THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

GEOGRAPHY

2013 / 2014

VOLUNTEER GEOGRAPHER

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THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

Shirey and Bright recognized as distinguished alumni

At a special gathering on September 26, 2013 at the Hodges Library Auditorium on the UTK Campus, Dr. Ruth Shirey, (MS 1968, Ph.D., 1970) and Eddie Bright (BA 1980, MS 1982) were recognized as the Department's 2013 Distinguished Alumni.

Ruth Shirey, who retired as a professor of geography at Indiana University of Pennsylvania after 37 years, recently received the Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors Award in Los Angeles at the Association of American Geographers' annual meeting. The professor emerita of geography was recognized for her outstanding efforts in promoting the discipline of geography in elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools.



Ruth Shirey (l) is presented with a plaque by Carol Harden, recognizing her as one of two 2013 Department of Geography Distinguished Alumni.

Ruth served as the executive director of the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) from 1988 to 2002 and as a state coordinator for the Pennsylvania Geographic Alliance for 14 years. She was also the project administrator for the National Geographic Standards Project and participated in the writing of the Pennsylvania state geographic standards.

Through such efforts, she made substantial and lasting contributions to the field of geographic education, leading to her being honored with the Pennsylvania Geographic Society Distinguished Service Award and the NCGE George J. Miller Award for Distinguished Service in 1996.

Her distinguished career was highlighted at the UTK ceremony by Dr. Carol Harden. During her remarks after accepting the award, Ruth noted the profound influences on her education and career by Drs. Robert Long and Loyal Durand.

Continued on page 2.

Our students have received numerous awards for academic performance and to support their research. See pages 5-7.

Eddie Bright, of Oak Ridge National Laboratories, was recognized by Budhu Bhaduri at the Distinguished Alumni ceremony. Bhaduri leads the Geographic Information Science and Technology group within the Computing and Computational Sciences directorate at Oak Ridge.

Eddie is a Senior Research Scientist and leads the Population Distribution and Dynamics team. He is a remote sensing and GIS Specialist, with 30 years of experience in computational analysis, application programming, imagery analysis, data visualization, spatial modeling, and geographic information systems.



Eddie Bright (r) is presented with a plaque by Budhu Bhaduri, recognizing him as one of two 2013 Department of Geography Distinguished Alumni.

Eddie is the Project Leader and developer of ORNL's LandScan Population Distribution Program. LandScan, a high-resolution global population distribution database, is the standard database used by the Department of Defense for estimating populations at risk. In addition, he is the developer of LandScan USA, a very high-resolution population database for the U.S. including diurnal and demographic variations. Previously Eddie served as a principal contributor to the development and implementation of NOAA's Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP).

Eddie began his remarks with the line…"I am an unrepentant geographer." which played well to the partisan crowd. He remembered Drs. Ed Hammond, Sid Jumper and Ted Schmudde as major influences on his success in the program, but also singled out Dr. Jim Carter as the person that opened his eyes to and sparked his passion for computer mapping and data analysis.

Peggy Gripshover appointed as State Geographer for Kentucky

Dr. Margaret M. "Peggy" Gripshover (Ph.D. 1995), associate professor of geography in Western Kentucky University's Department of Geography and Geology, was appointed State Geographer for the Commonwealth of Kentucky by Governor Steve Beshear for a term that will end on January 1, 2014. Peggy, is the first woman to hold the position, which was created by the General Assembly in 1984.

In the past, the State Geographer has been called upon to consult with state officials and planning agencies on such issues as boundaries, mapping, land use, as well as serving as a geographic resource for educators.



Peggy joined the WKU faculty as a cultural geographer in 2009. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and her bachelor's and master's degrees in geography from Marshall University. Prior to arriving at WKU, she was a faculty member at the University of Tennessee and Marshall University. While at Tennessee, Peggy received the Chancellor's Teaching Award, the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award, and an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers.

Kendrick Curtis promoted at ECD

Here is a story with very deep UTK Geography roots. Tennessee Economic and Community Development (ECD) announced in July 2013 the promotion of Kendrick Curtis (MS 2003, Ph.D. 2008) to Director of Community and Rural Development. Curtis has been with ECD for eight years, most recently serving as Technical Program Director. Prior to that, he worked as geographic information systems manager and community planner

with the local planning assistance office in Knoxville.

