

Eric Brown Repeats as Tennessee Geographic Bee Winner

By Charlie McRorie

Eric Brown did it again! The eighth grade student from McCallie School in Chattanooga defeated cross-town rival Brian Douglas in an exciting televised final round at the Tennessee Geographic Bee. Eric was also the 1999 winner of the state Bee. In fact, Brown has earned a berth as one of the top 100 geography students in the state four consecutive times. Last year, the son of Philip and Jackie Brown finished as one of the top ten in the nation.

Here are the final three questions that put Eric over the top. See how you would have done. "The German government has moved to Berlin from what former capital city?" "Punjabis are the largest single ethnic group in which Asian country?" "The port city of Campeche is a service center for the offshore oil industry. This city is on what large peninsula?" The answers to these questions are on page 11.

The second-place finisher this year was Brian Douglas, an eighth-grader at St. Jude School in Chattanooga. Finishing out the top ten in the state were: David Bell, a 7th grade home schooled student from Newport; Whitney Thomas, a seventh-grader from Defeated Elementary School in Defeated, Tennessee; Aaron Powell, an eighth grade student from the Memphis Home Education Association in Memphis; Knoxville native Eric Luttrell, a sixth-grader from Cedar Bluff Middle School; Austin Maness, an eighth-grader from Richview Middle School in Clarksville; Artur Sheth, an eighth-grader from West Valley Middle School in Knoxville; Matt Mason, an eighth grade student from Oolewah Middle School in Chattanooga; and seventh-grader Chris Sailer from Ellis Middle School in Hendersonville.

When asked what inspired him to become such a scholar in geography, Eric gave the credit to his father. Since the Tennessee Geographic Bee is limited to students in grades 4-8, Eric has made his last appearance in the state tournament. This brilliant

scholar though, probably has loftier goals already in his sights.

This year's preliminary round was held on the campus of Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. The final televised round took place at the studios of NPT Channel 8 in Nashville. This year's final round moderator was Tim Ross, and Robert B. Sims, Senior Vice-president of the National Geographic Society, presented the finalists and their teachers with their awards. Brenda Whitsell of Gallatin was the director of the state Bee.



Kurt Butefish Takes Position as Alliance Program Administrator

By Charlie McRorie

After a lot of searching for the right person, the Tennessee Geographic Alliance has named Kurt L. Butefish to the position of Program Administrator.

Butefish grew up in East Tennessee, and was a geography major when attending the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Kurt earned his bachelor's degree in June 1984, and then completed his master's degree in geography in August 1986. His field of concentration was cartography and remote sensing.

While at the University of Tennessee, he served two years as a graduate teaching assistant. At the same time, he was the manager/head cartographer at the Cartographic Production Facility at the university. In his final year of graduate school, he was a research assistant in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Lab at the University of Tennessee. He specialized in producing maps and graphs for professional journals, classroom use, professional presentations, books and dissertations.

Butefish (Continued on Page 3)



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Tennessee Geographic Alliance Fall Workshops

Nashville

When: Wednesday, October 4

Where: McMurray Middle School

Time: 4 – 6 p.m.

Topic: "Passage to India"

Main Speaker: Keith Bell, Volunteer State Community College

Contact: Catherine Kelly (615) 333-5126

Chattanooga

When: Tuesday, October 3

Where: Girls Preparatory School (GPS) in the Caldwell Commons

Time: 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Topic: "Computer Applications in the Classroom" (PowerPoint, hyperlinking, games, etc.)

Extras: Free food, prizes, and lots of fun!

Knoxville

When: Thursday, September 28

Where: University Center, Univ. of Tenn.

Time: 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Registration begins at 4:00)

Topic: "Water Conservation Resources"

Main Speaker: Ted Nelson, Tennessee Valley Authority

Extras: Free parking (bring your parking pass to be validated), teaching materials, prizes and food!

Gallatin

When: Thursday, September 21

Where: Sumner County Teachers' Center

Time: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Susan Bunn or Sonja Glaser
(615) 264-6093

Murfreesboro

When: Thursday, September 7

Where: Erma Siegel Elementary School

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Carolyn Anderson (615) 223-1963

Tri-Cities

When: Tuesday, October 10

Where: Indian Trail Middle School, 307 Carmol Drive, Johnson City

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Topic: "Simulations: Hands on Lessons"

Speakers: Dr. Denee Mattioli and Cherie Chapman Phillips

Extras: Food, prizes, and other freebies



The Alliance Office Has Moved !!!

