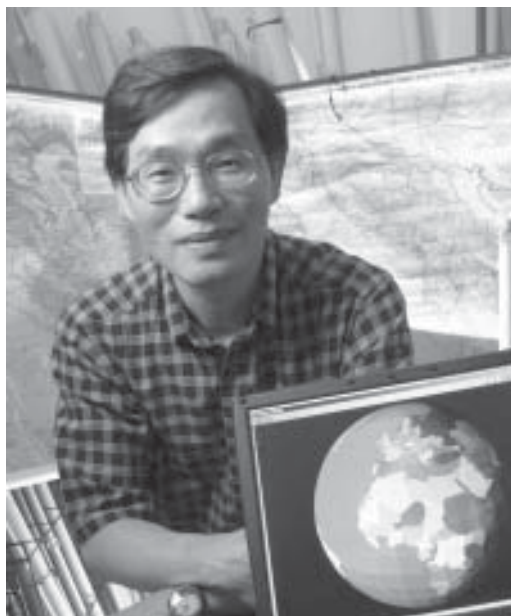
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# UTK GEOGRAPHY

Newsletter of the University of Tennessee Department of Geography

2007/08 Academic Year

## Greetings from Shih-Lung Shaw



Greetings from a new department head! I assumed the Head position this Fall, following Carol Harden's service as Interim Head for one year after Bruce Ralston stepped down in Fall 2006. During Bruce's six-year tenure as Department Head, we moved into our beautiful Burchfiel Geography Building and dramatically prospered and grew. Our undergraduate majors increased significantly and our faculty grew from 11 to 14. Under Carol's leadership as Interim Head we accomplished several important tasks, including the revision of department's bylaws and development of a diversity plan. We all owe many thanks to Bruce and Carol for their excellent leadership, which made our department better and more competitive nationally and internationally.

Speaking of leadership, I am very pleased to announce that Carol is a nominee for the vice-presidency of the Association of American Geographers, a position that succeeds to the presidency of our major profes-

sional organization. This is a high honor to Dr. Harden as well as to the Department of Geography at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. If you are a voting member of the AAG, I request your support of Dr. Carol Harden.

Other news concerns faculty retirements and our need to plan for them. Lydia Pulsipher retired from her full-time faculty position this fall after several decades of outstanding research, teaching and service in the department. Lydia will continue to teach one course per year and perform service activities through a post-retirement arrangement, so we will continue to benefit from her contributions. In the meantime, we have begun to search for an assistant professor to fill Lydia's position. Charles Aiken plans to retire next fall. Charles's many important contributions through his research, teaching and service have also shaped and enhanced this department in many ways. We thank Lydia and Charles for their dedication to this department and wish them an enjoyable and relaxing post-retirement life.

A Strategic Plan Task Force, created at the beginning of this fall semester, developed a new strategic plan in anticipation of these retirements and other changes in the department. This strategic plan articulates five goals – (1) increase the quality and quantity of research across the department, (2) create balance among and within faculty strengths and programs in human geography, physical geography, and spatial analysis, (3) improve the quality of the undergraduate program while adjusting to dramatic growth in the number of undergraduate geography majors, (4) selectively explore ways to enhance the geography program and meet the needs of the



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

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state and broader society, and (5) maintain and improve the quality of the department as a workplace. The plan also identifies specific strategies for achieving each goal. After several rounds of discussion, the strategic plan was unanimously approved by faculty members and student representatives. We now have a document to guide the development of this department in the next five years (2007-2012).

As you will see in this newsletter, our faculty are very successful in attracting funds to support their scholarly research and in publishing books, book chapters, and articles in top-ranked journals. We also have been very successful in attracting and teaching more and better students at both the graduate and undergraduate level, and students enjoy a strong esprit de corps. I have no doubt that our department will continue to enhance its national and international reputation through the outstanding work of its dedicated faculty, staff, and students – and through the efforts of our attentive alumni and friends, who help spread the word on our accomplishments and who steer good students, opportunities, and resources our way. We greatly value the many kinds of support we receive from our alumni and friends. Drop us a line or come by and see us.

- Shih-Lung Shaw  
Professor and  
Department Head



## **Reflections on 27 Years as a Geographer at UT**

**by Lydia Pulsipher**

Sometimes as I am hustling through these narrow medieval streets of Koper/Capodistria (Slovenia) to fetch a loaf of bread or some olive oil or a bottle of the raw red wine they make here — or as I am running the 100 yards (meters) from my apartment to the Humanities Faculty to teach a swarm of new undergraduates — I reflect on my 27



*Lydia Pulsipher goes "non-stop" while serving as a Visiting Professor of Geography at Primorska University, Koper/Capodistria, Slovenia.*

years in the Geography Department at UT. At least part of why I am here is that this engaging experience in this Adriatic place keeps my mind off what it means to separate from my colleagues and students in Tennessee. I retired at the end of July 2007, and in future will teach only part time and only in Spring semesters.

In fact, that is exactly why I am here – to ease the separation anxiety. The University of Tennessee has been very good to me, and the Geography Department doubly so. It has been a pleasant place to work, where my foibles and periodic spurts of entrepreneurialism have been indulged.

I was not actually the first woman professor in the department, though it seemed so. There was another highly respected woman many years ago, but she was long gone in 1980, when I arrived from my first job at Dartmouth College. So for all practical purposes, I was the first female faculty

# Investment Opportunities in Geography

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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





*Pulsipher continued from Page 2*

member, in fact the first woman professor in the whole building, because Geology (then our partner department in the G&G Building) also had no women faculty. There were, in fact, so few of us in the whole university that we women faculty used to have intimate little potluck suppers in order to keep in touch with each other.

After a few weeks of uncertainty back in 1980, nearly all of my new male colleagues appeared to accept me wholeheartedly and willingly, only occasionally tripping me in the hallway or slamming the office door on my fingers. (Perhaps I should be crediting our then Head, Sid Jumper, for this happy acceptance. Could he have forced the issue with the men?) In any case, by 1987 they were used to me and we hired two more women (Sally Horn and Carol Harden) and now we have two more (Peggy Gripshover and Anita Drever). All four are dear friends and confidants. Imagine, there are still some Geography Departments that have no women!

Sid Jumper, in fact, had much to do with what has been a satisfying career at UT. It was he who laid the groundwork for our new Burchfiel building, an amenity that continues to give us all pleasure. And as department head he repeatedly gave me good advice, leaning on me to be as productive as possible and seeing to it that I got good press for my various activities. Sid was not in favor of me writing the World Regional Geography textbook which is now in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition (WH Freeman Publishers) and actually he was not wrong about it taking a chunk out of my time that could have been profitably used to write other books. Still, writing this book and doing the research for it has been easily the most rewarding professional experience of my career, even edging out all those summers of archaeological research on the lovely tropical island of Montserrat. Actually, Sid thought the world was too big a subject for me, and Montserrat too small, but we agreed to differ on those points. I like to remind Sid that the Montserrat research ended up in a major Smithsonian exhibit and the textbook is now among the top sellers.

My graduate students have been a great source of pride and pleasure. Most still keep in touch and are busy with all sorts of geographic endeavors. If I start mentioning their many successes, this essay will quickly get too long. Suffice it to say that it has been a pleasure to serve as their advisor and it has been fun to ponder with them in those many long seminars “how we should best think about things” – a recurring phrase in our multifaceted discussions.

One last thought about how the past affects my present. Back in the early 1980s I was encouraged by my now husband, Mac Goodwin, to apply for a grant from Kaypro Computer Co. They gave us two (barely) portable computers, which we lugged to Montserrat. This was the beginning of my “affair” with technology. I have not become what one could call an expert user, but I was an early adopter of technology in the classroom and must say that my familiarity with computers and all they can do for academic life has been most rewarding. My career as a techie continues here in Slovenia. Primorska University is easily as technology savvy as UT and the students yet more so. Our textbook has one of the more advanced web pages in the business and our product is about to get yet more IT cutting-edge, thanks to my co-authors Alex Pulsipher and Mac Goodwin.

I intend to be around as a geographer for some time to come, please keep in touch. I am at <lpulsiph@comcast.net>.



### **Betty Lynn Hendrickson Professorship Awarded to Sally Horn**

Sally Horn has received the Betty Lynn Hendrickson Professorship Award for 2007–2009. This award recognizes Sally’s exceptional teaching and research abilities, and also provides her with research support of \$7500/year for two years. The award is funded by a quasi-endowment that was established to honor Miss Betsy Lynn Hendrickson, who received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Tennessee in 1953.

## Congressman John Duncan, Jr. Visits the Alliance and Department

On Monday, July 9, 2007 the Tennessee Geographic Alliance and the Department of Geography received a visit from Congressman John Duncan, Jr. of Tennessee's 2nd Congressional District. Alliance Coordinator, Kurt Butefish was able to schedule the visit during the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded summer K-12 teacher institute that the Alliance and Department were co-hosting.

During his morning visit, Duncan addressed the 25 participants in *The American South: Geography and Culture* institute. He spoke about his love of geography and its importance in the K-12 curriculum and beyond. He also complemented the participants on their willingness to travel from across the U.S. to continue their education.

Dr. Carol Harden then led Congressman Duncan on a tour of the Burchfield Building. During and between stops in the Cartographic Services Laboratory and the fourth floor physical geography labs, she briefed Mr. Duncan on the range of activities of UT geographers, including water and environmental quality-based studies being done by faculty and students within his Congressional District and the NSF funded GK-12 project.



*Congressman John Duncan, Jr. and Will Fontanez discuss maps produced in the Department's Cartographic Services Laboratory while M.S. Candidate and Student Cartographer Tracy Pollock listens in.*

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## UT Geographers and the National Academies of Science

Carol Harden has been appointed to a three-year term on the Geographical Sciences Committee of the National Academies of Science. The committee, which meets twice a year, provides advice to federal agencies on a wide range of national and international human-environment and place-based issues. It holds hearings in Washington, DC, develops studies to investigate issues of federal concern, and recommends geographers to serve on committees implementing the studies.

Three other UT geographers have served on NAS/NRC committees. Shih-Lung Shaw participated in an NAS Workshop on Advanced Research in Geospatial Information Technologies for Transportation in fall 2007. Bruce Ralston and Sally Horn have also served on committees for the National Academies of Science/National Research Council in the past.





## 2007 Hammond Lecturer: Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson

Dr. Mosley-Thompson, Professor of Geography, and Research Scientist at the Byrd Polar Center of The Ohio State University, visited the department for two days in March 2007 as our Hammond Lecturer. Her public lecture, "Abrupt Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future," superbly illustrated the process of obtaining high resolution proxy records of climate from ice cores and discussed current knowledge of climate change based on ice core records. She drew many examples from her own research on Greenland ice. As is customary for Hammond lecturers, she also held an informal seminar the following morning. Ed and Elizabeth Hammond were not able to attend, but still reside in Knoxville. Dr. Mosley-Thompson's visit was supported by the Ed and Elizabeth Hammond Lecture Fund, which they initiated at the time of Ed's retirement in 1987 and to which they have generously contributed.



