

TGA News

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance

Volume XX, Issue 1, Fall 2005

Cody Simons Wins the 2005 State Geographic Bee

By Catherine Kelly, Coordinator, State GeoBee

One hundred students from all corners of Tennessee gathered on the morning of April 1, 2005 at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin for the 17th Tennessee Geographic Bee sponsored by National Geographic Society. The 100 fourth through eighth grade students had competed at their local school level and taken a written exam. Each student was invited by National Geographic Society to the state level Bee based on a high exam score.

At the close of the morning competitions, those students with the top ten preliminary round scores advanced to the final rounds, which followed at 12 noon, also on the Volunteer State Community College campus. The ten finalists, including state winner Cody Simons (seventh grader at Meigs Magnet School, Metro Nashville Public Schools), were congratulated and presented their awards by Lana Seivers, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education.

The state geographic bees were established by National Geographic Society beginning in 1989 to help promote geography education. "Ongoing international tensions and events such as the tsunami in southeast Asia last December have really brought home the importance of having a good grounding in geography if one is to fully understand and appreciate what is happening around the world. These students' understanding of geographic events allows them to appreciate the challenges facing the planet. They are growing up to be informed citizens of the world, inspiring others to conserve Earth's precious natural and cultural resources and to value and respect all the nations and people around the globe." (Catherine Kelly, Coordinator, Tennessee Geographic Bee).

Winning Question

The Pribilof Islands, named for the Russian explorer and navigator who discovered fur seal

rookeries there, are located in which sea?

Answer: Bering Sea

Other Final Round Questions:

Which country is bordered by Somalia and Kenya?

Answer: Ethiopia

San Marino is to Italy as Lesotho is to WHAT?

Answer: South Africa

Which Brazilian city has a metropolitan population of more than 18 million people?

Answer: São Paulo

The Eastern and Western Ghats are mountain ranges in which country?

Answer: India

In November 2004, the United Nations Security Council met in Africa to promote peace in the Darfur region in which country?

Answer: Sudan

Information about the Top Three Students

Cody Simons, a seventh grade student at Meigs Magnet School in Nashville, was the first place winner at the 2005 Tennessee Geographic Bee. Cody enjoys watching college basketball, specifically Duke Blue Devils. Cody competed in the National Geographic Bee in Washington, DC, on May 24th-25th as the Tennessee representative.

Matthew Keefe, a seventh grade student at Woodland Middle School in Brentwood, was the runner-up in the state finals of the Tennessee Geographic Bee. Matthew's free time activities include reading and playing video games.

Mark Arildsen, a fifth grade student at the University School of Nashville, won third place in the Tennessee State Geographic Bee Finals. Mark likes computer programming and playing the piano.



Tennessee Geographic Alliance
304 Buchfiel Geography Bld.
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925

Tel: 865 974 4841
Fax: 865 974 6025

kbutefis@utk.edu
<http://web.utk.edu/~tga>

Newsletter Editor:
Susan Tolson
stolson@ntown.com

Tennessee Geographic Alliance Fall Programs

TO CONTACT or JOIN THE ALLIANCE

Want to join the Tennessee Geographic Alliance?
Want to get on our electronic email listserv?
You can do it all on-line by visiting the Alliance website at <http://web.utk.edu/~tga/>. You can also contact:
Kurt Butefish
Tennessee Geographic Alliance
304 Burchfiel Geography Building
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925
(voice) 865-974-4841

Knoxville Chapter Spring Program

Date: Thursday, October 6, 2005
Time: Registration 4:15 – 4:45pm, Meeting at 4:45 PM

Location: Room 226 University Center on the UTK Campus

Program: *Climatology and Meteorology for the Classroom* with Dr. Ken Orvis and WATE-TV 6 Meteorologist Matthew Miller

Contact: Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or (865) 974-4841

No pre-registration is required. Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Murfreesboro Chapter Spring Program

Date: Thursday, September 1, 2005

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: Erma Siegel Elementary School, Murfreesboro

Program: *Meteorology in the Classroom* with WATE-TV (Knoxville) Meteorologist Matthew Miller

Contact: Carolyn Anderson at madras98@bellsouth.net or (615) 904-1002.

