

TGA News

The Newsletter of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance

Volume XXIV, Issue 1, Fall 2009

This Will be Your Last Print Edition of the *TGA News* !

To continue receiving the *TGA News*, you will need to sign up for the Tennessee Geographic Alliance electronic listserv (unless you are already a member of the listserv). Please see the instructions below on how to sign up.

I have made the decision to go “paperless” in communicating with our members. This decision did not come without great consternation. Many of you who know me are aware that I am somewhat old school. I like newspapers, magazines and newsletters that are paper and ink and that I can hold, but technology and current economic realities have forced my hand.

Here are the reasons I made this decision:

- 1) The cost of printing and mailing over 4,500 newsletters and flyers twice a year is significant.
- 2) So much of the information that I send out is time-sensitive, therefore, much information already goes via e-mail.
- 3) An electronic newsletter will allow some flexibility, such as using higher-resolution graphics and color.
- 4) We can save more than a few trees over a given year.

In the future, the newsletter and flyers about upcoming Alliance events will come to you as .PDF files attached to listserv messages. I will greatly appreciate you printing out the flyers of workshop announcements and posting them in your schools and sharing them with your friends.

You don't have to do anything if you already receive emails from me about Alliance activities. If you do not currently receive information about the Alliance from the electronic listserv you will need to visit the Alliance website and sign up. It is a quick process (see below). Please be aware that it is the Alliance's policy to send out only information directly related to geography education. I do not forward any spam. All content is monitored and filtered by and through me before I pass it along to you. Also, you can request to be removed from the electronic mailing list at any time by just sending me an email. You won't hurt my feelings! If you prefer to receive emails at two different addresses, we can accommodate that as well.

To join the Tennessee Geographic Alliance Electronic Listserv:

Go to <http://web.utk.edu/~tga/> (or Google "Tennessee Geographic Alliance" and get there that way).

Click “Join the Listserv” on the left menu bar.

Fill in the requested information and click “Submit”

That's it! Thank you for your continued support of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.



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

Tel: 865.974.4841
Fax: 865.974.6025

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

Kurt Butefish
Coordinator

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
kbutefis@utk.edu

Murfreesboro Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, September 3, 2009
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Location: Erma Siegel Elementary School, Murfreesboro
Program: *Podcasting with Your Students* by Harry Anderson
Contact: Carolyn Anderson at Carolyn.Anderson@bellsouth.net
Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Gallatin Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2009
Time: 4:30 – 7:30 pm
Program: *Tennessee State Parks* by Lance Crawford, TNSP Ranger at Bledsoe Creek State Park.
Location: Sumner County Teachers' Center, 695 East Main St., Gallatin
Contact: Call the Teachers' Center to reserve a spot (615) 451-5228
Questions: Email Susan Bunn at susanbunn@comcast.net or Sonja Glasers at stevensonja@bellsouth.net
Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.



Nashville Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2009
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Location: Tech Room 1, Martin Professional Development Center, 2400 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville 37212
Program: *Geography and Technology: A Winning Combination*
Contact: Catherine Kelly at cgkelly@comcast.net or 615-333-9656
Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, fun, friends, and door prizes.

Knoxville Chapter Fall Program

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2009
Time: Registration begins 4:15pm, meeting at 4:45
Location: Room 226, University Center on the UT Campus
Program: *Our Neighbor to the North: Economic and Cultural Ties Between the U.S. and Canada*
Contact: Kurt Butefish at kbutefis@utk.edu or (865) 974-4841
No pre-registration is required. Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, friends, and door prizes.

Northeast TN Chapter Fall Program

Date: Monday, October 12 or 19 (TBD), 2009
Time: 4:30- 6:30 pm
Program: *Paleontology in Upper East Tennessee* by Dr. Jim Mead, Head of the Department of Geosciences at ETSU
Location: TBD
Contact: For information contact Rhonda Gregory at Gregory@chartertn.net
Come for great teaching activities, in-service credit, free food, fun, friends, and door prizes.