*Dr. Mosley-Thompson (left) relaxes with Carol Harden at a reception preceding the March 2007 Hammond Lecture.*

## Geography Rocks: Fall Reception Held at Candoro Marble Works

The University Club, site of decades of departmental receptions, is gone, converted to a welcome center for prospective UT students. The department's start-of-school reception was held at the Candoro Marble Works in South Knoxville, a building designed by Charles Barber, built in 1914, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and now being restored by a non-profit organization. The Barber building, a marble showroom, is floored and paneled with different types of marble tiles. Candoro was once Vestal's major employer. The marble factory sawed and polished marble\* from quarries in Knox, Blount, and Loudoun counties, and then from international sources. Marble finished at Candoro was used in the main Post Office building in Knoxville and the National Gallery of Art, in Washington, DC. [\*Technically, the local rock isn't quite marble.]



## Department Well Represented at SEAC Conference

The Department of Geography was well represented at the 2007 Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) held at the Knoxville Convention Center downtown. On the morning of November 1, 2007, eight talks were given that were presented or co-presented by current and former members of the department. Ph.D. candidate Saskia Van De Gevel gave an excellent talk on her research at Hope Mills, and Joe Henderson (Ph.D. 2006) flew all the way down from New York that morning in time to present his research. Daniel Lewis (M. S. 2003) gave a wonderful talk on the research at the Hermitage and Georgina DeWeese (now at the University of West Georgia) (Ph.D. 2007) presented on her new research in Rossville, Georgia. Two students from Anthropology, Annie Blankenship and Shannon Koerner, also presented on research that involved



departmental personnel. Ph.D. candidate Lisa LaForest and M.S. candidate Jessica Brogden, co-authors on two of the talks, also showed up to show their support. Undergraduate Maggie Stevens was a co-author on one of the presentations.



## Tennessee Geographic Alliance Establishes a \$1,000,000 Endowment

In early 2006, in association with Chairman of the Board Gil Grosvenor's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the National Geographic Society and geography education, National Geographic announced that it would offer a dollar-for-dollar match of funds to establish new endowments for state geographic alliances. Based on a projected budget surplus and a declared emphasis on education by Governor Bredesen, Alliance Coordinator, Kurt Butefish determined that the situation was as good as it would probably ever get for approaching the State for a large sum of one-time funds.

The long-term implications for a Tennessee endowment would be to replace the annual, contract-based funding received from the state with endowed funds, which would save the State money and provide programs and materials for K-12 geography education in perpetuity. National Geographic's goal was to match amounts of \$500,000 in each state.

In early April 2006, Karen Gibbs, National Geographic Society Education Foundation's Manager for Strategic Partnerships, and Butefish met with Governor Bredesen's policy analyst. They learned that any funds for the proposed endowment would have to come as part of the 2007/08 State budget. It was stated that the most logical home for the request would be in the State Department of Education's budget rather than from the Governor's discretionary funds. The alternative would be to work with legislators to have them sponsor a budget amendment appropriating the funds.

Over the course of the next year, Butefish pursued the funds from the two different angles simultaneously; through the State Department of Education and via a legislative budget amendment. This proved to be wise as the Department of Education informed him late in the process that they would not be able to free up funds that would be allotted to them for the 2007/08 year, nor would they be able to request additional funds for the endowment.

Butefish and the Alliance membership began an aggressive letter writing campaign and scheduled numerous visits to key legislators when the 105<sup>th</sup> General Assembly opened session in early 2007. The budget passed in June 2007 and included a \$500,000 budget amendment for the TGA. Currently, the Alliance, National Geographic, and the State Department of Education are processing the paperwork necessary to have the funds transferred to the Geographic for investment. It is anticipated that the Alliance will receive the first payout from the new endowment around October, 2008.

With the establishment of the new endowment, the Alliance will have a total of \$2.4 million in endowed funds.



## Geography Awareness Week 2007 a Huge Success

Geography Awareness Week is an annual program sponsored by the National Geographic Education Foundation and facilitated in Knox County by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. It is designed to educate and excite students about our natural, cultural, and historic treasures. Each year a different topic related to conservation and the world is celebrated. This year's theme was *The Geography of Asia*, which encouraged students to explore the biodiversity and cultural diversity of Asia through a geographic perspective.

Part of the celebration of Geography Awareness Week included visits by majors in the Department of Geography to local elementary schools to share geographic knowledge.

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*Awareness continued from Page 7*

Presentations were offered to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes around Knox County. Teams of two geography students (at least one graduate student per team) conducted the classroom presentations, which were designed to involve students in interactive activities. More than 950 students in 32 classes participated during the four-day event.

Coordinators for this year's GAW celebration were graduate students Ian Feathers, Angela Danovi, and Joshua Albritton. Coordinating this program is a massive undertaking and the large numbers of classes visited and students reached by the Department's majors is a testament to their leadership and dedication to geography education.

## **Cart Shop Update**

**by Will Fontanez**

It has been quite a while since there has been any news about the Cartographic Services Laboratory but I am pleased to let you know that things have been going well in our little world of mapmaking. The lab's location in the Burchfiel building has given us more visibility and interaction with students, faculty, and other campus offices. We now produce campus maps of various types for all of the UT system as well as maps for faculty publication needs. Student geography majors are recruited to work in the lab and hone their cartographic talents. They have helped with

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## **Maarten Kappelle Visits the Department**

Dr. Maarten Kappelle, Director of The Nature Conservancy's Science Programs in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean and Adjunct Professor of Geography at UTK, visited the department in February 2007 to discuss potential collaborations with faculty and graduate students and to give a colloquium on his research on tropical cloud forests.

Below he is shown enjoying his tour of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science with Ph.D. students Justin Hart (now Dr. Hart, far left) and Lisa LaForest.



several major projects such as the *World Regional Geography* textbook, by Lydia Pulsipher. The past four editions of that project alone resulted in the creation of over five hundred high quality maps! The lab continues to produce newsletters, folding, and publication maps for the Great Smoky Mountains Association and other off-campus groups or individuals in need of custom cartography.

We are equipped with the latest Mac and PC hardware and software used for producing maps. Our computers have wide screen displays and the ability to print large format proofs and meeting posters. The studio atmosphere in the lab mimics professional and government cartographic workplaces. This has led to employment and internships at National Geographic, the CIA Cartographic Division, and area county GIS offices for several of our students.



## Peggy Gripshover Receives Chancellor's Award

Peggy Gripshover was awarded the "Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching" at the April, 2007 Chancellor's



Honors Banquet. The ceremony is held each spring to recognize students, faculty, staff, and friends of the University of Tennessee for their extraordinary achievements. Peggy's teaching was cited by the Chancellor

as: "Her classroom atmosphere is open, positive, rigorous, and, at times, improvisational. During class, students contribute to discussion, ask knowledgeable questions, and even interject jokes or asides. Dr. Gripshover's class displays a warm and comfortable atmosphere, where students are engaged in discovering that geography can be fascinating and relevant."

## From Beijing, China

by Matt Durnin

*[Matt Durnin is a M.S. student. He participated in Shih-Lung Shaw's study abroad program during the summer of 2007. He currently lives in Beijing and works for China Security, a policy journal based in Beijing. – Editor]*

During my seven months in China, it has been my good fortune to be immersed in one of the most dynamic and controversial nations of our time. Standing in downtown Beijing, it truly feels as if you are at the epicenter of a sea change in the course of human events. On one hand, China's rise is an overwhelmingly positive development in history; only half a century ago, the Chinese were dying in mass famines, isolated from the rest of the world by a maniacal political system. However, today's relatively open and prosperous China is in many ways an ambiguous development in world affairs. While China gives hope to many other developing countries, its path to success is unsettling and the consequences of its unbridled growth are indeed frightening. I came to China to begin the long process of understanding the challenges and contradictions that this country will present in the unfolding century.

I live next to a People's liberation Army barracks, which means that my day starts at 5:30, when I am awoken by joyous songs of the people's revolution. Recognizing the futility of any further attempt at sleep, I get ready and start the 20 minute walk to work. Along the way, I pass the United Nations building, which is one of the few places where a small degree of public demonstration is tolerated. Most days, a small group of peasants or workers stand across the street with their grievances written on small cardboard signs draped around their necks. A group of plain clothes police officers encircles them, waiting to see if they cross a subjective line of what is permissible. Sometimes the interaction between the groups is almost friendly, other times it turns confrontational. I usually hang around for a few minutes to see





*Durnin continued from Page 9*

what happens, but a foreign observer inevitably makes the situation tenser. The police never make any arrests in front of me, but by the time I reach the vantage of my 24<sup>th</sup> floor office, the group of protesters has usually vanished.

From my window, looming over the now absent protesters, I also take in the startling economic explosion of Beijing. Each day, it seems there is a new high rise or a vacant lot where an old one once stood. The hysteria surrounding the upcoming Olympics has of course accelerated the construction boom. In Beijing alone, the government is spending over \$40 billion on preparations for the games. Within my first year and a half in Beijing, the city will have gone from a minimal three-line metro with 100 km of track to an extensive network of eight lines comprising 200 km of track.

As an editor for *China Security*, a policy journal based here in Beijing, I have the opportunity to explore this dynamic environment from a variety of perspectives. Not only does the journal cover traditional security issues regarding militaries and defense, it also addresses non-traditional security issues such as energy, environment, and internal social pressures. Our pages give space to a broad and informed range of perspectives, with an equal distribution of Chinese and American authors. Working with Chinese scholars has been a particularly enlightening experience and has contradicted many of my preconceived notions of the competency and insight of China's academicians. While China is still far from an incubator of free thought and open debate, ground breaking research is being done due to both the gradual increase of freedoms and the courageousness of Chinese scholars.

In so many areas, China is a difficult concept to wrap your mind around. As one of my friends is fond of saying, "When it comes to China, there is no applicable model." I have seen post-communist societies in both Ukraine and the former Yugoslavia, which will continue to be strained by their dysfunctional past for decades to come. Predicting their course seems like simple arithmetic. China, however,

requires a more abstract calculus. Yes, there are dysfunctional aspects to China, however, Chinese society is also remarkably cohesive and resilient. Everyone has their theories as to why this is the case, but the reality is that the current wave of good fortune for China is the result of an infinitely complex blend of policy, natural endowment, historical timing, and pure dumb luck. And just as hard as it is to explain why China is doing so well, it is with even greater uncertainty that we can forecast the sustainability of its success.

There is a popular saying that "China is like an elephant riding a bicycle," implying that if it slows down, it may crash. And indeed, there are many forces pulling it down to earth.

While China's economy continues to grow at over 10% per annum, it still fails by several million to create enough jobs. While many Chinese are getting rich, much the rest of the country is getting exploited in the process. This inequity is creating serious tension in Chinese society. For example, in 2005, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences released figures confirming that there had been 87,000 incidents of 'social unrest' in the past year. When we consider other mounting problems, such as environmental degradation and energy shortages, it's tempting to forecast an inevitable and painful decline.

At present, it is impossible to predict what China will look like in 2050, and perhaps that uncertainty is the most appealing aspect of studying and researching this country. I don't know how long my involvement here will last, but for the time being, I am transfixed by China's rise — the ultimate high-wire act, with enormous potential and a razor-thin margin for error. China is an often contradictory place, with both appealing and appalling features, but once you've seen it, I have found you simply cannot look away.





