



2015

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Department of Geography

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GEOGRAPHY

2014/ 2015

Volunteer Geographer

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HARRISON AND HAWKS RECOGNIZED AS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Faculty, students, and friends of the Department gathered on October 2, 2014 at the Hodges Library Auditorium on the UT Campus to recognize the Department's 2014 Outstanding Alumni. Ruth Viergutz Hawk (MS 1985) was recognized for excellence in municipal-services planning and mentoring; Dan Hawk (BA 1983, MS 1986) was recognized for outstanding public service to the State of Tennessee; and Glen Harrison (PhD 1986) was recognized for outstanding contributions to international transportation and logistics planning.

Glen Harrison is a Supply Chain Security Consultant with Roltek, Inc. in Clinton, Tennessee. He is currently working with Oak Ridge National Laboratory on a project for the Transportation Security Agency to assess the use of security measures by motor carriers that transport Highway Security Sensitive Materials.

Glen has over 25 years of experience in solving transportation, logistics, and supply chain manage-

ment problems. At Oak Ridge National Laboratory (1986-2011), he worked on projects for the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Agency for International Development, and World Bank. He was the Associate Director of Program Development for the Transportation Research Institute at the University of Kansas (2012-2014).

Glen was an adjunct professor in the School of Business at the University of Kansas teaching Supply Chain Management (2012). He was also an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville teaching courses in Transportation Geography and Supply Chain Management (2000-2001 and 2009-2011). Between 1995 and 1998, he was a visiting senior lecturer in the Department of Resource Management at Lincoln University in New Zealand, teaching Transportation Planning and Geographic Information Systems courses. He has also been a visiting Fulbright Professor in South Korea at Seoul National



Glen Harrison (r) is presented with a plaque by Bruce Ralston, recognizing him as one of three 2014 Department of Geography Distinguished Alumni.

University and taught geography courses at Ewha Woman's University and Yonsei University.

Glen thanked Bruce Ralston for being an inspirational advisor. Glen stated that, "He gave me the freedom to find areas of interest in Business, Civil Engineering, and Geography. He also knew when to pull me back and focus me on finishing my degree. Bruce gave me the opportunity to travel with him to a multitude of wonderful places including rural villages in Bangladesh, bazaars of Bamako, Mali and a celebration of the Buddha's birthday in Seoul."

Glen also recognized former Department Head, Sid Jumper. "He was a wise, compassionate, and visionary leader, with an excellent sense of humor... I learned much about leadership from Dr. Jumper by the way he led the department and the respectful way he treated others."

Ruth Viergutz Hawk has worked in planning and development for 29 years establishing herself as an authority in site design, municipal land use and facilities planning, local regulations, and greenway development. A Wisconsin farm girl, Ruth was influenced by her professor Dr. Brady Foust, a UT Geography PhD alum teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Dr. Foust led her to Knoxville for graduate work after she completed a BS in geography in 1983.

Ruth worked for three years for the Knoxville Metropolitan Planning Commission, three years at the Tennessee State Local Planning Assistance

Office, and two years for the City of Oak Ridge before accepting the position of Farragut Town Planner. She was promoted to Community Development Director in 1995 and served in that capacity until 2013 - guiding planning, zoning, design, and building standards for one of the fastest growing and wealthiest of Tennessee's municipalities.

During her time at Farragut, the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association honored Ruth with its "Tennessee Planner of the Year" award in recognition of her contributions to the Town's quality of growth. Throughout her tenure in Farragut, Ruth mentored many UT Geography interns. She is now serving as the Monroe County, Tennessee Planner, working with the municipal planning programs of Madisonville, Sweetwater, Tellico Plains, and Vonore as well as the Monroe County Regional Planning Commission.

In accepting the award, Ruth said, "The UT Geography Department provided me with a comprehensive background of physical, urban, economic, and cultural geography. All of these aspects of geography comprise what community planning is about. Ultimately, however, the Department showed me that it is about people. The professors and the department leadership cared about their students. They went the extra mile to help us improve educationally, professionally, and personally. Planning is also about people and I learned from my professors that caring about and for people truly defines success. I am extremely grateful to the UT Geography Department for the excellent foundation they provided me and the care they showed me."

After a brief time working in the Computing and Telecommunications division at Oak Ridge National Lab, Dan Hawk accepted a community planning position with the Tennessee Local Planning Assistance Office and, as they say, the rest is history. During his 27-year career with the State of Tennessee, Dan worked as a community planner, regional planning director, State Director of Planning, Community Development Administrator, and the Governor's Director of Rural Economic Development.

Some of the highlights of his career include co-authoring Geographic Information Systems legislation for the State Information Council in 1991, developing an integrated system for GIS use in land use and facilities analysis, supervising the FEMA



Ruth Hawk (l) and Dan Hawk (r) were recognized as 2014 Department of Geography Distinguished Alumni in a ceremony presided over by Department Head Derek Alderman.

flood risk mapping modernization program for the State from 2003 to 2010, oversight of the Connect Tennessee broadband mapping program, working with the Governor's redesign of the Tennessee Three Star Community Development Program in 2012, supervising the development of the Tennessee Industrial Site Certification Program that was designed and implemented by UT Geography PhD graduate Kendrick Curtis, and oversight of the Tennessee Downtown Program implemented in 2009.