Kendrick replaced Dan Hawk (BA 1983, MS 1986) who retired after 27 years of service to the state. During that time Dan held numerous positions including State Director of Rural Economic Development, ECD Community Development Administrator, State Planning Director and regional duties in the Knoxville area directing and providing planning assistance to cities and counties.

In his new role, Kendrick will oversee ECD's involvement in several key areas: Select Tennessee Certified Sites, Retire Tennessee, Tennessee Main Street, Tennessee Downtowns, Tennessee ThreeStar as well as coordinate between local governments, FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As a whole, ECD's Community and Rural Development works to provide all rural counties and small towns with tools necessary to prepare and compete for new jobs and to sustain the existing economic condition while retaining traditional manufacturing employment. It also focuses on all employment opportunities, no matter the business sector, and strives to expand creative business ideas that take advantage of local assets.



Mark Spond named ASU liaison to the Blue Ridge Parkway

Dr. Mark Spond (Ph.D. 2011), a research assistant professor in Appalachian State University's Department of Geography and Planning, has been named the University's liaison to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

"This is one of the first positions that I have seen advertised anywhere that really captures a lot of the things that I want to do for a career," said Spond, who has worked in the ASU Department of Geography and Planning for the past year.

Appalachian State established the liaison to the Blue Ridge Parkway position in 2006 to promote opportunities that mutually benefit university students, faculty/staff, and alumni as well as the parkway and National Park Service. Those opportunities include research and public service projects that help the parkway's management team during a time of continued funding cuts, and provide service-learning opportunities for students.

An internship at Arches National Park in Utah while an undergraduate at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock gave Spond the confidence to major in something he really enjoyed, he said. After his experience, Spond switched majors from accounting to history, with an emphasis on public history. He later interned at the National Park Service's Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Arkansas.

He went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee.



"All of these things that have been a life-long interest tie into this position," Spond said. "The parkway is certainly much more than just a road. It's an historical story, an ecological story. It spans decades of modern history, but the landscape spans thousands of years of human and natural history.

"This job will allow me to help place some of our best students in internship positions at the Blue Ridge Parkway and throughout the National Park Service system," he said. "Our student base at Appalachian is a great resource for the park service."

From: January 15, 2013 ASU News Electronic Newsletter
http://www.news.appstate.edu/2013/01/15/mark-spond/

In memoriam
Elizabeth Mills Hammond

Long-time friend to and supporter of the Geography Department, Elizabeth Hammond, died peacefully at home on Wednesday evening, May 22, 2013 at the age of 95. She was married for 69 years to Ed Hammond, former professor and Department Head, who passed away in 2010.

Elizabeth majored in English at the University of Missouri, Columbia, earning a number of academic honors, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Although she spent a great deal of time studying and had to work for her room and board while at MU, she found time for several activities, including the Women's Glee Club. It was at a concert featuring this organization where her future husband, Ed Hammond, first saw her. He used to say, "I picked her out of a chorus line." Elizabeth and Ed graduated from MU in the class of 1939.



Following graduation, Elizabeth taught English at high schools in Rogersville and Licking, Missouri. She and Ed were married in Columbia on December 28, 1940. This began her odyssey around the country, as Ed began graduate school in geography at the University of California - Berkeley, and Elizabeth worked for the telephone company in Oakland. It was a happy time, as their resources were just enough to allow them to explore the San Francisco Bay Area in their Model A Ford.

When World War II broke out, Ed enlisted in the Navy. He and Elizabeth moved to Annapolis, Maryland, where he served with the Office of Strategic Services and trained at the U.S. Naval Academy. Their first child, Janet (Jay) Elizabeth, was born in 1943 at the Naval Academy Hospital. The family then moved to Gearhart, Oregon, where Ed was stationed for several months, training and awaiting the commissioning of his assigned ship. While Ed served in the Pacific Theater in the late stages of the War, Elizabeth moved back to Columbia, Missouri, to live with Ed's parents, and to give birth to their second child, Richard Edwin. In a 1995 memoir of his war experience, Edwin wrote of Elizabeth, "Her tasks and stresses during the war years were at least as hard and stressful as my own. She kept the faith throughout, was always in my heart, and has remained there through the succeeding half-century."