# Faculty and Staff News

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**Charles Aiken.** Charles and **Kurt Butefish** held their third successful National Endowment for the Humanities Institute for 25 Teachers during June and July 2007. The teachers taught various grades and were from all sections of the nation.

Charles' book, *William Faulkner and the Southern Landscape* is to be published by the University of Georgia Press in 2008. This completes Charles' research on Faulkner. Charles will have published four articles, a book chapter, and a book on Faulkner's geography, a topic that seemed to have limited possibilities when he began. Charles' new research project is "African American Migration Since 1900," a subject he originally considered as a dissertation topic. He has a contract for a 200 page book on African American migration.

The Aikens have their first grandchild. Audrey Claire was born to Charles and Amy in Shaker Heights, Ohio, on February 22, 2007. John, their younger son, who is a commercial pilot, has been relocated by Mesa Airlines from Syracuse to Denver. He is flying for United Express.

On July 31, 2008, Charles will retire after 46 years as a university faculty member. Upon receiving his M. A. degree from the University of Georgia in 1962, he accepted a job as an Instructor in Geography at the University of Memphis, where he was awarded his B. S. degree. Charles considered the job temporary, for he never intended to be a university professor.

After teaching for three years, Charles took a leave to obtain his Ph.D. degree. He remained in higher education because he enjoyed teaching and the opportunity for research. Because of his interest in research, Charles came to the University of Tennessee in 1969, replacing Professor **Loyal Durand** in Agricultural Geography and assuming responsibility for the American South course. Charles was granted unlimited approval to direct doctoral dissertations in 1972 and was promoted to Professor in 1978.

Charles has never counted the number of students he has taught, but they number several thousand. Over the years, most of his undergraduate classes have been full even though he has never taught a required undergraduate class without options. He has directed 25 theses and dissertations and the graduate papers of five non-thesis M. S. students. Charles also directed the senior honors paper of the first Whittle Scholar to graduate. He would not have had the time to be as productive in his research if it were not for the numerous graduate teaching assistants who did such excellent work in helping with undergraduate classes in his years at Tennessee and the University of Memphis.

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

The big news from the Bell/Gripshover geographic brain trust was that in April, 2007, Peggy was named as a recipient of the University of Tennessee's "Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching." The award is the highest honor that the University administration bestows on its faculty and, as a result, Peggy has had to get all her hats re-sized. Tom is now dutifully holding an umbrella over her head in case of rain or sunshine, and has been gracious enough to walk a tasteful ten steps behind (it's a telescoping umbrella).

In other news, both Tom and Peggy are each working on major book projects. Peggy is writing a mighty tome on the life and times of Charles Weeghman for McFarland and Company Publishers. In 1914, "Lucky Charlie" Weeghman built a ballpark for his Federal League team, the Chicago "Feds" (later the "Whales"), a stadium known to everyone today as Wrigley Field. Weeghman brought baseball to Chicago's North Side, and, as a result, forever changed the cultural and economic geography of the Lake View neighborhood. Weeghman was the owner of the Chicago Cubs from 1916 until 1919 when his finances took a decidedly downward spiral and he lost control of the team to William







Wrigley, Jr. Weeghman's life was a classic Horatio Alger tale without the happy ending. Not only did he lose the Cubs but also his string of Loop lunchrooms that had made him a millionaire by 1913. Peggy's interest in Weeghman grew out of the lead-off chapter she wrote on "Wrigleyville" for a forthcoming McFarland volume on the social history of the Chicago Cubs edited by Gerald C. Wood and Andrew Hazucha. And, in keeping with the sports geography theme, Peggy recently submitted an article to the *Baseball Research Journal* titled, "Faux Real: Dog and Badger Fighting as Entertainment During Spring Training in the Deadball Era."

While Peggy has been out in left field writing about baseball, Tom has been writing to different drummer. He is editing a book on music geography with **Ola Johansson**, an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown and a 2004 Ph.D. from UT. Ashgate Publishing had approached Tom and Ola about such a volume after the two organized a set of sessions on music geography at the 2006 Chicago AAG meeting. Tom and Ola found out that getting more than fifteen authors to submit chapters on time is somewhat akin to herding cats, but they will soon have all the needed chapters in hand. Their contributors include both junior and senior faculty and advanced graduate students. It's a nice mix of geographers, themes and musical genres. They have tentatively titled the volume *Turn Up the Volume: New Essays in Music Geography*. With any luck, it will carry a 2008 copyright. Tom and Ola want to follow up this book with one of their own on the geography of modern rock music once a comprehensive data set on modern rock scenes and tour circuits that they have compiled is fully analyzed. Rock on, mighty Vols!

In their copious free time, Tom and Peggy submitted two manuscripts for publication—one on suicide before and after the Great Fire in Chicago, which will appear in a special issue of the *Bulletin of Illinois Geographical Society* devoted to research on Chicago; and the second on the factors involved in the origins and devolution of the Pleasant Valley, Iowa, onion growing complex,

to be submitted to the *Journal of Agricultural History*. Their research in Chicago and the Midwest has led Tom and Peggy to explore two new interesting topics, one of which involves the economic and cultural geography of Chicago's food industry, and the other on the role of geographer J. Paul Goode as a public intellectual in the Windy City.

For those of you who endured many of Tom's geography lectures illuminated by his infamous overhead transparencies, you will be pleased to hear that he has given up on the magic lantern shows of academe in favor of PowerPoint. Peggy says that she and Tom will host a transparency burning party in their backyard just as soon as they get approval from the fire department for the toxic fumes that might be emitted.

The dynamic duo continues to serve the department and the university in a variety of ways. Tom is the Phi Beta Kappa secretary for UT and serves on too many committees to count. Peggy has been working with **Kurt Butefish** and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance on a series of workshops for K-12 teachers using the, "Tennessee: A Geographic Perspective," map, which was produced by the Alliance in 2006. Peggy also continues to volunteer for HABIT, the UT Vet School's animal-assisted therapy organization. She and her faithful companion Sophie, an Australian Shepherd, visit with Alzheimer's patients at an adult day care center.

In family news... Tom and Peggy look forward to visit by Tom's daughter Leia Bell and her family after Thanksgiving and are excited by the possibility that Leia and Phil and the grandkids might move to Knoxville from Salt Lake City. Tom is already thinking about all the fun male bonding activities he can share with the three grandsons—be afraid, little children, be very afraid. Tom's son Brian Bell is still making beautiful music in Los Angeles area with Weezer and Brian's own band, "The Relationship." Tom and Peggy and all their family are also making plans to celebrating Tom's mother's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Iowa in July, 2008. Keep an eye out for Lilah Bell and Willard Scott on the "Today Show" next summer!

**Kurt Butefish.** Kurt continues in his role as coordinator of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. The Alliance once again partnered with **Charles Aiken** (Co-PI) and **John Rehder** (Fieldtrip Coordinator) to host a 2007 four-week summer institute for teachers called *The American South: Geography and Culture*. This was the third such grant award the trio have received from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Twenty-five teachers from across the United States came to UT this past summer to study the American South under Charles, John, and a plethora of guest lecturers including a number from the Geography Department. Kurt also spent a good part of the last year working with the State Legislature to get a budget amendment passed for a *Tennessee Endowment for Geographic Literacy*. His efforts were successful and the State has granted \$500,000 to be matched and invested by the National Geographic Education Foundation. When all the paperwork and checks clear, the Alliance will have a total of \$2.4 million in endowed funds.

On a personal note, Kurt and Susan Fisher Butefish (B.A. 1981, M.S. 1985) celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in February.

**Anita Drever.** Anita and a collaborator at the University of Illinois received an NSF grant this past summer to continue their research on *Latino Workers in New Orleans*. Anita will therefore be rushing off at the end of the semester to spend three weeks interviewing Latino immigrants across the recovering city. **Ben Shultz**, a Ph.D. student in the department will be accompanying her. Anita is excited about this project because it is allowing her to do in-depth research on the effects of undocumented migration and immigrants' role in disaster recovery.

Anita continues to present her research on Latino migration to the South to groups in the community including the O'Connor Senior Center, the Cherokee Country Club Smart Club, and the Knoxville 4th District Democrats Club. She is also looking forward to starting a research project next summer exploring immigration to non-traditional destinations in Germany.

**Will Fontanez.** Will's work as director of the Cartographic Services Laboratory has been rewarding as he passes the 20-year mark. He finds it hard to believe so much time has passed. He continues to be an active member of the North American Cartographic Information Society. Will also participates as a presenter at yearly area GIS conferences and Alliance teacher workshops.

On the personal side, Will married Susan, a wonderful woman with two boys, Greg and Ryan. She works at the Pilot Travel Center corporate office. Together with his kids, Garrett and Kara they are always busy doing something and life is great. Will continues to be a national level official for USA Men's Gymnastics. His son Garrett, now a junior in high school, is his apprentice and is judging at the junior level. Greg and Ryan are on school wrestling teams and Kara is playing soccer.

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

**Henri Grissino-Mayer.** During the last academic year, Henri and his students were awarded a lucrative contract with the Department of Justice to help settle a litigation case that involves an alleged mismanagement of a Wildlife Management Area here in the Southeast (details can not be given due to a Confidentiality Agreement). The project literally turned the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science into a beehive of activity as six talented undergraduate majors in the Department of Geography were awarded paid internships and worked 18 hours per week on the project during the fall semester of 2007.





The project supervisors were graduate students **Saskia van de Gevel** and **Mark Spond**, and we hope to turn this research into one or more publications in the near future (after the litigation is over and permission is granted to release the data).

In March 2007, Henri and his students, along with **Dr. Claudia Mora**, Department Head of Earth and Planetary Sciences, were interviewed and filmed for a documentary titled "Earth Shocks: Hyper Hurricanes." The documentary featured the research conducted in both the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science and the Stable Isotope Laboratory that was published last year in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, concerning the use of tree-ring isotopes to reconstruct hurricane activity along the Southeastern coast. Beginning in September 2007, the documentary began airing, and we were pleased to see that our 20 minute segment was sandwiched between segments that first featured the National Hurricane Center, followed by research conducted at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Henri has received many emails and phone calls from around the U.S. from colleagues, former students, and friends who have seen the documentary.

Henri and his students continue to publish extensively on their research in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science. In 2007, an agreement was reached with the International Tree-Ring Society to publish a Special Issue of the journal *Tree-Ring Research* that will feature research by members of the tree-ring laboratory in eight separate articles, including two authored by students in the Department of Anthropology. The research highlights studies in historical dendroarchaeology and features such projects as authenticating the construction years of the Rocky Mount Historic Site, the Governor John Sevier cabin at Marble Springs (in south Knox County), Alfred's cabin at the Hermitage (Home of President Andrew Jackson), the Hoskins House at Tannenbaum State Park in Greensboro, North Carolina, and the dating of logs from a crib dam in Hope Mills, North Carolina. In December 2007, Henri and student **Saskia van de Gevel** published a landmark article in the journal *Historical Archaeology* on the results from

the dating of logs at the Rocky Mount Historic Site, which we hope will help re-write and correct Tennessee history.