Our New Address:

*Tennessee Geographic Alliance
The University of Tennessee
c/o Department of Geography
304 Burchfiel Geography Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925*



Announcing 2001 Summer Workshops

The Tennessee Geographic Alliance will be sponsoring at least two workshops during the summer of 2001. One will focus on some aspect of Population and one will be the Charlie McRorie led Geography and Educational Technology Workshop. We have talked about taking at least one of the workshops on the road to the Middle Tennessee area. Once the topics, dates, and locations are firm, Alliance members will be notified through a special mailing.



Announcing the Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award

The first TOM AND STELLA MULLANE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD will be presented during the 2001 GEOFEST. It is bestowed for superior achievements in the teaching of geography in the K-12 schools. Elementary, Middle School, and Secondary teachers are eligible. This award carries a \$500 cash prize. Nominations for the award will be requested in the February 2001 Newsletter.

Butefish (Continued from Page 1)

During his time as a research assistant, he conducted research contributing to the National Park Service's project titled, "Evergreen Vegetation Mapping in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park".

He moved to Huntsville, Alabama, after receiving his master's degree to work for the Intergraph Corporation, a computer graphics firm that develops GIS software. He served in a number of roles at Intergraph after 1986, eventually becoming a manager and system consultant.

Kurt and his wife Susan, who is also a geographer, returned to Knoxville in May to assume his new role with the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. Those of you who have attended workshops this summer have probably encountered this energetic young man. When asked what he enjoys most about his new job, he enthusiastically responded, "The people, by far! It is so refreshing to be around people who are excited about what they are doing." He has been impressed by the amount of travel that alliance members have done, and he loves the way teachers incorporate their personal travel experiences into their instruction.

Look for Kurt at local workshops and make him feel welcome. If you wish to contact him, his e-mail address is kbutefis@utk.edu.



Announcing GEOFEST 2000

November 4, 2000

Please join us Saturday November 4 on the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville for this year's edition of the Tennessee Geofest.

The theme for Geofest is the same as for Geography Awareness Week – HERE TODAY, HERE TOMORROW – A GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS ON CONSERVATION.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. outside the University Center Auditorium and the opening session is at 8:45 a.m. This year's keynote speaker is yet to be determined at press time, however, Sid has promised no one of less prominence than a presidential candidate. Following the keynote, participants will choose from among several interesting sessions from 10:00 – 12:00. We will break for lunch on our own from 12:00 – 1:00 and reconvene for final sessions from 1:15 – 2:00.

Last year's afternoon fieldtrip was such a success that we have included one on this agenda.

At 2:30, the Alliance's new Program Administrator, Kurt Butefish, will lead a trip to Knoxville's Ijams Nature Center for an afternoon of activities. Our host at Ijams, Peg Beute, has put together a program that includes brief presentations on the functions of the Nature Center, water quality work being done there, and a special resident guest. Participants may then wander their interpretive center, beautiful gardens, or take a hike with Kurt. He hikes rain or shine and recommends good walking shoes. Space is limited so preregistration is required.

A registration form is included in this newsletter. Please also check out the "Call for Presentations/Workshops for Geofest 2000" also in this issue.



AP Human Geography is Topic at AAG Meeting in New York

The Geography Education Specialty Group intends to develop a special program to encourage AP Human Geography (APHG) teachers to attend the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers in New York City, February 27-March 3, 2001.

The plan is to invite key geographers to make special presentations with a focus on significant APHG topics at key points during the conference. In addition, papers offered throughout the meetings of particular use and interest to APHG teachers will be identified. Teachers who take part in the program by attending these APHG sessions will be given a certificate of completion acknowledging their participation.