Dan has been honored by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Planning Association with its "Tennessee Planner of the Year" award and he was selected as a charter member of the "Tennessee Government Leadership Council." Dan retired from State service in 2013 and now pursues consulting and continuing education services with a number of local governments, NGO's, and university organizations.

At the ceremony, Dan said, "The experience and knowledge I gained from the department have taken me through every step throughout my career. My broad studies in environmental, rural, urban, economic and cultural geography have helped form my professional philosophies and practices. Each of my professors including Ed Hammond, John Rehder, Ted Schumde, Jimmy Carter, Ron Foresta, Tom Bell, Lydia Pulsipher and Bruce Ralston contributed to my confidence and skill that has allowed me to be successful in my career. Sid Jumper, however, is the man who told me how to go out into the workforce and contribute. I will always be grateful for all UT Geography provided me."

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GEOGRAPHY GRAD ANDREW SCHILLER KNOWS ABOUT LOCATION

When Bruce Ralston saw that Andrew Schiller, PhD and chief executive of Location Inc. (MS 1991), was quoted in the New York Times, we invited him to tell us a little about what he does and how his time in the UT Geography Department influenced him.

I have always loved geography, and have always had a love for learning about places: both from the perspective of how places shape us as people, and how places become the way they are. I learned long ago that stereotypes about places do not often reflect the reality of those places. But people always have opinions about places, and share them often, which reinforces stereotypes.

What was needed was a quantitative way to capture the truth about locations. And to capture the cultural character of locations, using facts. Namely, by using math. I created and patented a way to quantify how similar any neighborhood in America is

to any other neighborhood. This is now one of the advanced search features on *Neighborhood Scout*. Just enter a full address in a neighborhood you know and love, then specify where you want to look to find neighborhoods that are most similar to it. Beverly Hills around Knoxville? Sure. This is the best match: <http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/tn/knoxville/rocky-hill/>, although it is not a great match. This helps people understand places. We also developed *SecurityGauge.com*, which delivers instant, objective crime and security risk assessments for any address in America.

As an information entrepreneur, I knew that I needed to intersect creativity with technical capability. The tools I learned from UT Geography helped me hone my interest areas, my analytical skills, and my appreciation for various perspectives.



Continued on Page 4

What I regret was that when I attended UT Geography I hadn't yet gotten bitten by the statistics bug. I wish I had taken classes with Dr. Ralston, in addition to the other fantastic classes I took at the University. Today, I run a growing location-based data company called Location, Inc. Our investors include the founders of MapQuest and CoreLogic, as well as other accomplished business leaders, geographers, and experts in location-based data. UT Geography was such a learning, growing experience for me. I am forever grateful for the education, guidance, and friendships I have from my time in Knoxville.



ANGELA DANOVI WORKS WITH OZARKS WATER WATCH

Angela Danovi (MS 2011), Regional Project Manager for Ozarks Water Watch, credits her experiences as a master's student in UT's Geography Department with preparing for her job responsibilities. Ozarks Water Watch's mission is "to promote water quality in the upper White River basin watershed through bi-state collaboration on research, public policy and action projects in Arkansas and Missouri." Angela focuses on the Beaver Lake Watershed, a critical resource to the Northwest Arkansas area for water supply, economic stability, and quality of life. The lake is the drinking water source for over 400,000 residents.

Since beginning her work with Ozarks Water Watch in 2012, Angela has developed an education and monitoring program called Beaver LakeSmart. She delivers educational materials on best management practices to watershed residents and landowners, assesses their property for runoff issues, and advises on improving water quality, managing septic tanks, and proper boat and dock maintenance. Angela also manages two volunteer monitoring programs, one in the streams of the watershed and one on Beaver Lake. These monitoring programs collect baseline water quality data about Beaver Lake and the streams that feed it. In addition, Angela says, volunteers provide regular feedback about conditions they observe, allowing her organization to respond quickly to concerns.

While at UT, Angela served on the Geography Awareness Week Committee and was a teaching assistant for World Regional Geography and Geography of the Natural Environment. She was also a GK-12 National Science Foundation Fellow and received the Department's Excellence in Field-work award.



"The academic experience I received in the Geography Department was invaluable," Angela said. "The thesis process gave me a foundation to understand future project planning. The science foundation of accessing academic literature and communicating with academic professionals in the field has also been extremely helpful. I'm also glad that I focused my research on phosphorus. Dealing with nutrients, and specifically phosphorus in surface water, is a very big issue here and because of my research I am more confident in discussing nutrient issues and water quality."

To learn more about Ozarks Water Watch, visit www.ozarkswaterwatch.org.



UT GRADS LEAD FIVE WOUNDED WARRIORS AS THEY TAKE TO THE WATER

Two University of Tennessee alumni, Joe Brickey (BS in Electrical Engineering, 1985) and Jill Hottel (BS in Geography, 2004, MS in Geography, 2010), led a group of five wounded warriors on a 12-day scuba trip in the Grand Cayman Islands in August 2014.