After the War, Elizabeth returned with Ed to Berkeley, where he resumed his Ph.D. studies and their third child, Lawrence Alan, arrived. Then it was on to Lincoln, Nebraska, and Badger Village, Wisconsin, before they settled for a long spell in Madison, Wisconsin, where Ed taught at the University of Wisconsin and they raised their three children. While there, Elizabeth was an active member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

In 1964 Ed and Elizabeth moved to Syracuse University in New York, and in 1970 finally came to Knoxville, where they made their permanent home, and Ed served as head of the Geography Department at UTK. Elizabeth was a devoted wife and companion to Ed. She supported his academic career in geography through nearly five decades, as typist for his doctoral dissertation, as a faculty wife, and, finally, as department head's wife in Knoxville. She shared with Ed a love of landscapes, geology, birds, and wildflowers, especially those of Colorado and the Rocky Mountains, where they summered many years. Elizabeth accompanied Ed, children, and family dogs on hikes to the summits of many of Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks. With Ed, she enjoyed music, books, plays of many kinds, wit and humor, words and word games, dogs, and family singing, and passed these down to her children and grandchildren. Her clear, true, sweet soprano voice carried the melody in family song always, in all venues, seasons, and stages of her family's life, and through her own last days.

Department welcomes Kelsey Scheitlin to the faculty

Dr. Kelsey Scheitlin is a physical geographer specializing in applied meteorology and climatology. She received her Ph.D. from Florida State University and came to the Department from Longwood University in Virginia.

Her research utilizes a variety of statistical and spatial analysis methods in order to advance our understanding of tropical cyclones, tornadoes and human-environment interactions.



Much of Kelsey's research is in atmospheric hazards, particularly tropical cyclones. She often studies tropical cyclones from a spatial perspective. Because the climatic variables that dictate tropical cyclone movement undulate in a somewhat regular manner, tropical cyclone tracks create patterns across space. Kelsey views these patterns in two ways: a given location is likely to be struck by a specific storm track type, or a given climate scenario is likely to generate a specific track. Her research investigates questions such as "Must extreme hurricanes take particular pathways before making landfall?" and "What information can current storm tracks provide about historical tropical cyclone tracks?"

Kelsey's interest in tornadoes began when she participated in her first storm chase while earning her M.S. at Mississippi State University, and since then she has made an annual trip to the Great Plains each May to witness supercell thunderstorms and tornadoes firsthand. While some people collect data during the tornado, her research happens after the event. She has worked with researchers at other institutions to analyze the spatial and temporal bias in tornado reports and tornado fatalities.

Kelsey is also interested in how humans impact their local climate, and how they are affected by atmospheric hazards and climatic conditions. For example, she has analyzed how land use alters the microclimate of an area, and the relationship between climate and suicide rates.

Kelsey teaches students the basics of weather and climate in the first segment of the Department's introductory physical geography course (Geography 131), as well as advanced courses in climatology and meteorology.

Graduate student Liz Schneider racks up awards

Liz Schneider was recently awarded the Best Master's Proposal Award from the Biogeography Specialty Group of the AAG in spring 2013 semester, which came with a $500 award.



In spring 2013, Liz was also awarded one of the most prestigious awards in wildland fire science when she won the Best Master's Research Award from the International Association of Wildland Fire. This is an international competition that came with a $2500 award. Liz is now featured on the IAWF web site.

In just her second semester in the Department, she teamed up with Lauren Stachowiak to conduct a dendroarchaeological project on a historic structure in Meigs County, Tennessee at the request of the Meigs County Historical Association -- not only did they finish the project, but a manuscript was submitted, accepted, revised, and is now in press (due out in January 2014) in the Web of Science journal *Tree-Ring Research* with Liz as second author.

This past summer, Liz was the lead on a funded project from the Tennessee Historical Commission, on which she conducted research. She is now working on a manuscript as senior author for another Web of Science journal.

