

# ❖ Tennessee Geographic Alliance News ❖

CHAPTERS: Cookeville \* Clarksville \* Chattanooga \* Knoxville \* Memphis \* Nashville \* Northeast

Volume XII Issue 2

Spring 1998

## The Livingston Endowment for Geographic Education

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrison Livingston, of Knoxville, and the National Geographic Society Education Foundation, Geography Education in Tennessee has been provided with a permanent base of support. Mr. and Mrs. Livingston donated approximately \$250,000 toward the endowment. That amount, plus about \$10,000 in contributions from the Tennessee Geographic Society membership, was matched by the National Geographic Society Education Foundation to give the endowment a base amount of nearly \$520,000. The funds will be invested by the National Geographic Society, and earnings will be used to build the base amount and to further geography education in Tennessee. National Geographic will absorb all costs of administering the fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Livingston were inspired by Vice President Albert Gore's donations toward establishment of a Chair of Excellence in Environmental Studies at the University, and their gift reflects a lifelong interest in both the University and in issues related to population growth. Mr. Livingston has studied the implications of population growth for many years, and he is concerned that uncontrolled growth will adversely affect

quality of life in the United States and elsewhere on the planet. Reflecting these interests, and because population is the basis for nearly everything that geographers study and teach, the Tennessee Geographic Alliance has pledged to use earnings from the Livingston gift to support regular workshops and institutes on population issues, and to create materials about population that are suitable for use in the schools.

The Livingstons have also pledged another \$250,000 to establish the J. Harrison and Robbie C. Livingston Professorship in Geography. The person selected to hold the professorship will pursue teaching and research on population issues.

All Alliance members and others interested in geography education in Tennessee should be grateful to the Livingstons for their generosity. They have assured us that funds will be available, in perpetuity, to support geography education in our state. But the story must not end here. National Geographic is willing to match up to \$500,000 in donations to the Geography Education Endowment, so we continue to seek an additional \$250,000 to move the endowment amount to a total of \$1,000,000. Much work is still to be done.

## Hey Teachers! It's Geography Bee Time!



As this article goes to press, thousands of Tennessee fourth through eighth-grade students in approximately eight hundred schools are competing for the honor of being the state Tennessee Geography Bee champion.

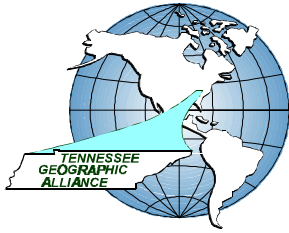
School-level competitions began as early as December 1. By January 9, the number of students still in the competition will be reduced from thousands to hundreds. Then, after a written test, the number of participants will drop to one hundred.

The lucky (or should we say, talented) 100 will be invited to compete in the state competition in Nashville on Friday, April 3. At this point, the students will be divided into five groups of twenty students, where they will undergo

questioning in the preliminary round. The top two from each group will advance to the televised final round. One extremely gifted student will earn bragging rights as state geography champion and will be flown to Washington, D.C., for the national championship.

Tennessee's champion will compete with representatives from all fifty states and each U.S. territory for the national title May 19 and 20. With Alex Trebec acting as moderator, the national finalists will go through round after round of questioning until a national champion emerges.

The winner of the national championship will receive a \$25,000 scholarship, with other scholarships being awarded to the next two top finalists. Other cash and/or prizes will be awarded participating in the local, state, and national competitions. Even those who participate on the school level will receive certificates in appreciation of their efforts to master geography.



# UPCOMING TGA WORKSHOPS

## Waterfalls . . . Water Pollution

## Studying Earth from Space

### WORKSHOPS

#### **Northeast (Tri-Cities) - Tuesday, March 17**

When: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
 Where: Liberty Bell Middle School  
 Speaker: Dr. Gregory Plumb  
 Topic: Geography of Waterfalls

#### **Knoxville - Thursday, February 26**

When: 4:30 p.m. til 8 p.m.  
 Where: Shiloh Room, Univ. Center,

UTK

Speaker: Greg Cox, Marshall Space Center  
 Topic: Studying the Earth from Space

#### **Chattanooga - Thursday, March 5**

When: 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
 Where: Catholic Center, UTC  
 Speaker: Linda Harris, TVA Educator  
 Topic: Water Pollution

#### **Nashville - Thursday, April 30, 1998**

"End of the Year Energizers"

Presented by teachers from various grade levels. Creative, fun, and practical. Teaching strategies, learning activities, and materials will be shared to help "energize" your social studies or geography classroom during those last few weeks of the school year.