For more information please contact:

Sarah Witham Bednarz
Department of Geography
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-3147
(409)845-1579
FAX (409)862-4487
s-bednarz@TAMU.EDU



Registration for the Tennessee Geofest

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

November 4, 2000

Registration fees are as follows:

- Pre-registration for conference only - \$10.00
- Pre-registration for conference and field trip - \$15.00
- On-site registration - \$25.00 (No field trip)

Saturday, November 4 (Detailed information will be in the meeting program)

8:00 - 8:45 — Registration — Auditorium, University Center

8:45 - 9:45 — Opening Session — Auditorium, University Center

Keynote address TBD

10:00 - 10:55 — Workshops and Presentations

11:10 - 12:00 — Workshops and Presentations

12:00 - 1:00 — Lunch — On Your Own

1:15 - 2:00 — Workshops and Presentations

2:30 - 4:30 — Field Trip to Ijams Nature Center with Host – Peg Beute

Presentations at the Nature Center will be on Ijams and their programs, water quality work being done at Ijams, and a special guest from the Nature Center. You may then wander through their interpretive center, beautiful gardens, or take a hike with Kurt (rain or shine, good walking shoes highly recommended).

Personal Information

Your Name _____

Home Address _____

Street & Number

City

State

Zip

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____ Fax Phone _____

Name of School _____

Amount Enclosed

Advance Registration for Meeting — \$ 10.00 \$ _____

Advance Registration for Field Trip — \$ 5.00 \$ _____

(No on-site registration will be available for field trip)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED — \$ _____

For advanced registration, this form and a check made out to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance must be received in the Alliance office no later than October 20, 2000. Programs will be mailed to advance registrants.

Mail registration form and check to: Tenn. Geog. Alliance, Dept. Of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925, ATTN: Kurt Butefish. Direct E-Mail inquiries to kbutefis@utk.edu.

**Free Teaching Materials. Renew Old Friendships. Make New Friends.
Enhance Professional Qualifications.**

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS FOR GEOFEST 2000

Would you like to offer a presentation or workshop during Geofest ???

The theme for Geofest is the same as Geography Awareness Week – HERE TODAY HERE TOMORROW – A GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS ON CONSERVATION. Sub-topics are POPULATION – “Keep it Green Please” FRESH WATER – “How Much Water Do We Use?” BIODIVERSITY – “Create a Schoolyard Habitat” and OCEANS – “Sanctuaries – A Safe Harbor” More information about GAW can be found at www.nationalgeographic.com/gaw

We encourage all presentations to fit within the general themes above. Presentations/workshops must not exceed a maximum of 40 minutes.

We are trying something new this year. If we get enough interest, one of the sessions will be a learning activity or lesson plan swap. Participants would bring in 30 or so copies of a description of their favorite learning activity or lesson plan that relates to conservation. The description should be two pages or less and include a list of materials needed in the classroom, estimated time to complete the activity, and explicit instructions on delivering the lesson. We will give each participant a small block of time during the session to discuss his or her contribution. We received some comments during the summer institutes that such handouts would be beneficial, especially at the elementary level. Here is an opportunity to help each other.

If you wish to present during Geofest, please complete and return the form below postmarked no later than October 10, 2000. Send it to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925, ATTN: Kurt Butefish.

Personal Information

Your Name _____

Home Address _____
Street & Number *City* *State* *Zip*

Home Phone _____ — _____ — _____ *Work Phone* _____ — _____ — _____

E-Mail Address _____

School _____

Paper Title or Subject Area (or) Name of Learning Activity or Lesson Plan:

Please clearly indicate if you are presenting a paper or lesson plan.

Length of presentation (in minutes):

Grade Level (K-4 / 5-8 / 9-12):

Equipment Needs:

Brief Abstract:

Notes from NCGE Alliance Meeting, August 2000

Kurt Butefish attended the meeting of Geographic Alliance Coordinator's hosted by the National Geographic Society at the National Council for Geographic Education Annual Meeting in August 2000. The following is a condensed version of his notes.

The moderator was Lanny Proffer, Director of the National Geographic Society Education Foundation (NGSEF).

Lanny first introduced Jim Binko who discussed a new professional development project by Cambridge Studios. The program will produce eight, one-hour videos on World Regional Geography which will ultimately be made available to teachers. Binko will be looking for 16 teachers to be a part of the videos. He will be getting back to the Alliances soon with additional information. Stay tuned.

Lanny next introduced Lisa Hungness the new NGSEF Webmaster.

He then related the following changes in how the NGSEF will be operating starting this fall.

NGSEF is still in the process of developing the new funding model that will rely heavily on competitive grants. Discussion with the NGSEF Board of Trustees is on-going. They want to develop a model that allows:

- 1) Bigger grants
- 2) Rewards outstanding programs
- 3) Is reactive to state level changes

Overall funding is not being reduced.