The trip was funded by Diving with Heroes (www.divingwithheroes.org), a non-profit organization of which Jill is the Executive Director and Joe is a board member.



Jill Hottel (Brickey), UT '04 and '10, proudly displays her University of Tennessee ball cap, along with five wounded warriors and three Diving with Heroes volunteers. Jill is the Executive director of Diving with Heroes, a non-profit organization dedicated to opening the underwater beauty to our wounded warriors.

The five wounded warriors included members from the US Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserves, Marine Corps, and Navy.

“Scuba diving has allowed me to be the person I have always been,” Staff Sergeant Jade Sharrocks said. “I am a driven person, always looking for the next challenge. I may have limits on what I can do above water, but while diving, there is nothing I cannot do.”

Sharrocks was awarded the Purple Heart in November 2004 for injuries sustained in a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack in Haditha, Iraq.

Another wounded warrior, Lieutenant Colonel Alan Echevarria, US Army Reserves said, “I love every minute I am underwater. I feel different down there, almost like I’m in a different dimension. No noise except your breathing, floating... I feel free.”

“I am so grateful to them (Diving with Heroes) for setting up and making this trip happen,” said Staff Sergeant Tom Altersitz, a veteran of three combat tours in Iraq diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. “Soldiers want to excel, it’s in their nature. Diving is a sport where we can excel despite our injuries. We are injured Soldiers – not broken ones.”

“Diving with Heroes works with the wounded warriors of our armed forces who have been injured serving our nation,” said Jill Hottel, Executive Director, Diving with Heroes. “These warriors have been certified to dive through either PADI (the Professional

Association of Diving Instructors) or the Handicapped Scuba Association (HSA) as a means of physical, emotional and/or social rehabilitation.”

Diving with Heroes was established to ensure that the warriors’ rehabilitation and recreation does not end with their certification but is instead carried over into their everyday lives, Hottel added.

The divers received their dive training through a Wounded Warrior Project grant that funds a growing nation-wide Patriots for Disabled Divers-managed effort. Currently eight dive centers across the United States are certified for the WWP program. This group of wounded warriors all received training at Patriot Scuba, a professional dive training center in Occoquan, Va.

While in Grand Cayman, the group completed 12 dives, including five “wall” dives where divers reached or exceeded the 100’ depth mark, and a dive on the sunken ship the ex-USS Kittiwake.

CAROLINE McCLURE IS 10TH GROSVENOR SCHOLAR

Caroline McClure (BA 2005) has gone on to do great things. Earlier this year she was named the 10th Grosvenor Scholar, and she is spending this academic year working at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.

The Grosvenor Scholar’s Program was developed as a partnership between Texas State University and the National Geographic Society. The scope of work for Caroline includes: support for national policy review and advocacy; research on the status of geographic education; evaluating outreach programs associated with the grassroots network of Geographic Alliances; and support of strategic initiatives in public policy, public engagement, and model programs.



CAROL HARDEN RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS WITH THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Carol Harden has taken an indirect route getting into and, now, leaving academia. Beginning in the summer between her junior and senior years at Middlebury College, she participated in three research expeditions to Mt. Logan (Canada), sponsored by the Arctic Institute of North America. This provided her with the opportunity to be one of the first women to reach the summit of Mt. Logan. After her master's work in geography at the University of Colorado, she spent 12 years working as an instructor, supervisor, and administrator for Outward Bound. She also snuck in some winter employment as an avalanche control and mountain rescue specialist in Solitude, Utah. Carol then decided she was ready to pursue her PhD, bringing her back to Boulder and the University of Colorado.

Since joining the faculty at the University of Tennessee in 1987, Carol has received numerous awards and positions of responsibility related to her teaching, research, and service. These include, but certainly are not limited to:

- Distinguished Research Career at UT Award along with the prestigious College Marshall Award 2014. (College Marshall is the highest college of Arts and Sciences honor awarded to a member of the faculty).
- Distinguished Career Award, Southeastern Division, Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG) 2013.
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science 2010.
- President (elected) of the Association of American Geographers: July 2009 - 2010.
- Appointed to Research & Exploration Committee of the National Geographic Society, 2009.
- Vice President (elected) of the Association of American Geographers, 2008 – 2009.
- Member, Geographical Sciences Committee, U.S. National Academies of Science 2007– 2014, chair of the committee, 2015–2017.
- Distinguished Career Award, Mountain Geography Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers, 2005.
- Fulbright Fellowship (Ecuador), 2004.
- Carol served as Department Head of Geography from 1995-2000 and completed two stints as Interim Department Head, in 2006-2007 and 2009-2012.

When reflecting back on her most satisfying moments in teaching, Carol responded by asserting that they abound because she loves to teach. The highlights for her have been times she has taken students into the field in Ecuador. For example, with funding from an NSF grant, she took four students to Ecuador, one who did his thesis there and three who went as research assistants. She has also taken five K-12 teachers to Ecuador for projects funded by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance and NSF. She cherishes traveling and when she is able to mix that with her passion for teaching, satisfaction is guaranteed.