Henri and his colleague **Dr. Charles Lafon** from Texas A&M University continued their field work to obtain fire-scarred samples in Great Smoky Mountains National Park to reconstruct its fire history from tree-ring data. Working with graduate students **Lisa LaForest** and **Will Flatley** (student from Texas A&M), the team has collected hundreds of samples from the western side of the park, and have also collected samples for a complementary study at House Mountain in the northern part of Knox County, where an outlier population of Table Mountain pine trees exists. This research will help our understanding of the role of wildfires in Southeastern forests for hundreds of years, well prior to the onslaught of settlement in these portions of the Southeast. **Lisa LaForest** continues to be a very valuable asset of this project. Henri and Charles are also working closely with colleagues **Sally Horn** and **Chris Underwood**, who are investigating the longer-term history of fire from soil charcoal evidence at sites in the Smokies near those collected for tree-ring fire history.

Former graduate students of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science have been very successful in procuring academic jobs. We're pleased to announce that **Justin Hart** (Ph.D. 2007) is now an Assistant Professor at the University of North Alabama, **Georgina DeWeese** (Ph.D. 2007) is an Assistant Professor at the University of West Georgia, and **Joseph Henderson** (Ph.D. 2006) is an Assistant Professor at the U.S. Military Academy in New York. **Alison Miller** (M.S. 2007) is now employed by the University of Tennessee's Graduate Studies office on campus. Former student **Chris Underwood** (M.S. 2007) entered our Ph.D. program and is working in the Paleoenvironmental Laboratory with **Sally Horn**.

Henri also continues to be in demand as a public speaker. In 2006, Henri and his students and colleagues gave 47 presentations at international, national, and regional meetings. In 2007, this trend continued as they gave 23 presentations at professional meetings, as well as many invited talks to such

organizations as Emory and Henry College, the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society, the Tennessee Historical Commission, and the Department of Anthropology's "Global Change" seminar series.

Behind the scenes, Henri continues to aid non-profit educational and research-based agencies by supplying wood sections or digital images of wood sections with tree rings to show how tree-ring dating can aid our understanding of the past and present environment. In 2006–2007, Henri provided help to such agencies as The Helen Hay Whitney Foundation, the Florida Museum of Natural History, the Public Broadcasting Service (to be used in their series "History Detectives" and the "History Detectives" companion book), the Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary, the Pacific Northwest Information Node, the Fire Science Digest, the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, the National Arbor Day Foundation, and Les Amis du Jardin botanique in Montreal, Canada (this is just a partial listing).

Of course, everyone knows that Henri spent 22 days in ParkWest Hospital in January and February from abdominal complications. He continues to recover and is having to take life a little easier than he's used to, which also means he's had to cut down extensively on the more physically-demanding field work related to his research. Thank goodness for graduate students. He looks forward to a long and hopefully less-stressful residence in the Department of Geography.

**Carol Harden.** Carol finds the 929 km<sup>2</sup> Little River watershed in east Tennessee a fascinating living laboratory for studying watershed and stream channel processes. With graduate and undergraduate students, she has been monitoring stream flow at 28 sites on tributaries. Funding for the Little River as an EPA Targeted Watershed has also supported studies of channel bed particles, stream bank stability, stream habitat, and water quality. Master's students **Jamie Phillips**, **Annie Wambersie**, and **Tom Burley** (advised by **Liem Tran**) are conducting thesis research projects in the Little River watershed. Harden presented a paper on hydrologic and geomorphic conductivity in the Little River system at the AGU (American

Geophysical Union) Joint Assembly in May 2007 in Mexico. She will present results of the Little River work at the SAMAB (Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere) meeting in October, the SEDAAG meeting in November 2007 and the AAG meeting in 2008.

Harden's Andean work continues. She made a short trip to Ecuador in June 2007 to meet with partners for a proposed study of effects of land-cover transition on hydrological and chemical properties of Ecuadorian páramo soils. A chapter on agriculture and soil erosion, co-authored with former Ph.D. student **Glenn Hyman** (recently married), was published in *The Physical Geography of South America* (Oxford University Press, Orme, Veblen, and Young, eds.), and her paper, "Two soil toposequences in a tropical glacial trough, southern Ecuador," was published in *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* (51, Suppl. 2, :139-152). Her 2006 paper, "Human impacts on headwater fluvial systems in the northern and central Andes," (*Geomorphology* 79(3-4): 249-263), generated a good discussion, which she continued with a response published in *Geomorphology* in spring 2007.

Carol served as Interim Head of the department in 2006-07, gladly passing the torch to **Shih-Lung Shaw** on August 1, 2007. Other administrative and service activities in the past year included her second year as an elected AAG National Councillor, first as chair of the AAG Publications Committee, and first of a 3-yr appointment to the Geographical Sciences Committee of the National Academies of Science. She is currently a nominee for the position of Vice President of the AAG.

**Sally Horn.** Directing the \$1.9 million NSF GK-12 Earth Project has kept Sally and her Co-PIs **Ken Orvis** and **Lynn Champion** of the College of Arts and Sciences very busy over the last year – but the project continues to be rewarding to all involved. Through it ten graduate students from Geography and Earth and Planetary Sciences, termed GK-12 Fellows, are paired with ten teachers in seven rural middle schools in east Tennessee, with the goal of improving earth science instruction by linking teachers







and students with university and other research (for more details see <http://web.utk.edu/~gk12/index.html>). School children in the rural middle schools served by the GK-12 project are expressing more interest in science and in college options than teachers and principals have heard before; teachers are gaining first hand experience in science through summer work with faculty and graduate students; Fellows are learning how to communicate science to lay audiences; and our department's research programs in physical geography have been given a strong boost by the availability of well-paid stipends that have allowed us to recruit topnotch graduate students to serve as Fellows.

In March, Sally and Ken participated in the annual GK-12 meeting in Washington DC, along with Fellow **Bryan Schultz** (Earth and Planetary Sciences) and Teacher-Partner **Greg Metcalf** of Heritage Middle School. The group helped co-lead two sessions on "Integrating Graduate Fellow Research into the Classroom" that attracted wide interest. In April, Sally co-organized a poster session at the AAG meeting that featured participants from our GK-12 project (**Carol Harden**, **Chris Underwood**, **Ken Orvis**) as well as projects in several other states.

Sally and students and collaborators made several field trips for research over the last year. In February, Sally, **Ken Orvis**, and graduate student **Joshua Albritton** visited Big Pine Key in Florida at the invitation of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Their objective was to investigate several ponds that **Chris Bergh** of TNC thought might yield pollen and charcoal records of vegetation and fire history that could assist fire management efforts on the island. The sites looked great, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to fund the project, so Sally, Ken, and Joshua spent a warm week in August collecting sediment cores that Joshua will analyze for his M.S. thesis research. In June, Sally, **Zack Taylor**, and GK-12 Teacher-Partner **Greg Metcalf** spent two weeks in Costa Rica collecting sediment cores that will be form the basis for Zack's Ph.D. and other research. In October, Sally, Zack, and Ph.D. student **Matt Valente** collected lake sediment and soil samples from Cuatrociénegas, Mexico, in collaboration with

Professor Andrés Nájera Díaz of the Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro in Saltillo, Mexico. Funded by The Nature Conservancy, the objective of project is to assess the potential for developing long records of fire and ecosystem history from sediments and soils in the region. Sally and students also conducted field work at several local lakes and swamps this past year.

Two of Sally's Ph.D. students, **Chad Lane** and **Marty Arford**, finished their Ph.D. dissertations this past year, and undergraduate **John Thomason** finished his senior honors thesis. Sally authored a review of lake-sediment records of environmental change in Central America that was published in 2007 in the book, *Central America: Geology, Resources, Hazards* (Taylor & Francis/Balkema, edited by Bundschuh and Alvarado), and is a co-author on seven articles that were published or accepted for publication in 2007 in the journals *Palaeogeography*, *Palaeoecology*, *Palaeoclimatology*, *Climate Dynamics*, *Biotropica*, *Caribbean Journal of Science*, *Latin American Antiquity*, and *Brenesia*.

**Ron Kalafsky.** Ron's current research continues to examine regional variations in the challenges and performance of manufacturers. Recent research in Nagoya, Japan looked at two main topics: the human capital shortage for machinery manufacturers and their firm-level export dynamics. He also spent time in China and Vancouver examining the difficulties that Canadian manufacturers face when entering the booming Chinese market. The research findings from these locations will inform case studies to be used in a new geography course, the Geography of East Asia, which will be taught for the first time in the fall semester of 2008.

**Ken Orvis.** Ken took over as Chair of Graduate Admissions, and the department welcomed an exceptionally large and strong group of new Ph.D. and M.S. students in Fall 2007. Causation? Correlation? Not clear but it's a good trend. He also revamped his Global Climate Change seminar to focus on the latest *regional* climate model projections, which are a lot scarier for some places

(e.g., the Southwestern U.S.) than folks want to believe, and generated rave reviews for his Terrain Analysis course, which combines traditional topographic map interpretation with digital elevational modeling and sonar bathymetry. Co-directing the Laboratory of Paleoenvironmental Research with **Sally Horn** and working with Sally and **Lynn Champion** to keep the GK-12 Earth Project on track have also occupied a big chunk of his time. Travel for work and pleasure took him to the Florida Keys, Washington DC, New Orleans, Wyoming, and Greenland. The photograph below shows Ken and **Joshua Albritton** coring a small pond in the Florida Keys for Joshua's M.S. project. Note the spy over Ken's shoulder. Bigger reptiles were on



the mind of photographer **Sally Horn**, as locals referred to the pond as a “gator hole” — and you know how much Tennesseans dislike Gators.

**Lydia Pulsipher.** Please see the article "Reflections on 27 Years as a Geographer at UT" on page 2 for information about Lydia.

**Bruce Ralston.** Bruce is busy working on areas of GIS and transportation. Over the past year, he has taken seven professional development courses related to various aspects of GIS software development

and data management, he developed software for working with U.S. Census geography in Google Earth/Maps, and released a technical whitepaper and source code on that software. From March through October of 2007 users from over 3000 unique IP addresses downloaded Bruce's software. As part of his “post-administration recovery program” Bruce has attended several conferences, working hard to coordinate his travels so he can be out of town whenever a particularly long faculty meeting looms.

In the coming year Bruce will offer a new course in GIS data management, re-vamp his GIS software design course, and continue work on a Google compliant census mapping package. He continues to serve as an officer of the Tennessee Geographic Information Council, while offering technical support to groups such as Humanities Tennessee and East Tennessee Legal Aid. While attending the AAG last spring, Bruce got to visit UT alum **Manik Hwang** and his family in Mountain View, CA. It was one of the year's highlights.

**John Rehder.** John is now in his 40th year at Tennessee this fall. His research continues on the ongoing book, *Tennessee's Log Buildings: A Folk Tradition*, for the Center for American Places. Data on over 4,000 log buildings in 40+ counties are in the mapping and writing stages. He plans to have the manuscript ready to submit by Spring 2007. As a part of the Log book, Rehder is also writing detailed case studies of four log building sites located in Knox, Sevier, Union, and Sumner Counties. In Union County, in the summer of 2006, Rehder completed the narrative and field photographic collection in the “Between Fences” project for Humanities Tennessee and the Smithsonian. He has recent articles published in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. Rehder also had key roles as lecturer and field planner in the NEH Grant “The American South: Geography and Culture” that ran this summer (2007) with **Charles Aiken** and **Kurt Butefish**.