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

NE TN Chapter Spring Program

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Time: 4:30- 6:00 pm

Program: *Tipton Haynes "In Our Own Backyard"*

Location: Tipton Haynes State Historic Site
2620 South Roan St.
Johnson City, TN.

Contact: To reserve a spot please contact Cherie Chapman Phillips at hape1511@aol.com

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Nashville Chapter Spring Program

Date: Thursday, September 29, 2005

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Location: Randall's Learning Center
3501 Byron Ave., Nashville, TN 37205

Program: *The Theory of Evolution from a Geographic Perspective* with Keith Bell. In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Scopes Trial.

Contact: Catherine Kelly at cgkelly@comcast.net

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Southern Middle TN Chapter Spring Program

Date: Monday, October 17, 2005

Time: 4:00- 6:00 pm

Program: *Explore the Culture of the Mediterranean* with Martha Jo and Jerry Gibbs

Location: E.O. Coffman Middle School, Lawrenceburg, TN

Contact: Robin Thompson at 931-762-6395 or 931-766-5975 or Betty Hawkins at 931-389-6417

Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Memphis Chapter Program

Date: Friday, October 21, 2005

Time: 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Memphis Teaching and Learning Academy, Room #W116

Program: *The Geography of the Civil Rights Movement* with Peggy Steel Clay, former Teacher in Residence at National Geographic Society

Contact: Jayson Evaniuck at sincere@excite.com

Gallatin Chapter Spring Program

Date: TBD

Time: 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Program: TBD

Location: Sumner County Teachers' Center
695 East Main St., Gallatin

Contact: Susan Bunn at susanbunn@comcast.net or Sonja Glaser at glaserss@aol.com

meetings cont. pg. 3.....

Chattanooga Chapter Spring Program

Date: TBD

Time: 5:30 – 7:30PM

Location: Library of Chattanooga High School
Center for Creative Arts
1301 Dallas Rd., Chattanooga

Program: TBD

Contact: Ken Collins Collins_k@HCDE.org

Fall GEOFEST 2005

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2005

Location: University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Program: Music to Enhance the Geography
Classroom

Contact: See information and registration
form in this issue or contact
Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu
or 865-974-4841



Opportunities for Teachers and Students

National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference

November 17 – 20, 2005 – Kansas City, MO.
The NCSS Annual Conference is the premier
professional development event for the social
studies community, bringing together thousands of
educators from the United States and across the
globe.

Built around the theme "Social Studies: The Heart
of the Curriculum", this year's conference will
feature a special focus on the position of social
studies as the center of the curriculum, touching
every other subject area. Social studies is also a
primary area for reaching affective goals, which are
so crucial in citizenship development. Then, there
is the heart that all good social studies teachers
bring to their work.

NCSS 2005 can help you create effective citizens
through more than 300 sessions, workshops, and
clinics. Keynote speakers will open your eyes and
engage your mind. Hundreds of exhibit booths
will showcase the latest products and services for
the classroom teacher. And tours will bring the
midwest's history — and future — to life.

Take this opportunity to meet and share ideas
with educators from across the country and
around the world. Join your colleagues this
November in Kansas City, Missouri. See
www.ncss.org for more information.

Tennessee Environmental Education Association

Friday, September 16 - Sunday, September 18,
2005 - Tennessee Environmental Education
Annual Conference. The meeting will be held
at Carson Springs, Newport, TN. The focus is
"Place Based Education" and there will be
plenty of sessions, free resources, lesson plans
and field trips. For information and registration,
visit www.teea.info.