Carol stated that her research has produced many high points but the travel is such a benefit, often it hasn't seemed like work. Her favorite local research effort has been with the Little River Watershed, which got her out into the field often and served as an outdoor laboratory for many students, including five who used the watershed as a study area for their theses.

Since moving to Knoxville in 1987, Carol has enjoyed witnessing the revitalization of the downtown, especially in the last ten years. While most businesses would close down after 5:00 pm, the areas of the Old City and Market Square now have occupied apartments, are open late, and there are many opportunities to buy locally sourced produce and other goods. She has taken advantage of Knoxville's excellent classical music scene and enjoys the renovated Tennessee Theater. The amazing range of music in the area has made quite an impression on this musician at heart. Carol also appreciates the university's theater program, which brings in and develops high quality productions.



Carol Harden (l) receives a plaque from College of Arts and Sciences Dean, Theresa Lee, recognizing her with the College Marshall Award during the 2014 Winter Convocation.

The numerous outdoor opportunities in and around Knoxville have provided the liberty for getting outside when her busy schedule has allowed.

Carol and her husband have recently purchased a home in Middlebury, Vermont. In the future she is looking forward to a little time off and she sees this as a kind of sabbatical for herself. She will continue to edit the journal, *Physical Geography*, and she has two more years of commitment with the National Geographic Research and Exploration Committee. Beginning next year Carol will chair the Geographical Sciences Committee of the National Research Council. Maybe Carol is planning on slowing down after all...just a little.

YODA AND HIS LINK TO THE UT GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

The death of a 650 year old Douglas-fir in New Mexico that has been studied for a number of years by Henri Grissino-Mayer garnered quite a bit of press in 2014. Here, Henri gives us a little background about this special tree that he named Yoda.

In 1990, Henri Grissino-Mayer was working on his doctoral degree at the University of Arizona. A worker from El Malpais National Monument in Grants, New Mexico, contacted him about coming out to look at a stand of old trees he had found. The worker had stumbled upon the forest stand while helping locate debris from a plane crash that occurred in 1947. To get to the trees, Henri and the national monument employee had to hike about a half mile over unstable basalt. Basalt is difficult to navigate due to its extreme ridges, deep crevasses, instability, and iron content that throws off compasses. To aid navigation, a prominent tree perched on a basalt ledge was used as a landmark for hikers going to and from the stand of old trees. Henri named this tree Yoda because of the way its two large branches extend away from each other and flop down, just like the ears of the character in the film *Star Wars*.

A year later in 1991, Henri returned to the tree to core it. Accompanying him was a small team made up of members from local native tribes and graduate student colleagues from the tree-ring lab at the University of Arizona. For the next two years, Henri made several research trips out to Yoda and the other old trees in the area. He found that Yoda's innermost tree ring dated back to 1406, however he thinks the tree probably more accurately dates back to 1350. Henri used the information collected from Yoda, along with other data collected in the area, to reconstruct historical climate patterns of the region. Yoda became popular within the National Park Service because Henri taught the rangers where to look for it when they were searching out the old trees to show journalists and local youth on field trips. Yoda gained additional popularity when it became better known through a children's book, called *The Tree Rings Tale: Understanding Our Changing Climate*, written by journalist John Fleck of the *Albuquerque Journal*. But Yoda is not just about reconstructing past climate. He and all the other old trees found on the lava flows of El Malpais have deep cultural meaning and societal value to the indigenous peoples living in the area.

In 2011, Henri noticed that Yoda had less foliage than normal, but he did not realize that the tree could be dying because the tree had lived through much worse droughts than the current one affecting the American Southwest. Yoda has continued to deteriorate. In May 2014, former Ph.D. student Grant Harley visited El Malpais and again visited Yoda and the old trees in the area. Yoda had even less foliage but was still living. When Grant returned in August 2014, Yoda had lost all his foliage, a sure sign that he had succumbed to the intense drought. But before Yoda decomposes too far, Henri hopes to get permission from the National Park Service to cut Yoda down and develop a number of beautiful cross sections out of its seven-foot long trunk. These could then be used for teaching and learning in museums, schools, and other public facilities. Yoda still has a story to tell and Henri continues to work to share that story.



Yoda in 2010 with (l-r) Clint Wayman and graduate students Sarah Jones Wayman, Niki Garland, and Grant Harley.

IN MEMORIAM CLARENCE "BUD" MINKLE

Dr. Clarence "Bud" Minkel, former Dean of the UT Graduate School and Professor of Geography who challenged faculty and students to travel and explore the globe to expand their world view, passed away on September 22, 2014 at the age of eighty-six.



Minkel worked at UT from 1979 to 2003 and retired as Dean of the Graduate School.

Minkel specialized in Latin America. He helped establish a program that allowed faculty to take a language course at UT and then travel abroad to have an in-country experience. He also encouraged students to participate

in numerous exchange programs.

In 1998, Minkel was appointed by the U.S. Department of State to negotiate a settlement of a 100-year border dispute between Peru and Ecuador, which he achieved. He traveled widely in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. He was an author and consultant for Encyclopedia Britannica for twenty-eight years and Compton's Encyclopedia for thirteen years.