John still enjoys serving on the editorial board for the University of Tennessee Press; it is a three-year commitment to meet and work on a number of manuscripts that





come to the Press.

This year, Rehder is much better at golf. He now ranks #6 in a field of 45 in the Men's Golf Association at Fairways and Greens; and was in 6th place in a field of 10 in the final shootout of the top ten players tournament. Whew! Rehder says he needs to do more hiking and fishing this year. As usual, he did his annual October two-day overnight hike to Mount LeConte. Judy, Karen, Ken and Angie along with field assistants - grandkids - Allen (8) and Emma (6), are doing fine this year.

**Shih-Lung Shaw.** Shih-Lung was busy last year and became even busier after assuming the Department Head position this Fall. He developed and led a 3-week study abroad program to China in Summer of 2007. Twelve students (9 geography majors and 3 other majors; 7 undergraduate students and 5 graduate students) went with Shih-Lung to China on May 17-June 7, 2007. They visited Beijing, Xian and Shanghai where they had lectures (covering topics such as China's urbanization, rural development, automobile industry, water resource issues, city evolution of Beijing, folk culture of Northwest China, vegetation restoration of the Loess Plateau, environmental changes of the Yangtze River Delta) given by scholars in China, many field trips in and around the above three cities, interactions with local students, and most importantly first-hand experience of the culture, people, society, and physical environment of China. In addition to the official program, students stayed very active in the evenings and on their free days to explore China. Shih-Lung did not get much sleep during this 3-week period and earned a title of "Chairman Shaw" (any connection to "Chairman Mao"? ) from the students. At the end, everyone was safe and enjoyed this study abroad program, which was the best reward to Shih-Lung.

On the research front, Shih-Lung started his two-year National Science Foundation (NSF) project of "Towards a GIS-based Analytical Time-Geographic Framework for Physical and Virtual Activities" (\$212K) in August of 2006 (Co-PI, **Hongbo Yu**, who completed his Ph.D. with Shih-Lung in 2003).

They have been working on extending Hägerstrand's time geography to incorporate human activities carried out in virtual space (e.g., on the Internet) and developing a space-time GIS to represent and analyze human activities and interactions in both physical and virtual spaces. They have a web site for this NSF project (<http://web.utk.edu/~sshaw/NSF-Project-Website/default.htm>) to share their research progress with the research community and the public. Shih-Lung also continues to work with **Louis Gross** (EEB), **Michael Berry** (Computer Science) and **Suzanne Lenhart** (Mathematics) on a multi-year NSF project on grid computing for ecological modeling and spatial control. In 2007, Shih-Lung has the following publications: Yu, H. and Shaw, S-L. (2007) Exploring potential human interactions in physical and virtual spaces: A spatiotemporal GIS approach, *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* (in press); Dye, A.S. and Shaw, S-L. (2007) A GIS-based spatial decision support system for tourists of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services*, 14(4), 269-278; and Yu, H. and Shaw, S-L. (2007) Revisiting Hägerstrand's time-geographic framework for individual activities in the age of instant access, in H.J. Miller (ed.), *Societies and Cities in the Age of Instant Access*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer Science, 103-118.

Shih-Lung was a keynote speaker at the First GIS for Transportation (GIS-T) Symposium of China held in Wuhan, China on June 24-25, 2007. This was a major milestone of GIS-T research and development in China and was a direct outcome of Shih-Lung's interactions with Chinese colleagues in the past few years. Wuhan University appointed Shih-Lung as a Guest Professor. During his stay in China, Shih-Lung also was invited to give presentations at the Chinese University of Mining and Technology and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) of China in Beijing. Between his official activities, Shih-Lung took a field trip to the Inner Mongolia of China to experience different physical and cultural landscapes.

Back in the U.S., Shih-Lung was invited among 22 researchers from the U.S.,



Canada, and U.K. to participate in a *Workshop for Advanced Research in Geospatial Information Technologies for Transportation* held at the National Academies in Washington, DC on September 20-21, 2007. The objective of this workshop was to look forward 5-20 years and formulate a research and development agenda for solving major challenges facing transportation systems using geospatial information technologies. He also was invited to give a keynote lecture in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Regarding professional services, Shih-Lung continues to serve on the editorial boards of *Journal of Transport Geography* and *Southeastern Geographer*. He also served as a reviewer for several international and national journals (including *Annals, International Journal of Geographical Information Science, Geographical Review, Journal of Transport Geography, Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie, Transactions in GIS*, among others) and for Hong Kong Research Grants Council in the past year. Locally, Shih-Lung gave a keynote presentation to a group of school teachers at a workshop organized by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. He also gave an invited talk to members of the Technical Society of Knoxville at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Knoxville. On campus, he was invited to give talks in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and in the Department of Computer Science.

**Liem Tran.** Liem has continued to expand his connections with colleagues at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and TVA. Funding from the U.S. EPA's Regional Vulnerability Assessment (ReVA) program covers 20% of his time and support for one graduate student. Liem is P.I. of a project funded by TDEC to study the connection between land use change and water quality in Tennessee. Collaborating with **Keith Langdon** at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Liem has submitted a proposal to the Tallassee Fund to develop a GIS database for ecological vulnerability

assessment of Tapoco Project's operations. Currently he is working with **Virginia Dale** at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory on cross-scale interactions and pattern-process relationships of ecological adaptive systems. He is organizing two paper sessions and one panel discussion session at the AAG 2008 Meeting in Boston on the use of fuzzy sets and systems in geography. At the meeting, he will present one of his newly-developed methods for integrated vulnerability assessment using fuzzy approach. In term of teaching, he and his students are having fun with calculations and modeling in his GEOG 533 course – Geographic Hydrology – in Fall 2007.

**Pam Sharpe and Denise Stansberry** are well and remain integral to the success of the Department.



## Degrees Granted Since August 2006

The following is a list of the Ph.D. and Masters Degrees awarded by the Department since August 2006. The person granted the degree, dissertation or thesis title, and committee chair are included.

### Ph.D.s

**Henderson, Joseph P.** (August 2006)  
Dendroclimatological Analysis and Fire History of Longleaf Tree (*Pinus palustris* Mill.) in the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain  
**Henri Grissio-Mayer**

**Keough, Sara Beth** (May 2007)  
Canada's Cultural Media Policy and Newfoundland Music on the Radio: Local Identities and Global Implications  
**Tom Bell**

**Lane, Chad S.** (May 2007)  
Late Holocene Environmental History in the Northeastern Caribbean: Multi-proxy Evidence from Two Small Lakes on the Southern Slope of the Cordillera Central, Dominican Republic  
**Sally Horn**







# Students, Faculty and Alumni in Action



*Shih-Lung Shaw (foreground) with his summer 2007 study abroad class at Suzhou Garden in Jiangsu Province, China. M.S. student Matt Durnin (far left) has an article on page 9 about his on-going experiences in China.*

*M.S. student Jason Graham (right), Ph.D. student Martin Arford (middle, now Dr. Arford), and Sally Horn pose in front of their poster at the 2007 AAG meeting.*



*Sally Horn and Ph.D. student Matt Valente collecting a short sediment core from a desert pool in Cuatrociénegas, Mexico, in work funded by The Nature Conservancy. [Photo by Andrés Nájera Díaz]*



*Three graduate students in Geography's Watershed Group monitor Nails Creek in Blount County. Chris Morris (left), Annie Wambersie (center), and Ryan Foster found little water remaining in some tributaries of the Little River by the fall of this extraordinarily dry year.*



*John Rehder extols the virtues of various house types and log notches to participants in the summer 2007, National Endowment for the Humanities-funded "American South: Geography and Culture" institute for K-12 teachers.*



*Undergraduates John Thomason and Jessica Jones working in the Laboratory of Paleoenvironmental Research.*



*Degrees continued from Page 19*

**Arford, Martin R.** (August 2007)  
Middle to Late Holocene Environmental  
Change and Human Impacts in Seasonal  
Tropical Forests of Northwestern Costa Rica:  
Sedimentary Evidence from Six Lakes  
**Sally Horn**

**DeWeese, Georgina G.** (August 2007)  
Past Fire Regimes of Table Mountain Pine  
(*Pinus Pungens*) Stands in the Central  
Appalachian Mountains, Virginia, U.S.A.  
**Henry Grissino-Mayer**

**Hart, Justin** (August 2007)  
A Multi-scale Analysis of Disturbance Dy-  
namics in Hardwood Forest Communities on  
the Cumberland Plateau  
**Henry Grissino-Mayer**

#### **Masters**

**Stork, Allison J.** (August 2006)  
A Paleoecological History of West Pond on  
Great Abaco Island, The Bahamas, Based on  
Pollen and Charcoal Analyses of Lake Sedi-  
ments  
**Sally Horn**

**Hill, Amy S.** (December 2006)  
Fields with Dreams: The Distribution of  
Preserved Farmland with Publicly-funded  
Conservation Easements in Pennsylvania  
**Charles Aiken**

**McDaniel, Paul N.** (December 2006)  
An International Corridor in the Making:  
Immigrant-owned Entrepreneurial Establish-  
ments in Birmingham, Alabama  
**Anita Drever**

**Noh, Young-Sook** (December 2006)  
Non-thesis Project – The Legal Aid Mapping  
Project  
**Bruce Ralston**

**Trail, Elizabeth R.** (December 2006)  
The Spatial Form of Cape Town in Post-  
Apartheid South Africa  
**Ron Foresta**

**White, Milanie J.** (December 2006)  
Non-thesis Project – Using Geographic  
Information Systems as a Tool for the Installa-  
tion Restoration Program at the 45<sup>th</sup> Space  
Wing, Cape Canaveral, Florida  
**Bruce Ralston**

**Underwood, Christopher** (May 2007)  
Century-scale Trends in Climatic Variability of  
the Pacific Northwest from Western Juniper  
(*Juniperus occidentalis* Hook. Ssp.  
*occidentalis*) Tree Ring Data  
**Henry Grissino-Mayer**

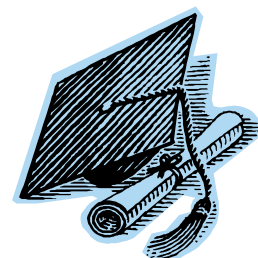
**Miller, Alison C.** (May 2007)  
Non-thesis Project - Fire History of Carib-  
bean Pine (*Pinus caribaea* var. *bahamensis*  
(Griseb.) W.H. Barrett & Golfari) Forests on  
Abaco Island, The Bahamas  
**Henry Grissino-Mayer**

**Brown, Charles S.** (August 2007)  
The Changing Landscape: The Urbanization  
of Knox County Tennessee  
**John Rehder**

**Dennis, Kristian** (August 2007)  
Testing Heterolocalism: An Assessment of  
Latino Settlement Patters in the Southeastern  
United States  
**Anita Drever**

**West, David N.** (August 2007)  
Late Holocene Charcoal Stratigraphy and  
Modern Charcoal Deposition in the Pine  
Rocklands of Great Abaco Island, the  
Bahamas  
**Ken Orvis**

**Witcoski, Jonathan F.** (August 2007)  
An Analysis of the Spatial Distribution of  
Chiefdom Settlements: Modeling the Missis-  
sippian Culture in the Tennessee River Valley  
**Tom Bell**

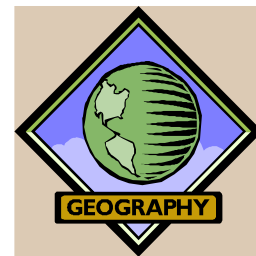




# Graduate Student News

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

**James Baginski** is a second year M.S. candidate. He received his B.A. in geography from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the spring of 2005. James is interested in many topics in human geography, including transportation, economics, and China. Under the direction of Dr. Tom Bell, James is working on his thesis concerning the distribution of microbreweries in the United States and the factor conditions necessary for a successful local industry. He spent the majority of last summer in China, studying many aspects of the nation's geography through Dr. Shaw's field course. Additionally, James was awarded a McClure Grant to study inland navigation on the Han River in Central China. He was awarded an "Outstanding Teaching Assistant" award for his work in the classroom last year. James is currently a teaching assistant in cultural geography and population and the environment courses. When he is not doing work, he enjoys throwing a football outside of the Burchfiel Building.