Teacher Escape Weekend October 7-9, 2005 Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont

Teachers who bring school groups to Tremont are
invited to join together to share knowledge and
experiences of making the most of your school's
visit. Learn ways to prepare your students, help
students get the most from their experience and
bring the lessons back to the classroom. All of this
while enjoying a beautiful fall weekend in the
Smokies. There are wonderful opportunities for
first time teachers to get to know the program as
well as for returning teachers to share ideas,
experiences and further their knowledge. Teacher
Escape Weekend lasts from Friday supper to
Sunday lunch. Let us take you away from your
classroom and into 500,000 acres of one of nature's
most beautiful and inspiring classrooms. Cost:
FREE with your schools scheduled attendance.

More information can be found at: www.gsmiit.org

Discover Life in America Events

Saturday, September 3, 2005 - Fern Foray,
Balsam Mountain Area. Contact Dr. Patricia Cox,
865-632-3609 or pbcox@tva.gov

Monday, September 5 - Friday September 9, 2005
- Fungi Bio-Quest, "Pyreno Pursuit".
Pyrenomyces represent one of the largest groups
of fungi, but are also one of the most poorly
known most likely due to their small size (usually
<1mm diameter). These organisms occur through-
out all geographical areas on plant material and
dung, where they play an essential role in nutrient
cycling and decomposition of organic matter.
Pyreno Pursuit is the first attempt to bring together
experts to inventory the diversity of pyrenomyces
in the GSMNP. Contact Andy Miller,
amiller@inhs.uiuc.edu or volunteers can contact
Jeanie Hilten at jeanie@dlia.org.

Tuesday, December 6 - Friday December 9, 2005
- DLIA/ATBI Annual Conference, Glenstone
Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN.
For more information visit www.dlia.org

Tennessee Council for the Social Studies Fall Retreat

Theme: The Civil War on the Home Front
Date: Friday, October 21, 1:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (sessions & reception)
Saturday, October 22, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (sessions & boxed lunch)
Location: Oaklands Historic Home, MTSU, & Stones River Battlefield (Murfreesboro)



Hotel: Murfreesboro Doubletree Hotel
1850 Old Fort Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
615-895-5555

State Rate-\$60 for single
\$80 for double

Registration: \$50 for members; \$75 for non-members
(includes reception, boxed lunch, & teaching resources)

Deadline for hotel & retreat registration: September 21, 2005

Speakers & topics:

Calvin Dickinson, Tennessee Tech University – Daily Life on the Home Front

Dr. Carole Bucy, Volunteer State Community College – Women in Occupied Tennessee

Dr. Michael Bradley, Motlow State Community College – Guerillas & Raiders on the Home Front

Stephen Ash, University of Tennessee Knoxville – Life on the Home Front

Carol Crowe-Carraco, University of Western Kentucky – Women on Tennessee/Kentucky Home Front

Kevin Smith, Middle Tennessee State University – First Presbyterian Church Archaeological Project

Jim Lewis, Stones River Battlefield—Exhibit Tour

Citizens of the Bonnie Blue Flag—Civilian Response

Send registration to:

Dr. James Akenson

Box 4042

Tennessee Technology University

Cookeville, TN 38505

Make checks payable to TCSS.

Fall GEOFEST Back on the Schedule and New Geography Lesson Plan Competition Announced

From the Coordinator

Earlier this year, the Alliance experimented by combining its annual statewide meeting (GEOFEST) with the annual meeting of the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies (TCSS). The Alliance hosted five geography-themed sessions in its own strand at the Nashville conference. Attendance at our sessions was very good and feedback from participants and the TCSS Board of Directors was encouraging. The TCSS Board has asked the Alliance to combine our meetings again in March 2006 and we have agreed to do so.