Grants for 2001 will likely be greater than \$3 million. Lanny was not able to tell us the criteria for competitive grants, because they have not been finalized and are to be determined with the Board. Lanny's goal is to get money to the Alliances as soon as possible. This year, each Alliance will be awarded \$25,000; however, that amount is not guaranteed after this year.

Lanny believes that John Fahey, President of the National Geographic Society, has a real commitment to the classroom. John and Gil Grosvenor (Chairman of the Board and Past President) understand that developing geographically savvy students is good for society.

So...what should the Alliances do now [according to Lanny]?

- 1) Give NGSEF input into how to design a successful Alliance program for the future.
- 2) Work quickly! The money will be available soon and we need to be ready with proposals.

- 3) Strive for a broader reach. Reach more teachers. Twenty teachers at a time is not enough.
- 4) Think visibility. Draw attention of news media to the teachers and the programs.
- 5) New model will likely entertain multi-year and encourage multi-state projects.
- 6) Actively seek out partners for your alliance.
- 7) Projects that show students doing Geography will be of interest. (Example: Students measuring streams in public parks).

Lanny says that NGS is enthusiastic about endowments for geography education. The 1988 money for matching (\$20 million) is gone, but NGS will continue to match. Alliances should promote development of endowments.



Register Now for 2000-2001 Geographic Bee

The National Geographic Bee is a nationwide contest for schools with any grades four through eight. It is an educational outreach program of the National Geographic Society. With a first-place prize of a \$25,000 college scholarship—and other prizes in additional scholarships, cash, and classroom materials—the Bee is designed to encourage the teaching and study of geography. Students from schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Pacific territories, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Department of Defense Dependents Schools take part in the Bee.

Principals of eligible schools must register their school to participate. There is a minimum requirement of six students from any of the eligible grades to hold a competition. Principals may request registration by writing to National Geographic Bee, National Geographic Society, 1145 17th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036-4688. A \$30 fee must be included with the letter. The letter and the fee must be received by October 15, 2000. The Society cannot be responsible for late, lost, or misdirected mail.

The registration fee is NOT refundable. Packets will be mailed in mid-November to the person named as the contact or, if no contact is listed, the principal receives the Packet. Notify the Bee office by November 27 if you registered by October 15 and have not received a packet. Allow plenty of time for your school to conduct the Bee and to administer the written qualifying test to the Bee winner.

To be accepted, the qualifying test must be postmarked by January 16 and received by the National Geographic Society by January 31, 2001.

Tennessee Geographic Information Council Offers to Help Schools Celebrate GIS Day November 15

By Star Lakavage

November 15 is the second annual GIS Day celebration. This day, sponsored by ESRI, the National Geographic Society and the Association of American Geographers, has been established to promote the knowledge about and use of GIS (geographic information systems) to the general public, K - 12 schools, colleges and universities and to encourage GIS as a career. Events in 1999 included an open house at UT Knoxville and State Tech in Memphis while several GIS professionals gave presentations and demonstrations in schools. This year, the Tennessee Geographic Information Council (TNGIC) is actively assisting in GIS Day by encouraging and promoting events and presentations. The Tennessee Geographic Information Council is a non-profit group of GIS users from across the state, including members in federal, local and state governments, private sector GIS industries and consultants and educational institutions.

At this time we are still filling our calendar with events for GIS Day. The University of Tennessee Geography Department in Knoxville will be hosting another open house on campus and they extend an invitation to schools to take part and visit. Last year's open house included departments within the university using GIS, displays from KGIS, the Knox City/County GIS unit, ORNL and several local private sector industries. We hope to have our list of open houses and displays open to the public firmed up by late August. There is strong interest in another open house at State Tech in Memphis and at Tennessee State University in Nashville. Members of TNGIC are available for in school programs and some GIS professionals can offer tours of their facilities. If you are interested in having a program in your school or community or a facility tour, contact Star Lakavage, 865-457-8242 or email to aegis@usit.net. As we learn of other GIS Day events in Tennessee, we will post the information on the Tennessee Geographic Alliance listserv. Information will also be available at the TNGIC web site, www.tngic.org.

To learn more about GIS Day, visit the web site at www.gisday.com. There are resources available at no expense including demonstrations for use in classrooms. If you do not have an Internet connection please call Star Lakavage and request the information on a CD. Many of these presentations are in Power Point or canned demonstrations that can't fail!