**Andy Baker** is a third year Ph.D. student working under the tutelage of Dr. Tom Bell. He received his B.S. in Geography and a B.S. in Business (concentration in Finance) from Eastern Illinois University in the spring of 2003. In June 2005, Andy completed his M.A. in Geography at Ohio University where he studied both the historical and cultural geography of NASCAR. As a graduate student in the UT Geography Department, Andy is pursuing research in cultural and sport

geography, adding a specialization in Geographic Information Science. Beginning Fall 2006, Andy taught the introductory World Regional Geography course where he earned the "Outstanding Teaching Associate" award from the department. Andy also has served University of Tennessee as a Graduate Student Senate Department Representative, Graduate Student Representative to Geography Faculty, and Graduate Program Committee member.

**Latha Baskaran** is a first year Ph.D. student. She received her M.S. in Geography from the Pennsylvania State University in 2003, and her B.E. (Bachelor of Engineering) in GeoInformatics from Anna University, India in 2001. Since 2003 Latha has been working at the Environmental Sciences Division at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She continues to work there as a full time research staff member. Latha's work at ORNL has been ranging from habitat modeling (for a threatened species, the gopher tortoise), land cover mapping, spatial data QA and more recently along the lines of bioenergy and biomass resources. Latha hopes to base her Ph.D. in the area of scale dependent environmental implications of biomass resources.

**Christine Biermann** is a first-year M.S. student hailing from Syracuse, New York. She has an undergraduate degree in Geography from SUNY Geneseo, where she was taught by Tennessee geography alumnus Jennifer Rogalsky (M.S., Ph.D.) Christine's academic interests include biogeography, fire ecology, and paleoenvironments. She is currently a teaching assistant for Geography 131.

**Jill Brickey** is a third year M.S. student. She received her B.A. in Geography from the University of Tennessee in 2004. Her research interests include cultural geography, the geography of Appalachia, tourism geography and historic preservation. Her thesis





examines the role the National Park Service had in altering the landscape of Cades Cove after its inclusion into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**Jessica Brogden** is a third year M.S. student and member of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science. She received her B.A. in Geography from the University of Tennessee in the spring of 2005. Her thesis is entitled "Disentangling the Effects of Wildfires from Climate Response in Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa Douglas ex. C. Lawson*), Central Idaho, USA."

**Michelle Brym** is a Ph.D. candidate. She received her M.A. in Geography (2002), and her B.A. in Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs with a minor in Latin American (2000), from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Michelle's research interests lie in the study of borderlands, cultural geography, population, political geography and qualitative methods, with a regional specialization in Central Europe. Her dissertation entitled, "The European Union Integration of Borderlands: A Case Study of Cross-Border Mobility and the Express of National Identity in the Polish Border Region," looks at the recent changes in the border crossing experiences of people living in cities along the Polish/German border, and the discourse they employ to describe the border cities, and their identification with the region. For the last three summers she has traveled to Poland, as part of her preliminary research, with support from the W.K. McClure Fund, McCroskey Fund and the University of Viadrina. She spent the fall 2007 academic semester in Poland finishing her research, thanks to the support of the Kosciuszko Foundation, AAG cultural geography specialty group, and the UT Geography Department. While in Poland, she also taught an undergraduate course on European borderlands, at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. She plans on graduating in 2008.

**Charlynn Burd** is a first year Ph.D. student. She received her B.S. in Geography from Western Kentucky University in the spring of 2001. She received her M.A.

degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC Charlotte). She worked for the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, where she was a Research Assistant. Her primary role there was cartographic production for project and GIS analysis. After an initial period in the Land Use and Environmental Planning Division, she joined the School Services Division. Charlynn has an interest in outreach and education. She is enthusiastic about her new endeavors at the University of Tennessee and hopes to focus her research around urban economic geography, marketing, and consumer behavior.

**Thomas Burley** is a second-year M.S. student with research interests in GIScience, water resources management, human and environmental risk assessment, and landscape ecology. He graduated cum laude from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a B.S. in Business Administration/Supply Chain Management and a B.A. in Geography in December 2004. He is currently a full-time staff Research Associate with The Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment (ISSE) at the University of Tennessee. He has been working with the National Biological Information Infrastructure-Southern Appalachian Information Node (NBII-SAIN) Program of the U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources Discipline since June of 2004 on two projects focused on biological informatics and adaptive natural resource management. The latter projects have been in collaboration with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the A.T. MEGA-Transsect initiative as well as management partners of the high-elevation grassy balds of the Roan Mountain highlands. He is also an FGDC metadata trainer with the NBII national metadata training program. His graduate work and half his time with ISSE this next academic year involves working with Dr. Liem Tran (major professor) on a state funded Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) grant project. The project focus is on analyzing the spatiotemporal relationships between land-cover change and water quality in the Little River watershed in East TN and the Harpeth River watershed in Middle TN using multivariate analysis techniques and land-cover change detection.

**Maria Caffrey** is a first year Ph.D. student. She received her B.S. in Geography from the University of Plymouth in the fall of 2003 and her M.A. from the University of Denver in 2007. Her current research looks at changes in vegetation, fire frequencies, and stable isotope records found in Laguna Saladilla along the northwestern coast of the Dominican Republic. She is using this data to reconstruct the paleoenvironment of the landscape and determine how changes in the past can be related to changes in polar out-breaks. Maria is a research assistant and will be working in the laboratory of paleoenvironmental research with Dr. Sally Horn. Maria's previous experience includes reconstructing paleoenvironments in western Colorado and highland Guatemala. Her areas of specialty in the Ph.D. program are in biogeography and paleoenvironments.

**Kendrick Curtis** is a fourth year Ph.D. student. He graduated with a B.S. from the University of North Alabama in the spring of 2000. In December 2003 he graduated with a M.S. in geography from the University of Tennessee. From 2002 until 2004 Kendrick was employed as a Community Planner with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's Local Planning Assistance Office. His research interests include land development on the urban/rural fringe and GIS. Kendrick's dissertation research concerns the emerging use of decentralized wastewater treatment technology and its potential for freeing development from conventional wastewater infrastructure constraints. In August of 2006 the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) granted Kendrick funding to research the relation of these "decentralized" developments to the state's comprehensive growth policy under Public Chapter 1101. In July of 2007 Kendrick returned to work for Tennessee's Department of Economic and Community Development in the role of GIS Coordinator for the Local Planning Assistance Office.

**Jeff Dahoda** is a M.S. student working with advisor Carol Harden on GIS applications in water resources. His thesis,

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

**Angela Danovi** is a third year M.S. student under Dr. Carol Harden. She received her B.S. in Plant and Soil Sciences from the College of Agriculture at the University of Tennessee in May 2003. Currently, Angela is pursuing her thesis research in phosphorus loading of stream bed sediments in Beaver Creek. She proposes that phosphorus loads in sediments can signal differences in land uses and inputs of phosphorus. Angela's research is being supported in part through the GK-12 National Science Foundation grant. Angela is also currently serving as a TA for the introductory physical geography course. Angela expects to complete her lab and statistical analyses in the fall and graduate in May 2008.

**Sarah Deane** is a third year M.S. student. She received her B.A. in Geography from the University of Tennessee in the spring of 2003. After graduating, Sarah worked in Fairfax, Virginia as a Hazard Mapping Analyst for an engineering firm. Her current interests include climatology and conservation as well as environmental GIS. Sarah's thesis work involves paleoclimatology and the study of quartz sand grains using a scanning electron microscope. Specifically, she is most interested in analyzing possible glacial samples from Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, and establishing a true statistical test and protocol for sediment provenances based on





quartz sand grain microtexture. Currently, she is working as a graduate fellow with Jefferson Middle School as part of the National Science Foundation's GK-12 grant.

**Dawn Drake** is a first year Ph.D. student from Pennsylvania. She has her B.S. in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she worked with UT alumni, John Benhart, Jr. and Ruth Shirey, on an undergraduate thesis which used barn architecture as an indicator for culture regions in Northeastern Pennsylvania. She is currently finishing her Masters degree from the University of Delaware focusing on climate's impact on the incidence of mastitis in dairy cows. She is planning to turn back to the human side of geography in her doctoral program, looking at industrial location decisions for agricultural machinery manufacturers. Dawn is currently a TA for World Regional Geography and serving on the Executive Committee of Gamma Theta Upsilon as Senior Student Representative.

**Matthew Durnin** is a third year M.S. student. He has completed all of his coursework, and is in the final stages of writing his thesis, "Between Sovereignty and Failure: Trusteeship in the Southeastern Europe." Matt is working under the direction of Dr. Anita Drever on this project. Last year, he was awarded an "Outstanding Graduate Student Award" ward for his exceptional work. For the last two semesters, Matt served as a teaching assistant for Geography 101. He is currently living in Beijing, working for "China Security," as well as writing for a number of other publications.

**Ian Feathers** is a first year M.S. student from the UTK undergraduate program. He received the "Outstanding Undergraduate in Geography Award" for 2006-2007 and has also served as a student assistant in the UTK Map Library and The Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science. Ian's Master Thesis research will involve methods in dendrochronology and fire history reconstructions of the Pinus species in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**Ryan Foster** has spent most of the past couple of years assisting others with field research. He accompanied Dave Mann and Daniel Lewis to western Montana to help Mr. Mann collect Whitebark Pine samples. Prior to that he spent a few days on the Cumberland Plateau's eastern rim coring trees and collecting data under canopy gaps for Dr. Justin Hart's dissertation. This past summer Ryan spent time working with Dr. Carol Harden in the Little River Watershed. Ryan also found time to help Chris Morris's research on large woody debris, stream morphology in old growth and secondary growth forests in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He has recently been assisting Annie Wambersie with her Master's Research monitoring stream flow and ecoli in the Little River Watershed.