2010 Spring GEOFEST and TCSS Annual Conference

Date: Thursday evening, March 11 and Friday March 12, 2010
Location: Hilton Hotel, Memphis, TN
Contact: Information and registration will be announced in the spring *TGA News*.

Joseph Peterson wins the 2009 Geography Bee

Joseph Peterson, a 14-year-old eighth-grader from First Assembly Christian School in Cordova, TN, took top honors at the 2009 Tennessee state-level Geographic Bee. He won \$100, a “National Geographic Collegiate Atlas of the World” and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the finals of the 21st annual National Geographic Bee on May 19-20. The Bee is organized by the National Geographic Society. This year’s state sponsors were Google and Plum Creek.

The 2009 Tennessee Geographic Bee took place on Friday, April 3, at Tennessee State University’s Avon Williams (downtown) Campus. At the close of the morning preliminary round competitions, those students with the top ten scores advanced to the final rounds which followed at noon. State champion Joseph Peterson was joined in the winner’s circle by runner-up and second-place winner Param Deo, a fourth grader from Sycamore Elementary in Collierville, TN. Third place winner was William Oaks, a seventh grader from Norris Middle School in Norris, TN.

The geography bee was established by National Geographic Society beginning in 1989 to help promote geography education. In addressing Tennessee’s top geography students at the State Bee on April 3rd, state coordinator Catherine Kelly commended the competitors for their “awareness of the world, especially in light of the challenges it faces” and encouraged them to “continue to discover more about our planet and motivate others to respect and protect its diverse peoples, environments and resources.”

Winning Question in the Championship Round of the 2009 Tennessee Geographic Bee:

To see Sandro Botticelli’s famous painting, the Birth of Venus, you would travel to which Italian city located upriver from Pisa?

Answer: Florence

Other Final Round Questions:

Pula, a port city on the Adriatic Sea, is an industrial center and resort area in which country?

Answer: Croatia

Florence Nightingale, recognized as the founder of modern nursing, reduced death rates dramatically during which war that shares its name with a Ukrainian peninsula?

Answer: Crimean War

The Canary Islands, an autonomous region of Spain, are found off the coast of which North African country?

Answer: Morocco

Sable Island, a low sandy island located along the western edge of the Gulf Stream, is part of which Canadian maritime province?

Answer: Nova Scotia

Which Belgian city is often referred to as the capital of Europe because it houses the main institutions of the European Union?

Answer: Brussels



Joseph Peterson, 8th grader at First Assembly Christian School in Cordova, TN is presented the first place trophy for the 2009 Geography Bee by Professor Keith Bell who served as the final round moderator for the Bee.

2009 Tennessee Geographic Bee Finalists:

- 1st – Joseph Peterson, 8th grade, First Assembly Christian, Cordova
- 2nd – Param Deo, 4th grade, Sycamore Elementary, Collierville
- 3rd – William Oaks, 7th grade, Norris Middle, Norris
- 4th – Megan Lee, 8th grade, White Station Middle, Memphis
- 4th – Giovanni Martino, 7th grade, Westview Middle, Morristown
- 4th – Katherine Wheeler, 8th grade, Jefferson Middle, Oak Ridge
- 5th – Ryan Jones, 7th grade, Rossvie Elementary, Clarksville
- 5th - Christopher Packett, 5th grade, W.A. Wright Elementary, Mount Juliet
- 6th – Karsten DeFee, 7th grade, West Valley Middle, Knoxville
- 6th – Tucker Riddick, 6th grade, Alcoa Middle, Alcoa

Lesson Plan of the Year Award Presented at TCSS/Geofest

Jayson Evaniuck, world geography teacher at Raleigh Egypt High School in Memphis, was presented the fourth annual Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year Award during the awards luncheon at the 2009 TCSS Annual Conference/Geofest meeting in Knoxville on March 6h. Jayson's lesson plan *Rollin' on a River: Using the Mississippi River to Study Memphis Geography* was chosen by a committee of the Alliance Board from the largest number of entries received to date. Jayson was presented with a plaque and a check for \$500 complements of Siesta Software Solutions.