Like the UTK Geography Department on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/UTKGeography

Check out the new Geography Department website at:

http://web.utk.edu/~utkgeog/

Melanie Barron wins the Gene Mitchell Gray Pioneer Award

Ph.D. student Melanie Barron was presented the 2013 The Gene Mitchell Gray Pioneer Award, a university-level honor, awarded by the Commission for Blacks to a student who has demonstrated a commitment to the spirit of cultural enrichment and the appreciation of differences on campus. Melanie teaches Geography 101 and conciously incorporates social justice issues into her teaching.



Melanie also has been meeting with other graduate student teachers to form a group who are interested in expanding their teaching of social justice and diversity-related topics. She is building a strong community of teachers who can improve students' social cultural competency through their teaching and interactions. The goal is to use innovative teaching methods that resonate with students. Melanie also is engaged on campus as a member of the Progressive Student Alliance, an organization that works for social and economic justice.

Gengen He receives NSF grant to conduct research in Japan



Graduate student Gengen He was selected by the National Science Foundation to receive an *East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes* award. This very competitive award is open to all U.S. graduate students in science, engineering, and education. The total award was approximately $15,000.

As a result of the grant, Gengen spent three months (June – August, 2013) conducting research with Dr. Toru Ishikawa at the University of Tokyo in Japan on a project entitled "Investigating Collaborative Navigation in a Culturally Unfamiliar Setting", which combines transportation, technology, human cognition and behavior in the research.

Undergraduate Sarah Bleakney receives multiple awards

Sarah Bleakney, undergraduate major in Geography, was selected to participate in an NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) project in Costa Rica in summer of 2013. Over 100 students from across the country applied for seven spots. She worked with students and faculty on research in tropical meteorology and climatology, at the montane rainforest site in Costa Rica. The NSF REU project in which Sarah participated was directed by Dr. Chris Houser in the Geography Department at Texas A&M University.



Sarah also received an *Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship* from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This prestigious award provides two years of financial support for Sarah's undergraduate work in geography and a research internship in summer 2014.

But there's more. Sarah also applied for and received a NASA internship. She couldn't fit that one into her schedule and thus had to decline, but she still considered it an honor. Sarah is also active in Club Geography.

Paul Lemieux wins NOAA grant to conduct research on remote sensing

Geography undergraduate major Paul Lemieux received a prestigious award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to conduct research this past summer at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.



Paul put his geography training to work investigating how NASA remote sensing data can be used to better characterize and understand issues associated with human health and climate change, particularly in the southeastern U.S., and how results can be used to assist in making better decisions on public health and the impacts of climate on humans and the environment. Paul worked with NASA scientists to analyze remotely sensed data, and then integrate the data into a GIS format to perform modeling of human and environmental factors related to climate and projected impacts and outcomes from climate models.

Erik Schmidt wins AAG student poster competition in Los Angeles

Undergraduate Erik Schmidt won the Study of the American South Specialty Student Poster Competition at the AAG group's annual conference in Los Angeles. Erik was one of our most accomplished undergrads at Tennessee. Indeed, because of his GPA and research, Erik was recognized at the spring 2013 graduation ceremony as one of the top majors in Geography and the entire College of Arts & Sciences. Since winning the AAG award, Erik decided to stay in Knoxville to pursue his MS degree in Geography.



Dr. Sally Horn honored as Betty Lynn Hendrickson Proffessor

Sally Horn has been named a Betty Lynn Hendrickson Professor for the period of 2013 to 2015. This college-level award recognizes faculty members with outstanding teaching and research accomplishments.



Miss Betty Lynn Hendrickson received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Sociology in 1953. She was a resident of Clinton, Tennessee at the time of her death. The award was established to honor her memory and is intended to recognize faculty members with outstanding teaching and research accomplishments. The Geography Department has a distinguished history of its faculty receiving this award with Sally and Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw each having received it twice since its inception.

McClure scholorship award winners present research



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Derek Alderman, Neil Conner, Anna Alsobrook and Scott Basford. The three graduate students, who had received McClure scholarships for international field study for thesis or dissertation research, presented their research at the W.K. McClure Symposium for the Study of World Affairs in November 2013.