#### **Cookeville - Saturday, February 21**

When: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
 Where: Kittrell Hall, Tenn Tech Univ

### SUMMER INSTITUTES - (See Form on Pg 5)

#### **The Geography of Appalachia**

When: June 15-19 & 22-24  
 Where: Middle Tennessee State University  
 Director: Dr. J. Douglas Heffington

#### **Global Population Dynamics**

When: June 13-17  
 Where: University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
 Director: Dr. Sidney Jumper

#### **Training Teachers to Use Computers to Deliver Curriculum in Geography and Other Social Studies Subjects**

When: July 20-31  
 Where: Northwest Middle School, Knoxville  
 Note: First preference to Knox County Teachers;  
 Open to 25 teachers.

### 1998 STATEWIDE MEETING - (See Form on Pg 5)

When: October 17  
 Where: University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
 Theme: Geography: Where All the Subjects Meet and Merge  
 Cost: Thru (9/25) Presenters \$5, Others \$15;

# Statewide Geography Conference a Success

On Saturday, November 8, 1997, the second annual Statewide Geography Conference was held at historic Cumberland University. Teachers from all grade levels and parts of the state flocked to Lebanon to attend the event.

The conference began with a general session in Baird Chapel, and Mack Pritchard, Tennessee State Naturalist, presenting a slide show titled, "Our Natural Heritage". Following the keynote address, attendees selected from twenty-eight break-out sessions and several artistic displays. In addition, all registrants received a variety of complimentary materials and lunch.

A new feature of this year's conference was the geography store; with maps and other teaching materials

that would be helpful in any classroom. Those visiting the store also were given the opportunity to buy geography-related personal items.

Congratulations are extended to those whose hard work made this year's conference a success.

If you have news or information you would like included in the *TGA News*, forward them to TGA, c/o Dept of Geog, UTK, Knoxville, TN 37996-1420, ATTN: C. McRorie.

Newsletter Editor: Charlie McRorie  
 Layout: Kyle Rector

## UTK Geography Receives Bequest For New Building



The Department of Geography at University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has been honored to receive a gift of nearly \$5,000,000 for construction of a new, modern, GEOGRAPHY building. The late Dr. William H. Burchfiel, Jr., provided for the building in his will, and the building is to be

named after his father. Dr. Burchfiel received his bachelor's and Master's degrees in geography from University of Tennessee, and his doctorate in geography from University of Maryland. His business interests included an insurance agency in Sevierville, and motels in both Sevierville and Gatlinburg.

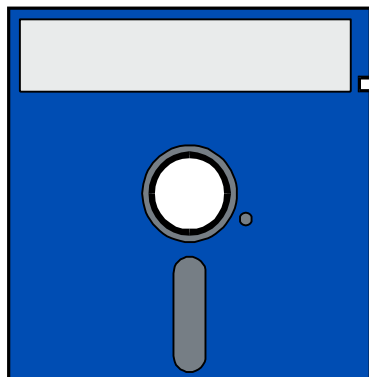
Dr. Burchfiel maintained a lifelong interest in the University of Tennessee, and in the Department of Geography in particular. He was particularly interested in those aspects of geography that are vital to development and growth of the economy, and one of his dreams was to see production of an

atlas that focused on those aspects of geography that would be useful to Tennessee businesses.

The Burchfiel Geography Building will occupy a space between the Alumni Memorial Building and the Life Sciences Building, and will consist of four floors totaling some 33,000 square feet. A major advantage of the site is its proximity to the university's fiber-optic network, which gives it easy access to communications facilities vital to expansion of teaching and research in Geographic Information Systems, environmental geography, and other subfields. The location is also near the main library and the several departments with which Geography works most closely in teaching and research.

In addition to faculty offices, classrooms, and laboratories, the Burchfiel Geography Building will contain substantial space for use by the Tennessee Geographic Alliance. Now in its design phase, construction will begin in late summer of 1998 and the building should be ready for occupancy before the new century arrives. The building is one more step in the vigorous growth of geography as a discipline at the University

## Software Review - "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego, ver. 3"



Broderbund's newest version of the venerable "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego" has made significant improvements, especially in using the software in a teaching environment. Unbelievable items still keep getting stolen by Carmen's gang (Ayer's Rock, the keys to the Tower of London, the locks of the

Panama Canal), and the goal is still to chase the crook all over the world until he/she is captured. That's where the similarities between the new and old Carmen end.

Instead of still pictures of the sites visited with opportunities to click on sites within the location (bank, marketplace, etc.), viewers now can get a full 360 degree panorama of a site in the host country. For example, when visiting Russia, the visitor stands in Red Square, and he can turn in any direction and see the entire scene. Animated characters walk around the site, and the player can stop any of them by clicking on the character. The character actually stops and talks with the player, giving clues to the suspect's identity and where the suspect went. The characters show a high degree of courtesy when given the

opportunity. In addition, the player can request a guide to give a walking, talking tour of every site visited.