In past editions of the *TGA News* we have published the winning lesson plan. However, Jayson's lesson is quite detailed and contains many visuals and primary documents. The complete unit plan may be accessed from the TGA website at:

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

and then by clicking on "Favorite and Award Winning Lesson Plans" on the left menu bar.



Jayson Evaniuck, geography teacher at Raleigh Egypt High School in Memphis was presented the fourth annual Siesta Software Solutions Geography Lesson Plan of the Year award at the spring TCSS/Geofest combined meetings. Kurt Butefish presented Jayson with a plaque and a \$500 check courtesy of Siesta Software Solutions.

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

Tennessee Geographic Alliance members Rhonda Gregory, sixth and seventh grade teacher at Colonial Heights Middle School in Kingsport, and Michael Robinson, a World Geography and AP Human Geography teacher at Houston High in Memphis, 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 2009 TCSS/Geofest Annual Conference in Knoxville on March 6th. 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.



Rhonda Gregory, 6-7th grade teacher at Colonial Heights Middle School in Kingsport was awarded the seventh annual Lotti and Alden Beverly Geography Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in geography education for grades K-6. Rhonda received this plaque and a \$500 check from Alliance Coordinator Kurt Butefish at the spring TCSS/Geofest combined meetings.

The awards were established as the result of donations by two generous benefactors who are brothers. 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.



Michael Robinson, geography teacher at Houston High School in Germantown was awarded the seventh annual Tom and Stella Mullane Geography Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in geography education for grades 7-12. Michael received this plaque and a \$500 check from Alliance Coordinator Kurt Butefish at the spring TCSS/Geofest combined meetings.



Alliance Member Michael Robinson Wins NCGE/Nystrom Award

For the fifth time, a Tennessee Geographic Alliance member has won the prestigious NCGE/Nystrom Geography Award.

Michael Robinson, a World Geography and AP Human Geography teacher at Houston High in Memphis won for his geography lesson plans on *Starbucks Geography*. The five lessons are designed to teach basic geographic concepts. Each lesson uses Starbucks Coffee to help illustrate the main concepts. All five lessons require the use of computers and the internet, and students use Keynote (Mac) or PowerPoint (PC) to create professional quality maps.

Michael will receive \$1,500, a one year membership to the National Council for Geographic Education and free registration to the NCGE conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, September 23-27, 2009. In return, Michael will present a session on his lesson plans at the conference.

Michael has graciously agreed to make his lessons accessible to TGA members through his website. Please visit <http://houstonhs.scsk12.org/~robinson> and look under "In-Service"



Geography Action! 2009/10 "Mapping Europe"

The National Geographic Society is continuing its tradition of fostering awareness of the world's diverse cultures and environments with its annual program of Geography Awareness Week, November 15-21, 2009 with planned events throughout the school year. This year's theme is "Mapping Europe" featuring fun and map-based activities. This is the fourth year in a five-year program where Geography Action! focuses on a geographic region of the world. Teachers and students will journey together to gain knowledge about the world's cultures, environments, and contemporary issues using materials developed by the National Geographic Society. The toolkit can be downloaded from the National Geographic website at:

www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction

For more information or lesson plan ideas contact Sherri Collie (931) 724-9510 or email her at sherrigeoteach@yahoo.com. A Geography Day will be held at Collinwood Middle School On November 20 to commemorate GAW.

Upcoming Geography-related Exhibits at McClung Museum

August 29, 2009-January 10, 2010 - Geography, trade, history, and visual art are intertwined in *Discovering American Indian Art*, an exhibition of striking and beautiful examples of American Indian art from the United States and Canada. More than 70 examples from the 10 culture areas of North America underscore the diversity found in Native American art, from the use of raw materials reflecting a people's environment to use of art as an expression of ethnic identity, status, personal achievement, and artistic skill. The exhibit includes 19th and 20th century works, and many earlier pieces are illustrated by historic photographs showing their use by Native peoples. Contemporary pieces show the cultural continuity and pride of modern Indian artists.