That said, I heard from a number of our members who are unable to take a Friday off during the school year to attend the TCSS conference and expressed a desire to revive the Fall GEOFEST on a Saturday. I think it is well worth a try, so on Saturday, November 5th, 2005 we will have an all-day GEOFEST workshop with the theme *Music to Enhance the Geography Classroom*. The Fall GEOFEST will include a keynote session hosted by Neel Durbin of Dyersburg High School. Neel is a past recipient of the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from Humanities Tennessee, a Tennessee State Teacher of the Year finalist, the 2005 TCSS Social Studies Teacher of the Year recipient and the Alliance's 2005 Geography Teacher of the Year recipient. His presentation on *Music in the Geography Classroom* at the Nashville TCSS/GEOFEST meeting was hugely popular and I want all of our members to have an opportunity to see it. After Neel's presentation we'll have a few breakout sessions before a catered lunch. After lunch, I've got a special guest/musician/music historian lined up for an afternoon keynote. There will be a fieldtrip to end the day. Writer, MetroPulse columnist, and Knoxville historian, Jack Neely, has agreed to give a walking tour of *The Geography of Knoxville's Musical History*.

So...in this issue of the **TGA News**, you will find three calls for presentations. One call is for the Fall GEOFEST in Knoxville. We need elementary and middle grade presentations related to the theme, *Music to Enhance the Geography Classroom*. The second call is for the Spring TCSS/GEOFEST combined meeting in Gatlinburg on Friday, March 3, 2006. We need five geography themed presentations from any grade range. Then, there is the call for

proposals from the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies for presentations on subjects other than geography for the Friday, March 3rd meeting. Please see the calls for presenters in this issue for further instructions and to discover the benefits offered to those accepted to present. A registration form for the Fall GEOFEST is also included.

I am very happy to announce the Charlie McRorie/Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year Competition. Your best geography lesson plan could be worth \$500 and be presented on a national stage. Please see the announcement of the new competition on page 13.

Please plan to attend a chapter meeting in your area and don't forget to BRING A FRIEND.



Alliance Benefactor Dies

The Alliance received some sad news recently. Our most generous supporter, Mr. J. Harrison Livingston passed away on June 17th. Mr. Livingston and his wife gave approximately \$250,000 to the Alliance which was matched by the National Geographic Society and an endowment established in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Livingston. It is the proceeds from this endowment that fund many of the Alliance's activities, including all population themed workshops.

Mr. Livingston was born in Pomona, California on May 9, 1913, and moved to Knoxville with his parents in 1927. He was a member of the Knoxville High School Class of 1930 and the University of Tennessee Class of 1934. Mr. Livingston and his father owned Livingston Motors in Knoxville for over 50 years. He served in the Coast Guard for 44 months during World War II. In 1943, he met and married his wife, Robbie Nelle Christopher Livingston of Athens, Alabama. Mr. Livingston served as President of Planned Parenthood on both the state and local level in Tennessee, and was vitally interested in population issues. Mr. Livingston also established the J. Harrison and Robbie C. Livingston Professorship of Population and Immigration Control at the University of Tennessee.

Registration for the Fall GEOFEST 2005

MUSIC TO ENHANCE THE GEOGRAPHY CLASSROOM

**The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Saturday, November 5, 2005**

Registration fees are as follows:

- **Advance registration (includes lunch) - \$20.00 (by October 17)**
- **On-site registration (includes lunch) - \$25.00**

Saturday, November 5 (Detailed information in meeting program, mailed to advance registrants)

8:15 - 8:45	—	Registration
8:45 - 9:45	—	Opening Session and Keynote Presentation
10:00 - 10:55	—	Presentation Sessions
11:10 - 12:00	—	Presentation Sessions
12:00 - 1:00	—	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00	—	Luncheon Keynote
2:15 - 3:45	—	Field Trip – The Geography of Knoxville’s Musical History – A Walking Tour

Your Name _____

Home Address _____

Street & Number City State Zip

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Name of School _____

IMPORTANT: participate in the field trip? YES NO (please circle one)