**Jason Graham** is a third year M.S. student. He also received his B.A in geography from The University of Tennessee in spring 2005. In his first year as a graduate student in the department, Jason was a teaching assistant for geography 131 and 132. This year and the previous year he has served as the head GTA for geography 411 (Introduction to GIS). His interests are in the fields of GIS and paleo-environmental research. He is studying the paleo-fire history of Laguna Martinez in northwestern Costa Rica using macroscopic charcoal in lake sediment as proxy data. Jason's thesis advisor is Dr. Sally Horn. He presented a poster on his topic at the 2007 AAG meeting in San Francisco and will present a paper at this year's AAG meeting in Boston, MA.

**Mark Green** is a first year M.S. student. He received his B.S. in Geology at the University of Tennessee in May, 2006. Mark is a non-traditional student, having returned to school after 22 years in the U.S. Air Force. His research interests lie in physical geography and remote sensing. Mark is currently developing a Master's project under the direction of Dr. Ken Orvis. Tentatively, the project will investigate the enigmatic nature of the physical features known as Carolina Bays, and similar oriented features that are evident in the Midwest and south

west. The focus of the project will be to employ remote sensing techniques and GIS applications in an effort to establish a correlation between these widely scattered features, and to investigate their possible formation processes.

**Timothy Green** is a second year M.S. student. He received his B.A. in Geography from the University of Tennessee in the spring of 2006. Tim's academic interests include anything geographic and his thesis will explore the complex relationships between forest fragmentation, land-use and land-cover change, and socioeconomic drivers in Tennessee using a multi-tier analysis. Under the guidance of his advisor, Dr. Liem Tran, he expects to be finished by summer 2008. He is currently a teaching assistant for the department's remote sensing course. During the summer months, Tim likes to travel in Asia and read stories to his friends.

**Joe Guttmann** is a Ph.D. student working with Dr. Tom Bell. He received his B.A. in History from Wake Forest University in 1995. After attending Marshall University, he earned his M.A. in Secondary Education in 2000 and an M.A. in Geography in 2001. Joe's working dissertation title is "Agricultural Land Use Change and Local Context: A Comparison of Three Apple-Growing Districts in the Eastern United States." This fall, he has been teaching Geography 101. Joe continues to spend his summers underground working as a cave guide at Mammoth Cave National Park. He is also a reader for the Advanced Placement Human Geography exam.

**Jorene Hamilton** received her B.A. in Geology from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and an M.S. in Geology from Binghamton University in Binghamton, New York, and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. Her primary research interest is in fluvial geomorphology with special interest on how humans and land use changes impact stream morphology. Jorene's past research has included: 1) looking at how the effects of land use,

stormwater management, and channel materials influence channel morphology, and 2) how river impoundment has changed river hydrology and morphology. Currently, she is unsure what her research at the University of Tennessee will entail, but it will focus along similar lines of her past research. However, Jorene would like to start looking at how changes in channel morphology alter the stream's ecology.

**Alisa Hass** is a second year M.S. student working under the direction of Dr. Sally Horn. She received double Bachelor degrees in GIS and Environmental Management from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in January, 2007. As an undergraduate, Alisa worked with Dr. Colin Long as a research assistant investigating the fire history of the Cascade Range, Oregon. She is currently exploring the fire history of the Appalachian Mountains in eastern Tennessee using sedimentary charcoal. Alisa is a teaching assistant for the introductory physical geography laboratories.

**Chad Hellwinckel** grew up in Olathe, Kansas, attended St. Olaf College in Minnesota, interned at the Land Institute, received his M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Tennessee, worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama, and is now advanced to candidacy in pursuing a Ph.D. in Geography. For the past six years Chad has worked as a research associate for the Agricultural Policy Analysis Center. He is currently writing his dissertation on the topic of agricultural soil sequestration and is very hopeful about achieving his lifelong goal of getting out of school before the age of 40. His model can simulate soil carbon changes and agricultural emissions changes induced by carbon incentives at a sub-county level of resolution. He recently presented preliminary results from his research at the American Agricultural Economics Association annual meetings in Portland, OR. Preliminary results indicate much less potential carbon offset than previous (lower resolution) models have estimated. Besides his carbon work, which is funded by a four year NASA grant, Chad is also funded by several grants to model bio-energy crop







production and energy potential (such as switchgrass).

**Xia Huang** is a second year M.S. student. She received her B.S. majoring in GIS from Beijing Normal University in July, 2006. Her interests include GIS, time geography and transportation. Her current focus is on temporal GIS and time geography. She is a teaching assistant for Geography 411: Introduction to the Geographic Information System. Her duties include the maintenance and upkeep of GIS lab software and hardware, assisting and supervising GIS students in the lab, and grading student assignments.

**Lisa B. LaForest** is a Ph.D. candidate working under the guidance of Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science. Her research on "Fire Regimes of Lower-Elevation Yellow Pine (*Pinus*) and Pine-Oak (*Quercus*) Stands in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee" is funded through the Joint Fire Sciences Program. A recent field outing to one of Lisa's study sites in the Smokies yielded a shortleaf pine that dates back to 1684, the oldest living individual documented for its species. Lisa has also been participating in the newly-formed Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network, which is coordinated through The Nature Conservancy. The network is a collaborative effort between federal, state and private land management agencies with the goal of better understanding fire-adapted ecosystems and how to manage them. Another interest of Lisa's is dendroarchaeology in the Southeast. She has worked with projects on the Marble Springs and Walker Springs cabins in Knoxville and on two structures at the Rocky Mount historical site in Piney Flats, Tennessee. Lisa was given a "Professional Accomplishment Award" through the Department of Geography in 2007.

**Jonathan Law** is a third-year M.S. student. He graduated summa cum laude from Auburn University in December of 2004 with a B.A. in Geography. He is primarily

interested in urban geography, and his thesis analyzes the gentrification process in Atlanta, Georgia. He has worked as an instructor and a mentor for the Upward Bound programs held at UT each summer. In addition, he has worked as an intern with the City of Columbia, SC Planning Department and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honorary.

**Ingrid Luffman** is a new Ph.D. student, beginning her first year at UT in Fall, 2007. She received her B.S. in Math-Science and her M.S. in Earth-Sciences from the University of Ottawa in Canada, and spent 10 years in the workforce prior to returning to the academic world as a student. Her research interests lie in the areas of physical geography and hydrology, while the current focus is on land use and its effect on water quality. Specifically, she identifies livestock, wildlife, and domestic animal population and distribution in a target watershed, in addition to delineating septic and sewer system usage. Next, the fecal coliform load on the stream (based on the size and distribution of the populations) is determined. The end product is an identification of sites where Best Management Practices (BPMs) can be most effectively implemented to improve water quality. Ingrid has received grants from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to complete land use assessments for five 303(d) listed streams in the Boone Lake area of the Tri-Cities, Tennessee. Currently she serves as Secretary for the Boone Watershed Partnership and holds a position as Lecturer in Geography at East Tennessee State University.

**Chris Morris** is a second year M.S. student. He received his B.S. in Geography from Ohio University in the spring of 2006. This past summer he worked with Dr. Carol Harden in the Little River as part of a "Target Watershed" grant from the EPA. His thesis work is in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where he is investigating the differences in amounts of "woody debris" in streams at locations that had been logged or not logged prior to the creation of the park. He

will use this knowledge to better understand current stream channel shape and size. This fall he was a Teaching Associate for the introductory Geography of the Natural Environment course.

**Melany Noltenius** is a fourth year Ph.D. student studying transportation geography and GIS. Her previous degrees include a M. S. in Transportation Planning in 2005, and a B.S. in Communications. She is researching how the inner-city trips taken after a mandatory evacuation order has been given, but before evacuation takes place, affect the calculation of the estimated time of evacuation. Currently, she is working as a student research assistant for the Center for Transportation Research analyzing 15-passenger van rollover incidents. In 2007, she won second place in the Tennessee Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (TSITE) student paper contest for her paper "Vehicle Movement in Nuclear Power Plant and Hurricane Evacuation Models." She then presented her research for the TSITE Summer conference. Melany currently serves as Secretary to the UT student chapter of the ITE. She is also working as a graduate assistant for the Geography Department, as well as the Innovative Technology Center at UTK.

**Jonnathan Owens** is a first year M.S. student. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.A. in Geography in May 2007. Jonnathan's research is focused on Geographic Information Science and how it relates to Economic and Transportation Geography. He is currently a full time employee for the Knox County Government working in the Property Assessor's Mapping Department.

**Tracy Pollock** is a second year M.S. student. She received her B.S. in Geology from the University of Tennessee in May 2003. After completing her Bachelor's degree, she spent three years doing soil analysis and studying karst topography for Geotek Engineering in Nashville, Tennessee. Her current interests are in cartography and GIS. She currently works in the UT Cartographic Lab and presented an

Appalachian Trail map at the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) this past fall. She is also a teaching assistant for Cartography 310.

**Brock Remus** is a M.S. student focusing on biogeography. His thesis "Pine Stomata Interactions in Low Latitude Lakes" will be completed in December. His thesis project stems from work done by Chad Lane in the Dominican Republic. Two lake cores in the Las Lagunas region in the Dominican Republic along with a dredge sample from Crystal Lake in Knoxville, Tennessee were examined to see if pine stomata counts are a feasible proxy in low latitude lake systems. Until Brock's study, very little, if any, studies have been completed on stomata analysis outside high latitude or alpine environments. Brock presented his preliminary results in poster format at the 2006 Association of American Geographers national convention in Chicago, Illinois. Brock's thesis committee is composed of Dr. Carol Harden, Dr. Sally Horn, and Dr. Kenneth Orvis as the chair. After acting as a graduate teaching assistant during the fall 2007 semester, Brock plans to graduate and finally start working in the real world.

**Austin Rutledge** is a first year M.S. student. He received a B.A. in History from the University of Tennessee in May, 2006. He also completed a M.S. in Education at the University of Tennessee in August, 2007. His research interests include urban and economic geography and geography education. During the 2006-07 school year Austin worked as a graduate intern at Seymour High School in Sevier County teaching history and geography courses. Austin is currently serving this fall as a GTA for World Regional Geography 101.

**John Sakulich** is a first-year Ph.D. student working in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science under Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer. He received his B.S. in Geography from The Pennsylvania State University in 2002. He continued his studies in Geography at Penn State and conducted his Master's thesis research in the Vegetation Dynamics Laboratory under Alan Taylor. John's thesis research





land-use change on forests of Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas. John spent the past two years working as a research staff assistant in the tree ring laboratory at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York. While working at Lamont-Doherty, John was primarily involved with a project using tree-rings to reconstruct past variability of the Asian Monsoon. He traveled to Indonesia three times on field expeditions to collect tropical tree-ring samples. John is now beginning his doctoral dissertation research on fire regimes and biogeography of red pine in the upper mid-west and New England.

**Benjamin Shultz** is a first year Ph.D. student. He received his B.A. in Geography from the University of Kentucky in 2004 and his M.A. in Geography from Indiana University in 2007. His current focus is on urban geography and Latinos immigrants in the Southeastern United States. Specifically, he is interested in examining how urban growth policies affect housing markets and the subsequent effects these policies have on the residential geography of Latino immigrants in Southeastern cities. His Master's degree research involved field interviews with Latino immigrants in rural Kentucky about their migration experiences and adjusting to life in a rural community. Currently he is also organizing a session for the 2008 meeting of the AAG in which participants will discuss exurban theory, methodologies, and contemporary changes in this research field.