Killer whale mask, Walter Harris, Git'san (Tsimshian), Northwest Coast

January 22-May 23, 2010 – *2000 Years of Chinese Art: From the Han Dynasty to the Present* will be a timely reminder that China is a vast area inhabited by more than 56 ethnic groups, each with its own customs, traditions, language, foods, and in some cases, religious beliefs. In the past, these peoples had their own leaders, and often fought with each other for political dominance. China's history is one of conflicts, migrations, and subjugation by a ruling people, who imposed its rules, laws, customs, and traditions. Each of these dynasties has left its imprint in Chinese art and design, reflecting their geographic, social, political and cultural characteristics.

In addition to the guided programs of these changing exhibits, the Museum offers education programs in its permanent galleries as well; many of them include geographic topics. *Archaeology & the Native Peoples of Tennessee*, *Geology & Fossil History of Tennessee*, *Ancient Egypt: The Eternal Voice*, *The Decorative Experience*, *Fresh-water Mussels of Tennessee*, *Human Origins: Searching for our Fossil Ancestors* (new "Hobbit" added), and *The Battle of Fort Sanders: November 29, 1863* are available this school year. Outreach programs for middle and high school students include programs on Native Peoples, Ancient Egypt, the Civil War, and Ancient China. For information or to make a reservation for a FREE program, contact Debbie Woodiel, Museum Educator, 865-974-2144, email woodield@utk.edu, or visit <http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu>



GeoSummit 2009: A Tennessean's Story

by David Huebner

Each year Tennessee teachers must find ways to fulfill professional development opportunities to keep their teaching license current. In my county, I must not only fulfill three days (6.5 hours is a day) of in-service professional development (usually at my school or another county location), but also three days of professional development elsewhere.

This year I thought early about combining a summer trip to Texas with possible opportunities in the central Texas area. Knowing that Texas State University in San Marcos offers one of the finest programs in geography studies in the U.S., I was pleased to discover that GeoSummit 2009 was scheduled May 27-30 at the University. Operating under the aegis of the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, these four days offered an incredible variety of workshops, conferences, field trips, exhibitions, panel sessions, and keynotes, not to mention intriguing and new contacts and friendships!

Continued on Page 14

FREE SCIENCE / EARTH SCIENCE TEACHER WORKSHOP

Knoxville, TN - Tuesday, October 6, 2009

MASTODON MATRIX: A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM

Sponsored by:

The University of Tennessee GK-12 Earth Project, funded by the National Science Foundation
The Tennessee Geographic Alliance
The Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee

Date and Time of Workshop: Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 4:30pm – 7:00pm

Location of Workshop: Burchfiel Geography Building on the UTK Campus

Intended Audience: Science and Earth Science teachers of grades 3-12

Deadline for Applications: Friday, September 18, 2009

Content and Benefits: The workshop will be led by Dr. Sally Horn, Professor of Geography. Participants will be introduced to and work through an inquiry-based activity that will provide their students with an opportunity to analyze actual samples of fossil matrix (matrix is the paleontological term for the material a fossil is found in) from a mastodon excavated in New York. Each participant will take fossil matrix back to their classroom for analysis by their students.

The Mastodon Matrix project was developed by the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, New York, in collaboration with Cornell University. We are pleased to be working with the Paleontological Research Institution in our University of Tennessee GK-12 Earth Project, and want to share this great project with more Tennessee teachers.

The excavated mastodon died about 12,000 years ago, when the last great continental glacier that covered parts of North America was melting. Students are able to sort through the matrix to find ancient shells, bones, pieces of plants, and rocks from the time when the mastodon lived and died. The students' discoveries will be sent back to the Paleontological Research Institution, where they will be cataloged and further analyzed by paleontologists to help scientists form a true picture of the ecology and environment where—and when—the mastodon lived and died. Here is a chance for your students to contribute to a real research project!

Free parking in the University Center Parking Garage will be provided by the GK-12 Earth Project. Certificates of completion will be provided by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance.