Advance Registration for Meeting: \$20.00

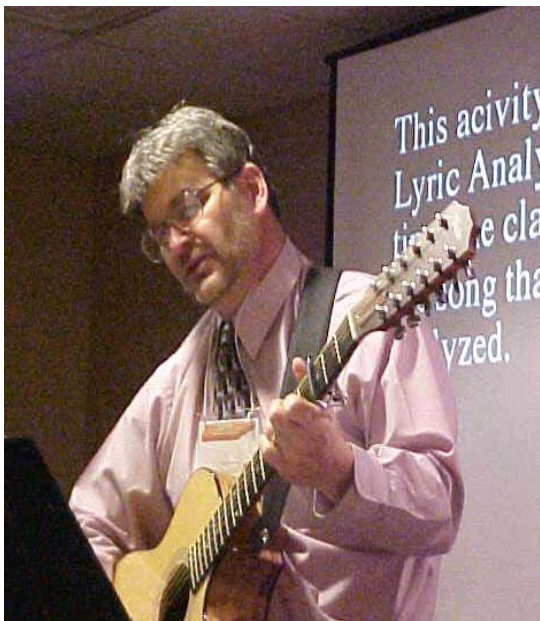
For advance registration, this form and a check made out to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance must be received in the Alliance office no later than October 17, 2005. Programs will be mailed to advance registrants.

Mail registration form and check to: Tennessee Geographic Alliance, Dept. 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, 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.

NCGE Honors Alliance Member

Neel Durbin was selected to attend the National Council for Geographic Education's annual meeting to be held in Birmingham, Alabama in October 2005. Durbin was one of the few delegates who received a NCGE/George F. Cram Scholarship for the conference. His presentation, *Music in the Geography Classroom*, will be a featured presentation at the annual meeting. Presenters were chosen for the innovative and original approaches to teaching and for reflecting current trends in geography. Neel also received a \$750 stipend to attend the meeting. Neel teaches ninth grade geography and tenth grade AP geography at Dyersburg High School.



Neel Durbin performs The Banana Boat Song as part of his award winning presentation on Music for the Geography Classroom at the spring TCSS/GEOFEST combined meetings. You can catch Neel's encore performances at the NCGE meeting in Birmingham, AL in October or at the November 5, 2005 Fall GEOFEST in Knoxville.



Take Action! Geography Action! 2005-06 Migration: The Human Journey

By Cynthia Dabalos

Geography Action! is a program of National Geographic Education & Children's Programs. They provide grants, training, hands-on activities, and support educators and other

organizations. Geography Action! engages students and educators in taking action to protect the Earth and its people. The program issues a call to action to encourage individual and community-based service and awareness.

Geography Action! 2005-06 encourages students to explore and honor their diverse heritage. As patterns and paths of migration from past to present, students will examine distinctive features of their cultures and communities. This program encourages students to document their journey by taking photographs and conducting interviews. These results will offer a "snapshot" in time of the changes that take place in our communities daily.

The project contains three parts that tell the story of human migration and they include; photography, writing, and interviewing. The photos and text for each zip code participating in Geography Action! 2005-2006 Migration: The Human Journey, will be added to the online Sense of Place map available at: <http://seabeed.nationalgeographic.com/studentatlas/> Under Themes choose "Sense of Place."

EdNet, at ngsednet.org, is National Geographic's free online Education Network. This site features lesson plans, activities, and other educational resources aimed at increasing both educators' and students' understanding of the patterns, methods, and effects of human migration.

Having attended a week long training session in Washington DC at the National Geographic Headquarters, I would be happy to work with other educators through workshops and conferences that are interested in completing Geography Action! projects on Human Migration. I can be contacted at the following:

Richview Middle School
2350 Memorial Drive
Clarksville, Tennessee 37040
Cynthia.Dabalos@cmcss.net





Neel Durbin, ninth grade geography and tenth grade AP geography teacher at Dyersburg High School received the fourth annual Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in geography education for grades 7-12. Neel received this plaque and a \$500 check at the spring TCSS/GEOFEST combined meeting. Neel also picked up the TCSS Teacher of the Year Award at the same meeting.