DEPARTMENT HOSTS DR. J. MARSHALL SHEPHERD AS HAMMOND LECTURER

The Department invited Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd from the University of Georgia (UGA) to deliver the annual Hammond Lecture on January 30, 2014 at the Hodges Library. A reception was held to honor the Hammonds and Dr. Shepherd in the Mary Greer Room of Hodges Library before the presentation.

Dr. Shepherd is a leading international expert in the area of weather, climate, and related sciences. He is the Georgia Athletic Association Professor of Geography at the UGA and Director of the UGA Atmospheric Sciences Program. Dr. Shepherd was the President of American Meteorological Society (AMS) in 2013.

Dr. Shepherd joined the Department of Geography in January 2006. Prior to joining the UGA faculty, Dr. Shepherd spent 12 years as a research meteorologist in the Earth-Sun Division at NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center.

Dr. Shepherd was also Deputy Project Scientist for the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission, which



launched in 2014. He is a Full Professor conducting research and teaching in atmospheric sciences, climatology, water cycle processes, and urban climate systems.

Dr. Shepherd is currently a member of the NASA Precipitation Science team. For his pioneering work using satellite data to investigate urban hydroclimate processes, Dr. Shepherd received the highest federal award given to the Nation's young scientists and engineers. President Bush honored him on May 4, 2004 at the White House with the Presidential Early Career Award (PECASE) for pioneering scientific research. Dr. Shepherd is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and also been recognized by the AMS with its Charles Anderson

Award for his career contributions in the areas of diversity. He recently began hosting a *Weather Channel* talk show called "Weather Geeks."



ALANA BURNHAM MAKES MOST OF UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP

Alana Burnham was the recipient of a 2014 Summer Undergraduate Internship stipend from UT's Office of Research and Engagement. Alana worked as part of a research team, along with the Geography Department's Dr. Micheline van Riemsdijk and master's student Scott Basford, on research designed to better understand the personal and institutional challenges that skilled migrants experience in Norway. Alana began working on the project as a research assistant in January 2014.

An honors student, Alana is majoring in

Environmental and Soil Sciences and pursuing minors in Biology and Watershed. She met Dr. van Riemsdijk when she enrolled in Micheline's honors class "Seven Billion Plus." "I never took a Geography class before, so I thought it would be interesting," Alana said, adding that "Dr. van Riemsdijk was a very good teacher. I really wanted to work more with her."

Alana describes her work on the project as primarily transcribing interviews, but Dr. van Riemsdijk, who describes Alana as "an excellent student," considers her an integral part of the team. She helped on the research plan, the methodology, and the data



analysis, participated in weekly team meetings, and wrote part of the final report. She also captured the study's theoretical model in a diagram.

Alana described the benefits of the internship as follows: "I got a taste of what it is like

to really do research, rather than just to read about it in journals – and to experience how various issues and concerns can change the project over time. I also liked learning about qualitative research because my previous experience was mostly with quantitative methods." She stresses the value of working on an interdisciplinary team, saying, "Many of the world's greatest problems require cooperation between diverse individuals and across disciplines."

Dr. van Riemsdijk describes her role in the Internship Program as that of a mentor and facilitator. "I provided the framework for Alana to develop her skills," Dr. Riemsdijk remarked. Alana is Dr. van Riemsdijk's second student to receive a Summer Undergraduate Internship; the first was Grace Levin in 2012.

Alana presented her research at an Honors Program presentation in November of 2014. An article has also been submitted to the journal *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Alana will graduate in spring 2015. She eventually wants to attend graduate school, but first plans to apply for the Peace Corps and for internships with conservation management programs.

REWARDS NUMEROUS FOR GRAD STUDENT NJOROG GATHONGO

The reward of a thing well done is to have done it. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

For Njoroge Gathongo, PhD student in Geography, a job well done turned out to be more than its own reward. It also turned into funding for his doctoral studies. After receiving his MS in Geography from Miami University in 2012, Njoroge began working for Dr. Dorinda Shelley in her book and antique stores. Now he is attending UT due to Dr. Shelly's philanthropy.

Njoroge, who is from Kenya, says that geography was one of his favorite subjects in high school. "I was very much fascinated with topics that covered the weather patterns, earth and the solar system, maps and map making techniques, distribution of vegetation types across the world, climate, land formation, and forestry," he says, "and my interest in geography was further sparked by my enthusiasm for the environment and for travelling to explore nature." He considered majoring in geography in undergraduate school, but decided to study forestry at Moi University in Kenya instead.

After completing his undergraduate program, Njoroge began working with the Greenbelt Movement - a non-governmental organization dealing with environmental conservation. "At Greenbelt, I was able to travel in different remote locations in Kenya," says Njoroge. "These working trips bolstered my interest in nature and I decided to undertake a master's program in either geography or natural resources management. I applied to the geography program at Miami University. Luckily, I was admitted. And that is how my journey began!"