Teacher wins geography teaching award with help from the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science

In March of 2013 Phillip Lewis, a 5th grade teacher at Talbott Elementary School in Jefferson County, Tennessee was presented the Lottie and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year award from the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. The award is given annually to an outstanding geography teacher in grades K-6 and is made possible by a generous donation to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance from the Tom and Bruce Ralston families.

One of the things that stood out in the letter of recommendation from Phillip's principal was his innovative use of a section of a Red Oak tree as a historical timeline and a geographic and scientific tool for his students. The large section (pictured) was salvaged by workers at the request of Phillip after the tree had fallen on a local church during a storm in north Knox County. It was prepared and dated by our own Dr. Henri Grissio-Mayer and his students in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Science at UTK.



One of Phillip Lewis' 5th grade students places a label for a historic event that she researched on a tree ring that corresponds to the date of that event on a section of the Red Oak.

Department receives 35 geospatial software licenses from IAVO Research and Scientific



(Pictured left to right) Derek Alderman, Head of the Geography Department , with IAVO's Matt Heric, Chief Executive Officer, and Brad Grinstead, Senior Vice President.

IAVO Research and Scientific is in the process of making a very significant gift-in-kind of 331 licenses of the IAVO Geospatial Software Suite to University of Tennessee. This gift will have an impact on more than 20 different departments across nine academic units on both the UTK campus and the UT Institute of Agriculture. Among those units is the Department of Geography, which is receiving 35 licenses.

The IAVO software will help advance the university's Top 25 goal by: being cross disciplinary, with multiple applications across disciplines campus wide; being at the cutting edge of software development within the industry; providing faculty and students with an additional tool to accelerate research and the educational experience; providing UT with a new corporate partner for solving the problems of our time and improving the lives of fellow citizens.

Dr. Matt Heric, CEO of IAVO, is pictured left. He recently joined the Geography Department as an adjunct faculty member. He has a BS (geography) from the University of Georgia, a MS (geography) from South Carolina, and a PhD (Educational Research) from Virginia Tech.

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, 2012 to July 31, 2013. 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 UTK Geography. We are indeed grateful!

Belle Meade Animal Hospital
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Bradley J. Wolford
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Alumnus Lou Fatale recalls his time at UT and its impact on his life

As I reminisce on my time as a graduate student at UTK Geography (1980-1982), many things run through my mind:

Ed Hammond teaching me attention to detail and working tirelessly on my writing (his favorite comment on the content of my early writing samples was "painfully thin!"); Bruce Ralston trying to instill in me the importance of humility (a losing battle by the way); Sid Jumper constantly calling me "FATAL", like I was some kind of dreaded disease sent down from Yankeedom, and John Rehder and Lydia Pulsipher who always lent a sympathetic ear.



Juan Perez (l), Systems Division Chief at the U.S. Army Geospatial Laboratory, presents a USGS survey marker to Lou Fatale on the occasion of Lou's retirement on May 1, 2013.

But it was the guidance of Ted Schmudde as my mentor that most influenced my career and my life. It was during the one-week mandatory field exercise between my first and second years that Ted's influence began to take shape. My initial lesson took place as we entered the motel room the first night of my fieldwork. I couldn't find the light switch no matter how hard I searched. A few minutes later, Ted walked in and immediately flipped on the light. I asked him how he knew where to find it and he answered: "it will become apparent to you once you get your Ph.D." That was classic Ted! As the week progressed, Ted quickly realized that fieldwork was my element and encouraged me to incorporate it into the completion of my thesis.

I realized I enjoyed being in the field and collecting and analyzing data that had never been examined before. There was always something new to learn and often the results were surprising, especially if it was a new field of investigation. I honed my skills during the thesis work and carried this experience into my career with the U.S. Army Geospatial Laboratory (1987-2013).

The advent of a widespread Global Positioning System (GPS) constellation gave scientists the ability to collect precise real-time measurements and gave me the first chance to put my field skills to work. GPS was in its infancy during these years; it was not routinely available as it is today. It also had not been evaluated, especially in terms of accuracy for hand-held devices. We used GPS for many of our early studies and, as a result, we were able to amass tens of thousands of field control points which played an important role in validating the accuracy of GPS as we know it today.