Beverly and Mullane Teacher of the Year Awards Presented at TCSS/ GEOFEST

Tennessee Geographic Alliance members Harry Anderson, fifth grade teacher at Bellwood Elementary School in Smyrna, and Neel Durbin, ninth grade geography and tenth grade AP geography teacher at Dyersburg High School received the Lottie and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year Award and the Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award respectively during the awards luncheon at the 2005 TCSS/GEOFEST meeting in Nashville on March 4th. Kurt Butefish, Coordinator of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, presented the awards. Each recipient was presented a plaque and \$500 check from the Alliance. The Beverly

award is bestowed for excellence in geography education for grades K-6. The Mullane award is bestowed for grades 7-12. Nominations were accepted from the teacher's peers.

The awards were established as the result of donations by two generous brother benefactors. They are named after two dedicated K-12 educators. Thomas Mullane taught high school in northern New Jersey and was routinely voted the outstanding teacher at his school. He won national level awards for his development of curricular materials. His colleagues and student held him in high regard and his students went on to excel in college.

Alden Beverly was a lifelong teacher and administrator in the Westchester County, NY school system. He served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal of schools in that area. He was genuinely interested in the health and development of public education.



Harry Anderson, 5th grade teacher at Bellwood Elementary School in Smyrna was awarded the fourth annual Lottie and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in geography education for grades K-6. Harry received this plaque and a \$500 dollar check at the spring TCSS/GEOFEST combined meeting.

**Announcing the Lottie and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year Award
AND
The Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award**

The fifth LOTTIE AND ALDEN BEVERLY GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD and TOM AND STELLA MULLANE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD will be presented during the 2005 combined TCSS Annual Meeting/GEOFEST. The BEVERLY award is bestowed for superior achievement in the teaching of geography in grades K-6. The MULLANE award is bestowed for superior achievement in the teaching of geography in grades 7-12. These awards each carry a \$500 cash prize. Nominations are currently being accepted by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance*. Previous nominees who have not won the award are encouraged to be submitted again. Please submit your nomination on the attached form and send to: *Kurt Butefish, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925*. Nominations must be received in the Alliance office by November 4th, 2005.

Is this teacher being nominated for (check one): _____ The BEVERLY award (Grades K-6)
_____ The MULLANE award (Grades 7-12)

Your Name _____

Home Address _____
Street and Number

_____ City State Zip

Your Phone Number _____ - _____ - _____
(in case we need to reach you with questions about your nominee)

Name of Person You Wish to Nominate _____

Nominee's School _____

Grade Level and Subjects Nominee Teaches _____

Reasons You Believe Nominee Deserves the BEVERLY or MULLANE GEOGRAPHY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

* *Tennessee Geographic Alliance staff members are not eligible for nomination, however, regional liaisons and chapter coordinators are eligible. Nominees, and nominators must be members of the Alliance.*

What's Up at the McClung Museum?

In addition to our permanent exhibits on *Archaeology and the Native Peoples of Tennessee*, *Geology and Fossil History of Tennessee* (featuring the changing Earth Bulletins from the American Museum of Natural History), *The Decorative Experience*, *Ancient Egypt: the Eternal Voice* and *Human Origins: Searching for our Fossil Ancestors*, all of which include geographic content and organized education programs, the upcoming school year will see the following new exhibits:

History Contained: Ancient Greek Bronze and Ceramic Vessels - The culture of the ancient Greeks including daily life, economics, society, and mythology can be observed in the detailed scenes on the exquisite red figure and black figure vessels and in the decorations and functions of the bronze vessels, made between the 8th century B.C. and the time of Alexander the Great. Some physical geography is also included. The exhibit offers a chance to see authentic pieces of high quality available only rarely in this area. Available Sept. 19-Dec. 16, 2005.