Application Submission: Mail your application, with a \$25 refundable deposit (checks made out to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance), to: Kurt Butefish, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925 to be received no later than Friday, September 18, 2009.

Questions and Information: Kurt Butefish, Coordinator, Tennessee Geographic Alliance
865-974-4841 or kbutefis@utk.edu .

APPLICATION FOR MASTODON MATRIX WORKSHOP

Sponsored by:

The University of Tennessee GK-12 Earth Project, funded by the NSF
The Tennessee Geographic Alliance
The Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee

Knoxville - Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 4:30pm - 7:00pm

**401 Burchfiel Geography Building
University of Tennessee in Knoxville**

SUBMIT \$25 WORKSHOP DEPOSIT
checks made to TENNESSEE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

Refunds will be made to participants who complete the workshop and to applicants whose applications come in after the workshop is filled.

Name _____

Home Address _____
Street and No. City State Zip

Home Phone _____ - _____ - _____

School _____

E-Mail _____

Please return this application along with your \$25 refundable deposit made to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, TO: Kurt Butefish, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925.

Applications are to be received not later than Friday, September 18, 2009

ONE-DAY AMERICAN INDIAN WORKSHOP

McClung Museum, Knoxville, TN – Friday, October 16, 2009

BEYOND THE BASICS: AMERICAN INDIAN ART, MUSIC, DANCE and LITERATURE

Sponsored by:

**Frank H. McClung Museum
Indian Creek Productions, Inc.
Tennessee Geographic Alliance
Tennessee Council for the Social Studies**

Date and Time of Workshop: Friday, October 16, 2009 8:30am – 4:00pm

Location of Workshop: Frank H. McClung Museum on the Univ. of Tenn. Campus

Persons Eligible to Apply: All Tennessee teachers (public, private, home school, and pre-service)

Deadline for Applications: Friday, September 25, 2009

Content and Benefits: Free parking, breakfast snacks and a boxed lunch will be provided as well as a certificate of completion. Lesson plans and multiple handouts will also be provided. Topics to be covered include:

Using American Indian Art to Teach about Native People - An introduction to how anthropologists and archaeologists study the art of Native Peoples by Debbie Woodiel, Museum Educator, Frank H. McClung Museum.

Discovering American Indian Art - A guided tour of the new exhibit, practicing how to look, using a variety of North American Indian art by - Dr. Michael Logan, UTK Professor of Anthropology and exhibit Co-Curator.

Exploring Native American Art and Culture in Tennessee - More on how to view, focusing on Tennessee works, including cave art by Dr. Jefferson Chapman, Director, Frank H. McClung Museum.

Understanding American Indian Music and Dance - (Boxed lunch and program.) The origin and meaning behind American Indian music and dance by Lowery Begay, Navajo, world-renowned hoop dancer.

Applications and Activities for the Classroom - How your students can benefit from this information by Debbie Woodiel, Museum Educator, Frank H. McClung Museum and Mark and Sherry Finchum, Indian Creek Productions.

Beyond the Feathers - Identifying stereotypes in textbooks, literature, and the classroom by Mark and Sherry Finchum, Indian Creek Productions.

Application Submission: Send your \$25 workshop fee (checks made to Tennessee Geographic Alliance) and completed application form to Kurt Butefish, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925. Deadline for receipt of application is Friday, September 25, 2009.

Questions and Information: Mark Finchum, indiancreekproductions@gmail.com

ONE-DAY AMERICAN INDIAN WORKSHOP

McClung Museum, Knoxville, TN – Friday, October 16, 2009

BEYOND THE BASICS: AMERICAN INDIAN ART, MUSIC, DANCE and LITERATURE

Sponsored by:

**Frank H. McClung Museum
Indian Creek Productions, Inc.
Tennessee Geographic Alliance
Tennessee Council for the Social Studies**

**Frank H. McClung Museum
The University of Tennessee in Knoxville**

SUBMIT \$25 WORKSHOP FEE
checks made to TENNESSEE GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE

Refunds will be made to applicants if they are not admitted because the workshop fills.