**Ian Slayton** is a second year M.S. student. He received his B.A. in Geography at the University of Tennessee in 2006. He is researching vegetation change on Abaco Island, Bahamas, through pollen analysis of a sediment core collected from a pond on the island. His advising professor is Dr. Sally Horn. He received an "Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award" in 2006.

**Mark Spod** is a first year Ph.D. student. Mark earned a B.A. at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (2003) and an M.A. at the University of Arkansas (2007). As an undergraduate, Mark served as a

student associate at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, a Student Conservation Association Resource Interpretation Intern at Arches National Park, Utah, and as an employee at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. While earning a Master's degree, Mark studied under Dr. David Stahle and Dr. Malcolm Cleaveland, and was an employee of the University of Arkansas Tree-Ring Lab. Mark's Master's thesis addressed the age structure and spatial distribution of select old-growth cypress-tupelo forest parcels at the Dagmar Wildlife Management Area, Arkansas. Currently, Mark is a teaching assistant for the department's Geography 131 course, and is continuing his studies in dendrochronology with Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer and the other associates of the University of Tennessee Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science.

**Josh Streufert** is a first year M.S. student. He received his B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Tennessee in 2002. His focus is on GIS and remote sensing with current interests in developing web-based multi-variable thematic mapping utilities using common web-based mapping applications (Google Earth, Google Maps, Yahoo Maps, and ArcExplorer).

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

**Zack Taylor** (M.S. University of Tennessee, B.S. University of Denver) is a third year Ph.D. student. His research uses a variety of techniques to analyze lake sediment cores, including studying pollen, charcoal, and stable carbon isotope ratios. Zack's M.S. thesis work used these methods to compile



a 5500 year record from a lake in eastern Bolivia. For his dissertation, Zack is building on earlier work done at UT using stable carbon isotope ratios of organic matter in lake sediments to estimate the extent of prehistoric agriculture. By analyzing multiple cores from the same lake, this research hopes to improve our ability to understand the extent and impacts of prehistoric agriculture as a first step towards separating the amalgamated signals of climate and human impact on a surrounding basin. The field work for that project was completed in June 2007. Zack, Dr. Sally Horn, and middle school teacher Greg Metcalf spent two weeks in Costa Rica collecting sediment cores, funded in part by the National Science Foundation through the GK-12 Earth Project. The laboratory portion of the project is currently underway in the Laboratory of Paleoenvironmental Research. While at the University of Tennessee, Zack has been a research assistant, teaching assistant, NSF GK-12 Graduate Fellow, and is now teaching introduction to physical geography. Zack is an author on a paper pending publication in the *Journal of Latin American Antiquity*, and has manuscripts in review in *Palaeogeography*, *Palaeoclimatology*, *Palaeoecology* and the *Journal of Biogeography*. He has also organized a session at the upcoming AAG meeting in Boston and will be presenting a paper on species distributions.

**Chris Underwood** completed his M.S. thesis on tree-ring evidence of climate history in the Pacific Northwest (directed by Henri Grissino-Mayer) and entered the Ph.D. program, where he is working with Sally Horn to study long-term fire history in the southern Appalachians. His dissertation research, funded in part by a grant to Grissino-Mayer, Horn, and UT alum Charles Lafon from the Joint Fire Science Program, focuses on the use of soil charcoal to reconstruct forest-fire histories in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Chris is a GK-12 Fellow for the University of Tennessee GK-12 Earth Project. Supported by the National Science Foundation, this project places ten graduate students from the Geography and Earth and Planetary Science Departments in middle school classrooms to improve science education by linking

classroom activities with current scientific research. Chris is working with Mr. Jay Bachmann's eighth-grade classes at Holston Middle School in Knoxville.

**Matthew Valente** is a first year Ph.D. student. He received his B.S. in Botany (concentration Ecology and Evolution) from Auburn University in 2004. He completed his M.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee in 2007. For his M.S. thesis, Matthew investigated the population genetics and evolutionary history of a rare vine (*Schisandra glabra*) in the Southeastern U.S. and in a disjunct cloudforest population in Mexico. Currently Matthew is developing a Ph.D. project in the Laboratory of Paleoenvironmental Research, advised by Sally Horn. Matthew is currently supported by an NSF GK-12 Earth Project Fellowship, bringing the excitement of research to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science students at Seymour Middle School. He is also involved in outreach with the Upward Bound Mentor program, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Wildflower Pilgrimage, and as Vice President of Darwin Day Tennessee.

**Saskia L. van de Gevel** is a Ph.D. candidate working in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science under Dr. Henri Grissino-Mayer. She received her B.S. degree in Forest Science from Pennsylvania State University in 2000 and during that time she participated in internships at Harvard Forest and Tall Timber Research Station and worked 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 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 Tennessee. 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 has been supported by the Global Environmental Change Research Group at the University of Tennessee and a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. This year Saskia was awarded another GK-12 fellowship through an NSF grant awarded to Drs. Sally Horn, Ken Orvis, and Lynn Champion to help bring the excitement of climate and environmental history research to rural middle schools in East Tennessee.

**Annie Wambersie** is currently a second-year M.S. student under the direction of Dr. Carol Harden. She is a National Science Foundation-GK-12 Fellow at Carpenters Middle School in Blount County. She is doing her thesis work on suspended sediment and E.coli in the tributaries of the Little River. Her interests include: fluvial geomorphology, geomorphology, and environmental geography. She received her B.A. in Geography at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

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

**Brad Wilson** is a part time M.S. student concentrating on GIS. He has been employed with the Agricultural Policy Analysis Center at UT since 1997 as an application developer and analyst. For the past three years he has been focused on GIS application development and spatial analysis, particularly in relation to the emerging biofuel industry and agricultural policy. He is currently working on his thesis project entitled "Modeling Cellulosic Ethanol Plant Location Using GIS" and hopes to have it completed in summer 2008.

**Ling Yin** is a second year Ph.D. student. She received her M.S. in GIS (2006) and B.S. in Geography (2003) from Nanjing University in China. Her research interests include transportation, time-geography, GIScience, and environmental modeling. As a research assistant in a NSF project "Towards a GIS-based Analytical Time-geographic Framework with Physical and Virtual Activities", she is seeking to study the activity-based traffic demand model under the influence of information and communication technologies, involving internet, cell phone, and other modern means. This research will directly relate to her dissertation topic. Last year, she was a research assistant in the grid computing project for ecological modeling and spatial control, which is also funded by National Science Foundation. Specifically, she developed a GIS-based fire break optimization model with fire spread simulations within the ArcGIS environment via ArcObjects, which also takes advantage of parallel computing. Based on this work, she is writing a paper for journals and seeking funding for further research. In her years in Nanjing University, she joined several research programs in land use management, land use planning and land use planning information systems in China.



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# Alumni Updates

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We heard from a few of our alumni after the request went out in the Spring 2006 edition of the Newsletter. Some sent brief updates (below). Thank you for letting us know how you are doing. If you would like to provide an update for the '07/'08 newsletter, just email it to Kurt Butefish at [kbutefis@utk.edu](mailto:kbutefis@utk.edu) or complete the form on page 35 and mail it to the department.

## Edward T. Freels, Jr.

M.S. 1959, Ph.D. 1970  
120 Greenbrier Lane  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
[etfreels@netscape.com](mailto:etfreels@netscape.com)

Dr. Freels was employed as a professor of geography and geology at Carson-Newman in Jefferson City, TN from 1961-2000. He continues to teach the world regional geography course part-time at Carson Newman. He lost his wife Jerri in 2000 and has since remarried to Sally who is employed at Oak Ridge National Labs. He and Sally now live in Oak Ridge, TN. They travel frequently with recent trips including Norway, the Caribbean, Alaska, and many national parks. Dr. Freels and Sally have just purchased an Airstream travel trailer and plan to continue their travels.

## Mary Tomlinson Hiers

Major in the early to Mid 80's  
312 N. Washington St.  
Tullahoma, TN 37388.

Mary is a newspaper editor in Coffee County, TN. She now has two children in their teens.

## Ola Johansson

Ph.D. 2004

Since leaving Knoxville, Ola has been an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Johnstown is a former Pennsylvania steeltown that is becoming more like Appalachia by the day (so the transition from Knoxville wasn't that hard – at least if we disregard the 100 inches of snow in the winter). In fact, some locals refer to western PA as “Pennsylvlucky.” Academically, Ola has been active in the Pennsylvania Geographical Society and is currently the president-elect of that organization. He is also the associate editor of the Society's publication the *Pennsylvania Geographer*. Ola is also maintaining UT connections in his research. Together with alumni Michael Cornebise at Eastern Illinois University, he has researched the Swedish neighborhood of Andersonville in Chicago, and Tom Bell has recruited him as a partner in his music geography project. The music research has so far resulted in two AAG presentations and a book manuscript (an edited volume) with the tentative title *Turn Up the Volume: New Essays in Music Geography*.

Ola's recent publications include:  
Johansson, O. 2007. Ten People Can't Run This City Anymore: Neoliberalism and Governance Change in Nashville Circa 1987-1999, *Southeastern Geographer*.  
Johansson, O. 2007. Inter-Urban Competition and Air Transport in the Deregulated Era: The Nashville Case, *Journal of Transport Geography*.  
Cornebise, M. and Johansson, O. 2006. Sweden vs. Multiculturalism: The Making of Neighborhood Identity in Chicago's Andersonville, *Bulletin of the Illinois Geographical Society*.  
Johansson, O. and Bell, Thomas L. 2006. Nashville. In Pillsbury, R. (Ed.) *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Vol. 2: Geography*.  
Johansson, O. 2005. An Assessment of Urban Sprawl in the Middle States Region, 1990-2000. *Middle States Geographer*.  
Johansson, O. 2005. “Austria,” “Energy Geography,” and “Foot-loose Industries.” In R.W. McColl (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of World Geography, Vol. 1*.





### **Thomas J. Malone**

Major 1989-1992

SFC Thomas Malone retired from the U.S. Army Reserves in September 2007 after having served a total of 28 years combined active duty and active and inactive reserves. He was first drafted during the Vietnam War. Malone received a Meritorious Service Award for service to his country. For the past 15 years he has worked in sales for the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

### **Elizabeth Witaker**

Former Major

whitake@alumni.clemson.edu

Elizabeth received her M.A. in History from Clemson University in December 2006. Her thesis was titled "From the Social Margins to the Center: Lebanese in South Carolina before 1950," and is with UMI. She hopes to expand upon it in a dissertation and at least one book. Elizabeth recently arrived back in the DC area, and is presently living temporarily in Fredericksburg, Virginia, while seeking a professional job. She is an applicant to doctoral programs in History in the DC area.



*Ken Orvis caught up with Dr. Jim Speer (Ph.D. UTK 2005) at the 2007 AAG meeting. Jim is an Assistant Professor of Geography and Geology at Indiana State University.*

*Shih-Lung Shaw with his summer 2007 study abroad class at Tiger Hill in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China. Please see Shih-Lung's faculty update on page 18 for more information about the unique opportunity he provided for the Department's students.*



# 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):**







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Knoxville, TN 37996-0925

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