The Banjo: Africa's Instrument in Appalachia and Beyond - The banjo, an important instrument in several folk music genres of the American south, had its origin in the gourd instruments of west Africa. Brought to the Americas in the minds of enslaved Africans, the banjo reflected their social position, and later, as whites adopted it, changes in U.S. society after the Civil War. The program is a good example of an historical geographic topic, population change and culture change, as seen in music. Available January 17-March 31, 2006.

The Faithful Samurai - Social class, governance, and cultural values are just some of the aspects of 18th century feudal Japan that are learned through a legendary story of honor, loyalty and revenge. The Chushingura ("Treasury of Loyal Hearts") tells a mesmerizing tale, illustrated by the detailed and colorful woodblock prints of the artist Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797-1861). Artifacts, swords and costumes complete the visual presentation. Available April 17 through May 19, 2006. This exhibit will be extended to the early fall 2006.

Treasures Past and Present: Freshwater Mussels - A completely new and expanded exhibition traces the ecology and human uses of a little noticed but important Tennessee animal. The effects of human settlement and 20th century development are also included. Available September 19, 2005-May 19, 2006.

For more information, contact:

Debbie Woodiel
Museum Educator, McClung Museum
58 McClung Museum
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-3200
865-974-2144
woodield@utk.edu



TGA to Provide Support for Teachers Attending the 2005 NCGE Conference in Birmingham, AL

From the Coordinator

There is a wonderful opportunity for you to attend a large, national conference on geography education this fall. The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) is hosting its annual meeting in Birmingham, Alabama on October 13-15, 2005. The theme for this year's meeting is *Southern Traditions: Continuity and Change*. Special conference strands are the Middle East, Caribbean, and Civil Rights. Workshops and special sessions at the meeting include; "Geographers' Views of the South Through Time", Geography of the Caribbean Basins, Geography and Social Justice, AP Human Geography, National Geographic Society's Geography Action!, and Native American/Trail of Tears. Fieldtrips include Downtown Birmingham Walking Tours, Alabama's Iron and Steel Heritage, The Civil Rights Institute, Civil Rights Trail (Selma and Montgomery), Historic Mobile the Gulf Coast and the Mobile Delta, and Talladega: The Geography of NASCAR.

The Alliance has three members scheduled to present and we would like to have a strong presence at the meeting. In the spring **TGA News**, I offered for the Alliance to reimburse conference registration for the first 10 members that request it (you must be actively teaching in a Tennessee school). All 10 slots haven't been taken and we would like for some more members to join us in Birmingham. All you have to do is send a written request for reimbursement to me with a copy of your conference registration receipt. I'll reimburse you immediately after the conference, if you attend. Registration deadline for the conference is September 15, 2005. Information and registration forms are available at www.ncge.org.

Your Favorite Geography Lesson Plan Could Be Worth \$500 !!!

Charlie McRorie, CEO of Siesta Software Solutions, has generously agreed to sponsor a competition in which your favorite geography lesson plan could win \$500. The competition will be administered through the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

We are looking for lessons that:

- Successfully blend geography with other areas of the curriculum
- Address one or more of the 18 standards from *Geography for Life* (see www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/standards/matrix.html)
- Present an innovative or original approach to teaching geography.

Siesta Software Solutions wants to inspire teachers to develop creative geography lessons, to share those lessons with others, and to seek national recognition for the creativity of Tennessee teachers. The creator(s) of the winning lesson plan will receive a \$500 cash award from Siesta Solutions. (Teachers may choose to submit a lesson as a team.) The winning plan will be shared with the Alliance community in the **TGA News** and on the Alliance web site. The winning lesson plan will also be featured on the program of a future GEOFEST.

In addition, the Alliance will also assist the winner(s) in submitting the lesson plan for the annual NCGE/CRAM award which pays \$750, provides a one-year NCGE membership, waiver of the annual meeting registration fee and an award banquet ticket at the national conference. In return, you will present a program at that meeting on your winning lesson plan. In this way, the winner(s) will have an opportunity to continue a tradition of Tennessee Geographic Alliance members who have previously won the national NCGE/CRAM award.