Name _____

Home Address _____
Street and No. City State Zip

Home Ph. _____ - _____ - _____ Work Ph. _____ - _____ - _____

School _____

E-Mail _____

Please return this application along with your \$25 workshop fee via check made to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, TO: Kurt Butefish, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925.

Applications are to be received not later than Friday, September 25, 2009

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FOR THE SPRING TCSS/GEOFEST 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Would you like to offer a presentation during the Spring GEOFEST ?

The Spring GEOFEST will be combined with the annual State Social Studies Conference of the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies (TCSS). The meeting will be held on Friday, March 12, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in Memphis. Registration information will be provided in the Spring *TGA News*.

TCSS and/or Alliance members who present will register free. The Alliance will cover the cost of membership for 2009-10 for non-TCSS members who present. The Alliance will also cover the cost of the optional luncheon for GEOFEST presenters.

Presenters may choose to present on any geographical topic. You might consider teaming up with another teacher and doing a co-presentation of one topic or a two-part presentation on related topics. Presentations should be 45 minutes long.

If you wish to give a presentation, please complete and return the form below postmarked no later than November 16, 2009. Send it to the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, 304 Burchfiel Geography Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0925

Personal Information

Your Name _____

Home Address _____
Street & Number City State Zip

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

School _____

Are you currently a TCSS member? ___ Yes ___ No

Presentation Title:

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

Equipment Needs (The Alliance can provide a computer/projector if you require.):

100 Word Abstract (attach another sheet if necessary):

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

Siesta Software Solutions has generously offered to, once again, sponsor a competition in which your favorite geography lesson plan could win \$500. The competition will be administered through the Tennessee Geographic Alliance and is open to members who are in-service teachers that teach in the state of Tennessee.

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 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 Software 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 the Spring GEOFEST in Memphis.

The Alliance will also assist the winner(s) in submitting their lesson plan for the annual NCGE/Nystrom award which pays \$1,500, 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 on your winning lesson plan at that meeting. In this way, the winner(s) will have an opportunity to continue a long tradition of Tennessee Geographic Alliance members winning the national NCGE Lesson Plan award.

Please submit your lesson plan(s) NO LATER THAN January 15, 2010 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.

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 eighth 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 2010 combined TCSS Annual Conference/GEOFEST at the Hilton Hotel in Memphis on Friday, March 12, 2010. 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 submit 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 February 1, 2010.

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.*

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The highlight of GeoSummit 2009 was the field trip “Culture Groups of the Texas Hill Country” on Saturday, May 30. This twelve-hour field trip engaged eighteen geography teachers and professors in an intense and fascinating look at the cultural and physical geographies of the Texas Hill Country. A personal benefit was the leadership: Dr. Donald J. Huebner of Texas State University was one of two co-leaders in this trip. Yes, Don is my older brother!



Professor Donald Huebner of Texas State University discusses the history of Fischer Hall near Waverly, TX with participants of the GeoSummit 2009.

Opportunities abound throughout the year in Tennessee and other states for teachers in pursuing professional development opportunities. Do not pass them by!



Confessions of an American Teacher in Turkey

by Timothy Drinkwine

“Why are you going to Turkey?” This was a prominent question during the weeks leading up to my two week excursion through the country in Europe and Asia. Many people asked questions similar in nature... questions such as: “Are you sure it’s safe?” “What is in Turkey?” “Are you scared?”

These questions (asked mostly by family and friends) were based on ignorance and fear. And, I cannot say I blame them because I had similar questions. Before my trip, I had limited knowledge of Turkey, a short-sighted ignorance, and many misconceptions.

I was fortunate to be accepted by the Tennessee World Affairs Council, in partnership with the Turkish Cultural Foundation (TCF), to attend a Summer Study Tour for American Teachers. The trip was designed to take teachers of art, history, geography, and music to Turkey so that they could learn about the country, bring back the lessons and share them with students, professionals, and community members in an effort to dispel myths and misunderstanding about Turkey and its people.