We, the TNGIC, look forward to linking with the Tennessee Geographic Alliance in promoting and encouraging involvement in GIS Day.



Geography Awareness Week 2000 November 12-18

By Brenda Lee

The date is the same – third week in November, but the new millennium has brought changes to much of the typical Geography Awareness Week (GAW) celebration. The slogan “Here Today, Here Tomorrow – A Geographic Focus on Conservation” is an indication of the new direction. The National Geographic Society will be focusing on conservation for the next five years in many of its endeavors. It has chosen GAW as the “kick-off” event for this new emphasis.

This year's activities are developed around four themes rather than one. The four are *Biodiversity*, *Population*, *Fresh Water*, and *Oceans*. The themes will change each year with the focus remaining on conservation.

What else is new? A GAW Web-site! www.nationalgeographic.com/gaw All activities are available on-line for your use in the classroom or to print out as you wish. There will be no packets this year as in the past. However, the poster has always been a popular item in previous packets and will be continued this year. Teacher Consultants should have received a copy by mail.



www.nationalgeographic.com/gaw

The Alliance encourages you to get involved with conservation during the first year of this 5-year cycle. You might also select a project you and your students could continue throughout the five years.

NGS is interested in feedback on the acceptance/success of GAW on-line. Therefore, reporting of your activities is VERY important. Please make use of the form on the back of this page as a tool to assist the Alliance and the Society in this endeavor. The form will also be available from the Alliance office and will eventually be available over the Alliance Web-site.

Geography Awareness Week Activity Report

Name of School:

Name of Teacher(s):

Class (Subject and Grade Level):

No. of Students Involved:

**Participants Other than Students
(i.e. Parents, Park Rangers, Public Officials):**

**Brief Description of Project (Please include
copies of any printed media coverage if available.):**

Assessment of Project Impact:

Additional Comments:

Registration for the Community Atlas Workshop

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

October 14, 2000

Charlie McRorie, assisted by University of Tennessee Geography Department graduate students with specialization in Geographic Information Systems, will be conducting a one-day workshop on how to get started with ESRI's U.S. Community Atlas Project. This is a project in which teachers and students across the country define the nature of "their community" and post descriptions and maps about it. Schools submitting a complete entry qualify for free GIS software from ESRI, for instructional use. Instruction will take place in the new Burchfiel Geography Building GIS Lab and run from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m on October 14.

For more detailed information on the Community Atlas Project, please visit www.esri.com/communityatlas

Preregistration is mandatory. A \$15.00 registration fee is required to reserve space in the workshop and will be refunded when you attend.

Personal Information

Your Name _____

Home Address _____
Street & Number _____ *City* _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Home Phone _____ — _____ — _____ *Work Phone* _____ — _____ — _____

E-Mail Address _____ *Fax Phone* _____ — _____ — _____

Name of School _____

To be registered, this form and a \$15.00 check made out to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance must be received in the Alliance office no later than September 29, 2000.

Mail registration form and check to: Tenn. Geog. Alliance, Dept. Of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925, ATTN: Kurt Butefish. Direct E-Mail inquiries to kbutefis@utk.edu.

Is There Enough for a World of Six Billion?

By Catherine Kelly

That was just one of a number of interesting questions and topics explored by fifteen K-12 teachers in the Tennessee Geographic Alliance's SUMMER WORKSHOP on POPULATION AND RESOURCES, held at the University of Tennessee, June 12 - 16. They found out that there are no simple answers, only more questions... but how much fun and how stimulating it was to explore this multi-faceted topic of world population and resources!

The teachers were aided in this exploration by excellent, thought-provoking presentations by Michael Cornebise on "Global Population Dynamics", "Population and Resource Dynamics: The Case of Cuba", and "Migration and Economic Globalization"; Ron Foresta on "The Flattening of the Global Population Growth Curve", "Globalization of the Consumer Society", and "Resources and the Global Economy"; Kyle Rector on "Population and Resource Dynamics: The Case of South Africa"; Lisa Kennedy on "Population Growth and the Natural Environment"; and Marty Arford on "The Coming Crisis in Water Quantity and Quality".

"...the format of having a lecturer present material, followed by two teachers showing how the material could be used in a classroom situation was most helpful."