The Army also needed to evaluate the fidelity of newly emerging digital feature and elevation data models. From 1989 to 2005, I had the privilege of coordinating, supporting and (co)authoring over 20 field studies/articles/publications using various GPS, GIS, and geospatial intelligence techniques. All these efforts provided valuable feedback to our soldiers.

Topics I examined included Line-of-Sight (LOS) and slope analyses, a benchmark evaluation of the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM, which provided near global 30-meter resolution elevation data for the first time) and the prediction of vegetative understory from overstory parameters.

The latter was especially interesting from a geography standpoint. The purpose of the study was to develop a method to quickly predict understory density from imagery to support near real-time Army operations on a global scale. However, it was cost-prohibitive to collect field data at all the global sites required. To solve this problem, I was able to collect pertinent climate and weather data for various U.S. sites and then identify a series of analog locations that represented over 80% of the world's vegetative biomes. The concept and results of this work received the Army's highest modeling and simulation award in 2001.

The above cases are just a few examples of the type of geospatial intelligence issues that the Army and Defense communities address every day and they show how geography and geographic concepts can be brought to bear on many of them. As such, UTK geography can and should play a critical role.

Obviously, the knowledge and skills I accumulated at UTK played a major role in my success. I will always be grateful for that and to the memory of the people who made it possible...especially Ted, Sid, Ed, and John. You will be missed!

- Lou Fatale
UTK Geographer

ANNOUNCING

THE INAUGURAL UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: "MAPPING OUTSIDE THE LINES: GEOGRAPHY AS A NEXUS FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH"

On February 21-22, 2014, the graduate students of the Department of Geography at will host a research symposium entitled "Mapping Outside the Lines: Geography as a Nexus for Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Research." This event will bring together faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students from across UT and from around the region to participate in two days of workshops and sessions to share research. The overarching goal of the symposium is to highlight the many ways in which geographical research works beyond disciplinary boundaries to provide a stronger understanding of our world through spatial and temporal perspectives.

This will be the first time that the Geography Department's graduate students have hosted a research symposium, despite existing precedents from other departments at UT. By holding this event, they are striving to build collaborations between different departments and institutions, expose geographical research as an exciting and cutting-edge discipline, show that research can be strengthened by including spatial and temporal processes that operate in our physical and social world, and establish a foundation for future graduate students to build upon.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. William Moseley, Professor and Head of Geography at Macalester College. Dr. Moseley will also speak as a guest in several geography classes and attend events in conjunction with the symposium. He will draw upon his expertise in political ecology, tropical agriculture, environment and development policy, and livelihood security—primarily focused on Africa—to guide his presentations.

Attendance at the symposium is free and open to all who wish to participate, including faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students. Faculty and grad students are invited to give podium presentations, while undergrads may enter a poster competition. Alumni in the area are invited to attend the symposium.

The event is co-sponsored by The University of Tennessee College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, and the Departments of Geography, Sociology, Political Science, History, Microbiology, and Religious Studies.

For more information visit: http://web.utk.edu/~utkgeog/graduates/1070-2/

Find it on Facebook at UTK.Geography.Symposium

ALUMNI UPDATES

If you would like to provide an update for the '14/'15 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.

Paul E. Johnson (MS 1978) of Knoxville, Tennessee, is enjoying an early retirement after nearly 34 years as a Transportation Geographer at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Paul worked with issues of hazardous materials transportation and as a subject matter expert on the U.S. railroad system. Currently he fills his free time with reading, volunteering as an instructor for the AARP Driver Safety program, and playing tennis.

Paul can be reached at: pjohnson1@knology.net

Learn more about the great things happening with the Geography Department's students and faculty by visiting our Community Blog at:

http://utkgeographyblog.blogspot.com

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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. We'll update our alumni database so you continue to receive the Newsletter and include your news in the next edition.

Name: _____

Degree(s) if any; and Year(s): _____

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NEWS… (employment, career activities, family, achievements, awards, publications, travel, other...)