Njoroge entered UT in the fall of 2013. His advisor is Dr. Liem Tran. His interest in human-environment interactions is evident in his dissertation title - "Human-Nature Interaction: Assessing the Co-adaptation and Co-evolution of the Human Social and Natural Systems at Mt. Kasigau, Kenya."



GEOGRAPHY FACULTY AND STUDENT RECOGNIZED AT THE SEDAAG MEETING



Derek Alderman (l) is pictured with Henri Grissino-Mayer, graduate student Maegan Rochner and Sally Horn at the November 2014 meeting of the Southeastern Division of the AAG meeting in Athens, GA. Henri was recognized with the SEDAAG Research Honors Award. Maegan won the SEDAAG Student Honors Paper Competition (Masters level). Sally was recognized with the SEDAAG Lifetime Achievement Award.

FACULTY MEMBERS HONORED AT ARTS AND SCIENCES WINTER CONVOCATION

On December 3, 2014 at the College of Arts & Sciences Winter Convocation, three Geography faculty members received beautiful plaques and the applause and praise of their colleagues. Dr. Micheline van Riemsdijk received the College's Excellence in Research & Creative Achievement Award (Early-Career). She was noted for her leadership of two major specialty groups in AAG, her NSF-funded research, and her international, publicly engaged scholarship on skilled migration. Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw received the College's Excellence in Research & Creative Achievement Award (Senior Career). He was noted for helping define the field of GIS for Transportation and his path-breaking work on visualizing and modeling time-space geographies. Dr. Carol Harden received the Distinguished Research Career at UT Award along with the prestigious

College Marshall Award. College Marshall is the highest college honor awarded to a member of the faculty. These accolades are a fitting tribute to Dr. Harden as she retired at the end of December 2014.

This is the second year in a row that several UT Geography faculty won college-level awards. In December 2013, Dean Theresa Lee recognized Josh Inwood (early career research award), Henri Grissino-Mayer (senior research award), Ron Kalafsky (junior teaching award), Sally Horn (senior teaching award), and Micheline van Riemsdijk (advising award).

SHIH-LUNG SHAW RECOGNIZED FOR WORK IN TRANSPORTATION

Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw, Alvin and Sally Beaman Professor of Geography, has been named one of five inaugural members of UT's Center for Transportation Research Faculty Fellows Program. The Center was created in 1970 to foster development and research in the field of transportation. The Faculty Fellows Program will improve the level of research and collaboration between researchers. A modest stipend is included with the selection in the hope that the funds will help with both of those goals.



Dr. Shaw is a past recipient of the Edward L. Ullman Award for outstanding contributions to the field of transportation geography of the Association of American Geographers (AAG). He has worked with the Center on a number of transportation and GIS projects over the years, and considers the collaborations very productive and enjoyable. He believes this is an exciting time to pursue transportation research. "GIS can help facilitate human mobility and tackle many transportation challenges." Shaw said.

GRISSINO-MAYER AND KALAFSKY RECOGNIZED AT THE NCGE CONFERENCE



Henri Grissino-Mayer (l) and Ron Kalafsky (r) were recognized at the annual National Conference on Geography Education held in Memphis, TN in August 2014. Henri was recognized with the Geographic Excellence in Media Award and Ron was recognized with the Higher Education Distinguished Teaching Award. This is the second major teaching recognition bestowed upon Dr. Kalafsky. In November of 2013, he received SEDAAAG's Excellence in Teaching Award.



SALLY HORN RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD AT AAG

Sally Horn received the 2014 James J. Parsons Distinguished Career Award from the Biogeography Specialty Group at the annual AAG meeting in Tampa, FL in April. The Parsons Award, named



in honor of long-time University of California-Berkeley professor James J. Parsons, was created in 1998 to recognize outstanding lifetime achievements in the field of biogeography. Criteria used to assess a candidate's merit for this award

include a distinguished research career, remarkable dedication to the development of undergraduate and graduate students in biogeography, and outstanding service to the discipline.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEIL CONNOR

Neil Conner joined the PhD program in Geography in 2011 and has been a graduate teaching associate for four semesters. He received his master's degree in international studies from Old Dominion University and taught high school social studies in Virginia Beach, Virginia, for five years. Students who



have taken Conner's class rate him highly in their evaluations of his teaching, giving him the highest ranking of any graduate teacher in the Geography Department and a score that rivals those of many faculty members.

He has received the Department's Outstanding Teaching Associate Award in recognition of this success. Students say Conner stretches their thinking and engages them with personal stories, enthusiasm, and effective presentations. He often meets with students outside of class to discuss their interest in geography as a major and guide them through career choices. Conner's dissertation research about national identity in Ireland has been recognized and supported by a McClure Scholarship, a departmental McCroskey Award, a Science Alliance Fellowship, and a Seaton Graduate Fellowship. He also has partnered with Associate Professor Ronald Kalafsky to use online case studies developed by the Association of American Geographers, leading to an article co-authored with Dr. Kalafsky.

Earlier this year, Neil was awarded the 2014 Chancellor's Graduate Student Teaching Award, the highest award for graduate student teaching bestowed by the University. In December of 2014, Neil learned that he was one of only ten recipients nationwide of the K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award for 2015. The award is bestowed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities and recognizes "...the finest in the new generation of faculty who will teach and lead higher education in the next decades."