Economics and geography Farragut High School teacher Joe Williams commented that the workshop brought home to him that "regardless of what we do, regardless of how noble our motives, there are going to be unintended consequences of our actions." However, "awareness of that shouldn't keep us from acting, but it should cause us to prepare adequately... we should always be aware that "There is no such thing as a free lunch!"

There were also opportunities for teachers to explore ways in which the content presented during the week could be applied in K-12 classrooms.

Nashville high school teacher Barbara Cleveland and middle school teacher Catherine Kelly shared age-appropriate resources and modeled learning activities for this purpose. Annette Brady, a middle schoolteacher who came to the workshop all the way from Zachary, Louisiana, especially appreciated this aspect of the week. She commented that "the format of having a lecturer present material, followed by two teachers showing how the material could be used in a classroom situation was most helpful." Moreover, the fact that teachers from all grade levels and subject areas, from rural, suburban, and urban schools, and even from other states "widened the experiences of all the participants."

"I feel that this was a wonderful mix of content and classroom applications. The workshop spoke to me on an academic level, raising my global awareness, then helped me think about how I could adapt my ideas to my classroom on my students' level."

Additional activities enhanced the lectures and classroom applications. The topic of population and resources was brought closer to home with a field trip to Townsend, TN, where "progress" and population growth in the form of road-widening project has collided with archaeological research and Native American claims. The presentation of a GIS Model (computer-generated model combining population, resources, and mapping) showing the interface of school planning, zoning issues, student transportation routes, and growing communities further illustrated the relevancy of the week's focus.

Other teachers shared these comments about the workshop:

"The information I personally learned is invaluable! A lot of questions were raised for me to think about in regards to how I will live for my future. I have an overwhelming amount to share with my colleagues and students."

"I feel that this was a wonderful mix of content and classroom applications. The workshop spoke to me on an academic level, raising my global awareness, then helped me think about how I could adapt my ideas to my classroom on my students' level."

Winning Answers to the GeoBee (See article on page 1)

- 1) **Bonn, Germany**
- 2) **Pakistan**
- 3) **Yucatan Peninsula**



Geography and Educational Technology Workshop

By Joe Williams

The Geography and Technology workshop was conducted at Morristown West High from Monday, June 26 to Friday, June 30. The truly outstanding staff obviously had worked long and hard in planning and preparation for the task confronting them.

The dedicated educators who then superbly executed their plan were Charlie McRorie, Susan Gratz, Marcia Whetsel (all of West High), and Paul Grubb of Knoxville Center School. Dr. Sid Jumper (who says he really is retiring this time) “kicked off” the gathering and the young (by my standards), energetic Kurt Butefish (the Alliance’s new Program Administrator) lent his competent support.

The objective of this workshop of the Summer Institute was for us to learn how to effectively use technology in the classroom and to develop a Power Point presentation for a Friday morning “Show and Tell” (a sort of “final exam”). It could be a lesson plan, an activity, etc. We should also try to incorporate higher-order thinking in the presentation.

Technology, we were reminded, has many advantages in the classroom. Technology helps keep students focused; allows students and teachers to “explore;” works great for illustrating lessons with both sight and sound; makes it easy to modify lessons; and tracks student progress.

“Things” technology should not be used for include the following:

- “baby-sitting” students
- rewarding those who finish assignments early
- playing games with no educational value.

After absorbing all of that, we were told how to create our own individual schedules to match our needs and wants. There were ten (yes, ten!) informative, strictly “hands-on” sessions to guide us toward the achievement of our objectives. It wasn’t easy to get in

all ten sessions, but Charlie had mapped out a game plan to accomplish just that.

Before we realized it, lunch time had arrived and we all headed to Luby’s at the mall for our first real “dining and bonding” session. The Geography and Educational Technology workshop was superbly planned to get teachers to relax and enjoy each other’s company as well as to work hard to attain our goals. Everyone agreed that one of the main reasons so much was accomplished was that we “got along” well as a group.

Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday, Marcia, Susan, Paul, and Charlie led us through wonderfully informative “hands-on” sessions such as “Introduction to Power Point” and “Making Simple Maps with ArcView” to “Using Digital Cameras” and “Using Flatbed Scanners and Laser Disk Players.” At the risk of using a cliché, time literally “flew by.”

The G and T social committee (AKA the “Morristown Three”) had planned a cookout social at Baneberry Country Club for Tuesday evening (another opportunity to cement developing friendships). However, the threat of thunderstorms caused the event to be shifted to the pavilion at Susan Gratz’s church.