Please submit your lesson plan(s) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 14, 2005 to:

Tennessee Geographic Alliance
304 Burchfiel Geography Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925

Or you may submit them electronically to kbutefis@utk.edu

Be sure to include the following information:

Your Name
Home Address
School Address
Email Address

A Copy of Your Lesson Plan

If you have questions about the competition, please email them to Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or call him at 865-974-4841.

Making the Most of Your Summer Break

By Rick Farney

What are you going to do with all your time off this summer? As a teacher, how many times do you hear this question at the beginning of each summer? After I get past the urge to argue the point with each interrogator that it is not a nice, long, well earned time off for a job well done, but a forced layoff without the chance to draw unemployment, I just smile and say, "Yeah, I sure am lucky". And in a real sense I am. I do get time in the summer to recoup. But I never forget what I am doing year to year and that is the thing I love the most, teaching tomorrow's leaders and citizens how to be the best for themselves and our world. It is an awesome thing to realize the responsibility that has been entrusted to me and all of us as educators. So, as for that time in the summer, it has become useful for several different purposes.

I have just completed twenty years in the classroom. Each summer has brought many opportunities. We all need to re-load ourselves with energy and excitement for the new class coming at the start of the next school year. But some summers have been set aside to work for extra bills that come as the result of having children of your own, buying a home, travel, or a host of other life situations. Some summers have been put aside to get more schooling and keep up with the massive amounts of information that is available today because of the Internet and cable. After all, that is why I became a teacher. I love to learn and to help others learn as well. That is what I did this summer. I went back to school in the form of an institute; a two-week focused journey into a topic of interest that would enhance me as well as my teaching. These institutes are offered all over the place. One doesn't have to look very far and the benefit for those who chose to do them is immeasurable.

I chose a workshop on Asia that I learned about through the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. It was a topic that I was interested in and felt I needed more exposure to. I not only attended, but I got a stipend for going, classroom materials, and met many new friends and colleagues that I will use the rest of my career. Some took it for credit for licensure renewal, but most just wanted to learn. Each summer, institutes and workshops are offered all across the country and literally around the world and most of them are specifically for educators like us. Many of the opportunities are not taken full advantage of, as there are empty seats in the classes due to low applicant numbers. I like my summers

as well as anyone, but a few weeks in a new place sometimes is the vacation I need to get me ready for the coming school year. I have even added endorsements to my teaching license this way.

This particular institute was sponsored by The National Consortium for Teaching About Asia (www.nctasia.org). It was taught by Dr. Lucien Ellington from UT Chattanooga and was held on their campus June 13 to June 24, with a follow up meeting on November 12. We were given a \$500 stipend, books and materials on Asia, and \$300 to buy Asia related materials for our schools. Each participant was required to put together three lesson plans to be used in our teaching this school year. Some of the topics covered included; Chinese Antiquity and Confucism, the Qin and Han Dynasties, Kamakura Japan, Twentieth Century Japan and Korea, and the Economic Rise of China.

If you have never considered using your summer in this way, why don't you. It has many useful benefits and you may just become one of those that looks forward to the summer months not just for the time off, but also for the time on. As you enrich yourself, you in turn impact your students. It is a win, win situation.



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Charlie McRorie, Director of the Geography and Educational Technology Workshop takes a break after a hard day. Charlie's crew of Alliance Teacher Consultants, Susan Gratz, Betty Hawkins, and Sue Schroder put on an excellent week-long workshop in Mt. Juliet, TN in June. Their host and invaluable technical support person was Diane Bennett, Technology Coach at Mt. Juliet High School. The Alliance is grateful for the warm hospitality provided by the wonderful folks at Mt. Juliet High.

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***Tennessee Geographic Alliance
304 Birchfiel Geography Bld.
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0925***

***Tel: 865 974 4841
Fax: 865 974 6025***

***kbutefis@utk.edu
<http://web.utk.edu/~tga>***