NGS YOUNG EXPLORERS GRANTS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED AT UT

The National Geographic Society chose UT to host a set of events promoting its Young Explorers Grants program. From documenting threatened animals to exploring canyons, the program supports students aged 18 to 25 pursuing field projects in research, exploration, and conservation. This effort was assisted by UT graduate student Annie Meltzer who, at the time, was interning with National Geographic and who now works full time for the organization.

The events on Saturday, September 20, 2014 included a workshop that covered fundamentals of grant writing, provided information about how to apply to for a National Geographic Young Explorers Grants program, and introduced students to National Geographic explorers, conservationists, and researchers.



Graduate student, Nancy Li, at her research site in the Tian Shan mountain range in China. Nancy received National Geographic Young Explorers Grants program funding to support her research.

The program also offered an “Evening of Field Research and Exploration” in the UC Auditorium. Those in attendance heard from Kenny Broad and Mark Synnott about their exploration experiences. Broad, who has a long history of diving and producing documentary films and was named one of National Geographic’s Explorers of the Year in 2011, recounted his diving expedition to one of the most challenging and spectacular frontiers in exploration, the Bahamas Blue Holes. Synnott is an accomplished big-wall climber, free climber, and photojournalist.

He shared highlights from his recent expedition climbing and sailing around Oman’s Musandam Peninsula, which led to several first ascents and appeared in the January 2014 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*.

Grants from National Geographic have helped launch the careers of many renowned archaeologists, anthropologists, astronomers, conservationists, ecologists, geographers, geologists, marine scientists, adventurers, storytellers and pioneers, including many UT faculty members, students and alumni. The Department’s own Nancy Li has been the recipient of a Young Explorers Grant.

MAPPING OUTSIDE THE LINES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM HELD IN 2014

On February 21-22, 2014, Department of Geography graduate students hosted a research symposium entitled “Mapping Outside the Lines: Geography as a Nexus for Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Research.” This was a huge milestone for the Department of Geography – the first such event in the history of the organization, according to Matt Kerr, symposium co-chair. The event brought together over 100 participants from across UT and from around the region and featured dozens of research papers and posters from faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The symposium highlighted the many ways in which geographical research works beyond disciplinary boundaries to provide a stronger understanding of our world through spatial and temporal perspectives.

Dr. William Moseley, Professor and Head of Geography at Macalester College, delivered the keynote address, “The Causes and Consequences of the 2008 Global Food Crisis: Neoliberal Policy Reform and Food Security in West Africa.”

Co-chairs for the symposium were graduate students Melanie Barron and Matt Kerr. Faculty advisors included Drs. Liem Tran, Bruce Ralston, and Micheline van Riemsdijk. The event was co-sponsored by UT’s Ready for the World Program, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, the Association of American Geographers in partnership with Gamma Theta Upsilon, and the Departments of

Geography, Civil Engineering, Sociology, Political Science, History, Microbiology, and Religious Studies, and the School of Information Sciences.

The vision moving forward is for the Symposium to become a permanent biennial event and plans are already underway for the second symposium in February 2016. Building on the success of the first symposium will be key in planning for the next one, according to Tyler Sonnichsen, 2016 symposium committee chair. For more information, contact the committee at UTGeographySymposium@gmail.com and find them on Facebook at [UTK.Geography.Symposium](https://www.facebook.com/UTK.Geography.Symposium).



Dr. William Moseley, Professor and Head of Geography at Macalester College, delivers the keynote address at the inaugural research symposium in February 2014.

In spring semester 2014, the Department of Geography underwent its academic program review, earning high marks from the review team and some excellent suggestions for further advancing its standing in the discipline and university. In particular, the team noted: “The Geography Department is a strong and vital program” that “benefits from excellent leadership, a strong cohort of early-career faculty, enthusiastic students, a sense of mutual support and common purpose which together have created a culture of research and innovation.”

Following up on the program review team’s suggestions, the Department of Geography will be working over the next few years to: (1) identify key disciplinary initiatives in which to focus future faculty hires; (2) develop thematic concentrations or “tracks” for the BA Geography degree; (3) broaden the recruitment of graduate students and increase GTA (graduate teaching assistantship) stipends; and (4) develop curriculum innovations in GIS (geographic information science) to capitalize on the expected acceleration of student demand for these skills.

ALUMNI UPDATE

If you would like to provide an update for the ‘15/’16 newsletter, just email it to Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or complete the form on the back page and mail it to Kurt in care of the Department.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF 10 YEAR ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

All departments at the University of Tennessee undergo a full academic program review once every 10 years. Program reviews consist of a lengthy self-study prepared by the faculty and the Department Head and the hosting of a review team comprised of members from other departments on campus and professors from other universities.

ROBERT VAN BENTHUYSEN (MS 1951) recalls fondly working with Drs. Durand, Worley, Long and Amick. After receiving his MS, he was offered employment with the CIA, TVA and FBI and took the CIA job, where he worked from 1951 – 1975. Robert served in the US Army/Air Corps from 1943-1945 and then on active reserve with the US Air Force from 1952 – 1975, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Robert and his wife Joyce Shaw Van Benthuyesen live in Opelika, AL and celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on December 25, 2014.