The bad weather didn’t develop until later, but the decision to switch sites was a fortunate one. We found ourselves on the lovely grounds of the charming, antebellum St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church. Susan’s middle school son, David, guided us on tours of the church as well as the 200+ year-old cemetery. Add to the superb setting scrumptious food and stupendous socializing (alliteration, anyone?) and you have the formula for a marvellous gathering.

The next day back at West, we were relaxed and eager to get back to work on the task at hand. We were all developing our presentations as we continued to learn even more about using technology in the classroom. The sessions were increasingly sophisticated as we built upon our recently acquired knowledge. We learned how to make 3D maps (!); how to instruct, review, and test using a computer lab; how to explore the Internet in depth; and how to make our own evolving presentations more interesting via animation and sound.

During this time as the pressure built toward the Friday morning deadline and we put more “demands” upon the indefatigable workshop staff, they graciously responded by giving even more of themselves to meet our needs. Finally on Thursday Evening the finishing touches were being applied to our “works of art.”

That evening, Susan led most of the “crowd” on an unscheduled excursion to a Greek restaurant,

Technology Workshop (Continued from Page 11)

C. J. Papadoc's, deep in her native Cocke county. Yet another example of our diligent leaders going "above and beyond."

When we gathered together to view the culmination of the week's work, there was an air of nervous anticipation. There was no real reason for anxiety, though, because the presentations were, to borrow a phrase from our students, "awesome!" Most of us were amazed at how much we had learned. After congratulating ourselves and each other, the group dismissed to our final "food and fraternization" event.

The graduation luncheon was held at the quaint Little Dutch Restaurant on Cumberland Avenue in downtown Morristown. Kurt, as well as several representatives of the accommodating host school system, joined us. Following closing remarks, Charlie McRorie (the hardest working man in geography technology) presented us with our graduation certificates. "All good things must come to an end."

As we were entering West High earlier that morning, someone remarked, "This is the only time in my 'long and storied' career that I have wished it were Monday morning." That is among the highest compliments that a workshop's sponsors and staff can be paid.



How the Environment Works Summer Institute

By Kurt Butefish

For two weeks, June 18-30, the Tennessee Geographic Alliance hosted the How the Environment Works (HEW) Summer Institute. Twenty-one participants descended on Knoxville, with six states represented (Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee).

Dr. Carol Harden, Head of the University of Tennessee Department of Geography, had put together a challenging institute that promised to keep everyone on their toes. Roger Barlow, Tennessee's State Liaison with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), assisted her throughout the workshop. The first four days concentrated on climate and ecosystems and included three lectures by Dr. John Snow, Dean of the College of Geosciences at the University of Oklahoma. John's ability to make the earth's weather come alive with a few colors of dry erase marker and a white board where something to behold. Dr. Ken

Orvis of the Geography Department, and Marty Arford, a PhD. Student in Geography, also presented. Friday saw participation by the USGS that included an introduction to topographic maps by Barlow. Led by Cheryl O'Brien of the USGS, the group moved to the Geography Department's GIS lab for a run-down of resource materials available from the USGS, many of which were on-line. Jim Minton, Director of the University's Map Library also contributed and invited the participants to a "map-grab" from his stock of extra maps.

Afternoons of this first week were spent in teams working to develop action plans to implement a researcher/teacher program that has resulted from a National Geographic Society Educational Resource Grant. The goal of the grant is to link teachers and researchers in long-term relationships that will lead to greater student understanding of how environments work, including how environmental characteristics and happenings in one part of the world affect characteristics and happenings elsewhere.

Highlights of the first week included Roger's after-hours presentation on his year at the South Pole. Another highlight was an activity coordinated by Dr. Orvis that emphasized scale on the earth. This project had participants on all fours in the rotunda of the new Taylor Law Center (they got some strange looks here) collaborating, measuring, and drawing on butcher paper radiating out from the center of the rotunda. Carol got the participants outside with two activities, one was measuring slope and angles on the land, and the other was measuring stream flow on a local stream. Thursday night, participants were treated to a marvelous picnic dinner at Marble Springs (the historic home of Tennessee's first governor, John Sevier). Dr. and Mrs. Schmudde provided the dinner.