I was ecstatic when I learned of my acceptance to study and visit Turkey, but I was not prepared for what I was about to experience. I left the States expecting to go to an unsafe, “dustbowl” in the Middle East. But, instead, I found Turkey to be a beautiful, progressive country that rivals many of those in Europe. The Turks are very friendly, the food tastes great, and the history is rich.

Turkey is beautiful! I thought it would be more desert-like than it actually is. However, much of my time in Istanbul reminded me of my visits to Southern California, with million dollar homes on arid (but certainly not desert) hillsides. I was also surprised by all of the accessible waterways such as the Bosphorous, the Black Sea, the stunning Aegean Sea and the mighty Mediterranean.

Turkey is progressive! One of the first things I noticed was the huge similarity to my own country. I do not know what I was expecting... maybe I thought I was going to see Turks travelling on foot, bicycle, rickshaws, and the backs of donkeys and camels. Boy was I wrong. I was envious seeing so many Audis, BMW’s, and Mercedes-Benz, followed by more modest makes such as Fords, Chevy’s, Peugeots, Opels, and Fiats. These cars were everywhere.

In addition, the city of Istanbul's public transit system rivals that of larger U.S. cities such as Atlanta and Chicago.

Turkey is secular and not fundamental! I was surprised to see so many people dressed in European styled fashions. I saw some head coverings, but not many. I thought I would see women covered from head to toe in black garb. This was not the case (at least for most of the Turkish women). The men and women in Istanbul wore fashionable business suits and/or western influenced casual-wear such as Nike, Adidas, Quiksilver, Abercrombie and Fitch. I observed a country that was certainly influenced by Islam (99% of Turks are Muslim), but not dominated by Muslim

theocrats who limit the freedom of women or seek to alienate the rest of the non-Muslim world.

Turkey is heavily westernized and European! Turkey sits on two continents: Europe and Asia. Their major city of Istanbul is divided by the Bosphorous which acts as the dividing line between the two continents. Mainly while in Istanbul, but even the Asian cities of Bursa and Ankara, I thought I was in Europe due to the clothing, and transportation. Even the architecture resembled many European designs.

Turkey is friendly, hospitable, and generous! Wherever my group of teachers went, we were offered a drink. We were literally "wined and dined" everywhere we visited: from think-tanks, to carpet factories,

to clay/pottery factories, to the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce. Everything from apple tea, black tea, regular Turkish tea, Nescafe, white wine, red wine, beer, and sodas were offered to me and my travel mates. Most Turks spoke English (some better than others), but it was evident that they wanted to connect with English speakers. It was also evident that the Turkish school system places high regard on the learning and speaking of English and other

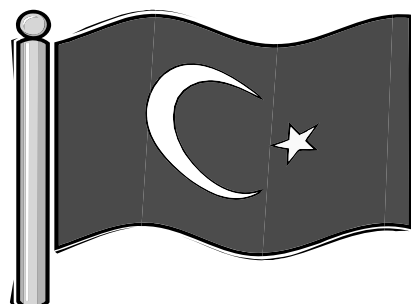
European languages such as French, German, and Spanish, Greek, or Italian. I was impressed with this because I believe that if you want to know someone... you have to speak their language. This is a sign of great



Timothy Drinkwine takes in a sunset at the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey.

hospitality.

Turks are humble but proud! The Turks love their country. However, the pride is a good and exemplary pride. The Turkish friends I made are the first to admit their country has its faults and most definitely is not perfect, but they love their homeland and will fly their crescent moon and star adorned flag with great enthusiasm.





(L-R) Marie Maddox, Alliance member Fernando Branch, Faye Watts, Peggy Fragapoulos, Alliance member Timothy Drinkwine, and JB Smith in Cappadocia in central Turkey. The Tennessee teachers were attending a study abroad tour sponsored by the Tennessee World Affairs Council, in partnership with the Turkish Cultural Foundation. Please see Page 14 for Timothy Drinkwine's article about the tour.

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