Giving 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! Please contact Derek Alderman if you would like more information or if you would like to target your gift in a particular way. 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. You can find information about the specific funds that you can support by visiting the Geography Department's web page and clicking on the "Alumni and Friends" drop down menu.

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.

A Grateful Department

The Department of Geography wishes to thank the following donors who contributed gifts or made pledges from August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014. This generous support helped dozens of students attend regional and national conferences as well as conduct fieldwork necessary for their thesis and dissertation projects. Donations were also used to host distinguished speakers within the Department and equip laboratories in order to enhance the learning and teaching environment of UT Geography. We are indeed grateful and proud to report that the number of donors in 2013-2014 was up 67% from 2012-2013.

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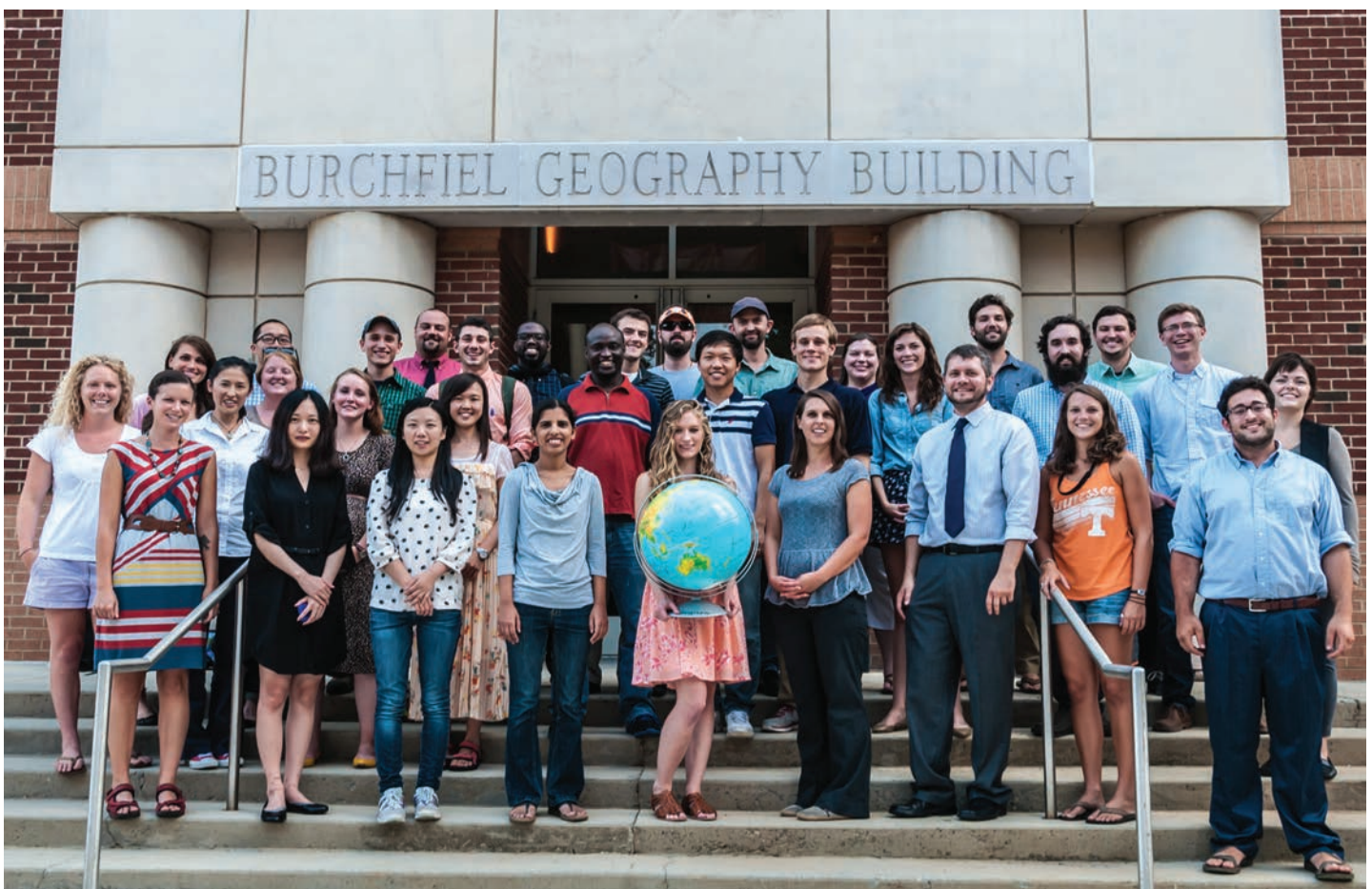
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The 2014-2015 Department of Geography Graduate Students



Learn more about the great things happening
with the Geography Department's students and
faculty by visiting our website at:
<http://geography.utk.edu>

Check out the "News and Highlights" section
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Department of Geography

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