Saturday, Kurt Butefish led a voluntary field trip to Cumberland Gap National Historic Park with stops at Norris Dam, a historic cemetery in Lake City, and the Lincoln Museum on the Campus of Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate. On Sunday, Roger led a couple of victims on a death march to the summit of Mt. LeConte in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park while others shopped in Knoxville, visited friends, and rested.

Week two began with presentations by Susan Russell-Robinson and Greg Johnson, of USGS. We would see Greg the next day during the field trip to Townsend, Tennessee. The field trip took us into Tuckaleechee Cove where we got an on-site presentation and demonstration of water sampling techniques employed by the USGS on the Little Pigeon River.

After lunch, we observed the results of a major flood that had occurred a few years ago in the cove and then toured Tuckaleechee Caverns, which is

used as a seismic data collection site by the Air Force and USGS.

Dr. Harden was responsible for most of the lectures and activities for the remainder of the week, with a session by PhD. student Lisa Kennedy tucked in for good measure. Again, afternoons were spent in smaller groups working on action plans and on related presentations that were to be given to the Institute on the final day.

On Wednesday evening, Kurt led an informal trip to Ijams Nature Center. Eleven, participants joined him for a three-mile hike in a drenching thunderstorm that resulted in the first annual HEW wet t-shirt contest!

On Friday, the teams presented their action plans to the Institute and then joined one last time for a meal at Ramsey's Cafeteria for the Institute Banquet.



Geography in the News

Special Offer to Tennessee Alliance Members

Dr. Neal Lineback has made special arrangement with MAPS.COM, publisher of his weekly column on **Geography in the News** (which is featured in a number of newspapers), for members of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance to receive the column via the Internet during the 2000-2001 academic year at 40% off the regular retail price. MAPS.COM is distributing **Geography in the News** to subscribers over its website in innovative ways. Advantages of using the web are: 1) speed with which subscribers can receive the articles; 2) articles can be read on screen; and 3) articles can be printed in full for further reproduction (free) for classes to use. The column is being written every week for 52 weeks a year. Subscribers will have access to **Geography in the News** through use of a password provided by MAPS.COM, including an archive of past articles, a searchable annotated index, lesson plans, world and U.S. reference maps, and links to award-winning news, government, and educational websites. Teachers can bundle previous articles by topic or by region for supplemental student readings, either online or as a study package.

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Department of Geography, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608, or email at: linebackng@appstate.edu



Take the Challenge! The Family Geography Challenge

Teachers, parents, and EVEN students all over the country are high on the Family Geography Challenge. It gets parents and kids talking to each other about what is going on in the world today. Teachers appreciate the program for encouraging students to learn beyond the classroom. Administrators give high marks to the Family Geography Challenge for bringing parents into the school for positive, fun, and educational experiences. Students get a kick out of showing their parents how good they're getting at exploring the world through current events.

WHAT IS THE FAMILY GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE?

It's a family-oriented program that gets parents and children involved in discovering more about the world. As a family, they become aware of the basic concepts of Geography and how these concepts are played out in the news they see and hear everyday.

HOW DOES THE FAMILY GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE WORK?

A user-friendly Teacher Handbook provides the necessary background, ideas, and tools for running the Challenge program. The teacher hosts and conducts a one hour workshop for families to explain the program. The workshop uses fun, hands-on activities to orient kids and parents. Each family receives a National Geographic Society world map, a Home Journal, and related materials. Families hang their world map at home where everyone can see it. They read or watch the news together at least once a week for several weeks and use the map to locate events. Families talk about the news and how geography helps them interpret world events. They keep a brief journal of their discussions and return a summary of their work for a prize of an inflatable globe and certificate.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Teacher Handbooks cost \$30 each, but once a Handbook has been purchased, there is no need to re-order this item for any subsequent Family Geography Workshops. You will also need at least one Family Giveaway Pack which includes inflatable globes and folded world maps for 20 families. Multiple packs may be ordered. Each Giveaway Pack (serving 20 families) costs \$65. This is a tremendous savings on these materials, compared to the cost of purchasing inflatable globes and world maps individually from National Geographic.

INTERESTED?

Call, write, or email Catherine Kelly, state coordinator for the Family Geography Challenge in Tennessee, for a brochure, ORDER FORM, or information. Catherine Kelly, 469 Rochelle Dr., Nashville, TN 37220, 615-333-9656, cgkelly@home.com.