The plane rides between the sites can be unnerving. The planes almost take off vertically and make nose-dives on their landings. Prior to each flight, the viewer gets to see the length of the flight, local departure time, local arrival time, and number of time zones crossed. In addition, the scenes change from day to night. In fact, if the viewer arrives in a place at sunset, he can see the scene gradually change from daylight to darkness. The stars come out, and the lights of the city come on. The reverse happens at dawn.

All of that is nice, but it is only a portion of what makes "Carmen" such a great teaching tool. This version of "Carmen" has an abundance of information on fifty nations and all seven continents that can be accessed with or without playing the game. By going to the index, players can click on any of the countries and get a ton of information about that country. In addition, the viewers can see a detailed physical/political map of the country, the country's flag, and a video on the country. The continent displays have a LOT of information on each continent, along with a physical map of the continent.

Broderbund has done a spectacular job of improving this software. "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego - 3.0" is well worth the money, and, when properly used, can be an excellent educational tool.

# Geography Awareness Week - "Exploring The World"



Geography Awareness Week was once again a tremendous success this year, with K-12 teachers and college educators "exploring the world" around them. The Tennessee Geographic Alliance and the National Geographic Society have already heard from a number of participants.

A form is provided in this newsletter to encourage others to share their GAW experiences. If you return the forms promptly, you will be in the running for a drawing for some great prizes! Your participation does not have to be a "spectacular" event to be eligible for prizes. Let us hear from you. Here are some samples of what we have received so far.

During Geography Awareness Week, the University of Memphis hosted a week-long bill of activities organized by the Department of Geography and the Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Society. Lectures offered daily by the Memphis faculty featured everything from El Niño to national parks. A tee shirt was awarded to the winner of the GAW quiz. The University of Memphis and its Geography Department was proud of the participation on the part of the students and members of the community.

The third grade students at Thatcher Middle School heard Doug Heffington speak about the American Indian and how using geography helps one interpret the past. Then he did hands-on rock art activities with select classes to explore the effect the Trail of Tears had on the Cherokee Indians and the State of Tennessee - once again using geography to explore the state's rich past.



## Geography Awareness Week Survey

Teachers/Librarians: Please fill out the following survey regarding your activities during Geography Awareness Week. By filling out this form, Geography Awareness Week (GAW) will continue to get sponsors that will provide more and more materials to teachers to help students learn all the different types of geography and to continue to explore their world!! Plus, you will be in the running for a drawing for some great prizes!!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street and Number City State Zip

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Street and Number City State/Zip

How many students were involved? \_\_\_\_\_ How many teachers were involved? \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the space below to describe your Geography Awareness Week activities. Please include pictures, newspaper articles, etc., if you have any. Thank you so very much for your response.

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: Tennessee Geographic Alliance, Dept. of Geography, UTK, Knoxville, TN 37996-

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON SUMMER WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTES**

Please indicate below if you are interested in obtaining further information and application forms for workshops and institutes being offered during Summer 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_ **June 15-19 & 22-24** Institute on "The Geography of Appalachia." Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. Fieldtrip to the Appalchian region of Kentucky. Director: Dr. J. Douglas Heffington, Dept. of Geography, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Phone: 615-898-5978. Fax: 615-898-5592. Email: jheffing@frank.mtsu.edu.

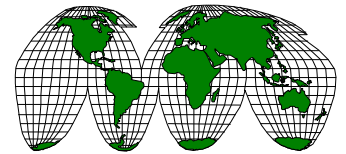
\_\_\_\_\_ **July 13-17** Workshop on "Global Population Dynamics." The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Director: Dr. Sidney R. Jumper, Dept. of Geography, UTK, Knoxville, TN 37996-1420. Phone: 423-974-2418. Fax: 423-974-6025. Email: sjumper@utk.edu.

\_\_\_\_\_ **July 20-31** Workshop on "Training Teachers to Use Computers to Deliver Curriculum in Geography and Other Social Studies Subjects." Northwest Middle School in Knoxville. Please Note: Preference will be given to Knox County Teachers; enrollment limited to 25. Director: Dr. Sidney R. Jumper, Dept. of Geography, UTK, Knoxville, TN 37996-1420. Phone: 423-974-2418. Fax: 423-974-6025. Email: sjumper@utk.edu.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Return form to Sid Jumper, Dept. of Geography, UTK, Knoxville, TN 37996-1420*

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM  
 THIRD ANNUAL STATEWIDE ALLIANCE MEETING**



**October 17 University of Tennessee, Knoxville 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Meeting Theme: "Geography: Where All the Subjects Meet an Merge"

Featuring: Outstanding keynote speaker. Approximately 40 presentations. All levels represented. Free teaching materials. Door prizes. Lunch. Meet colleagues from all parts of Tennessee. More!

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5 Presenters, \$15 Others if received by Alliance before Sept. 25, 1998  
 \$20 Presenters & Others after Sept. 25, and at the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\* EVERYONE MUST REGISTER, INCLUDING PRESENTERS \*\*\*\*\*

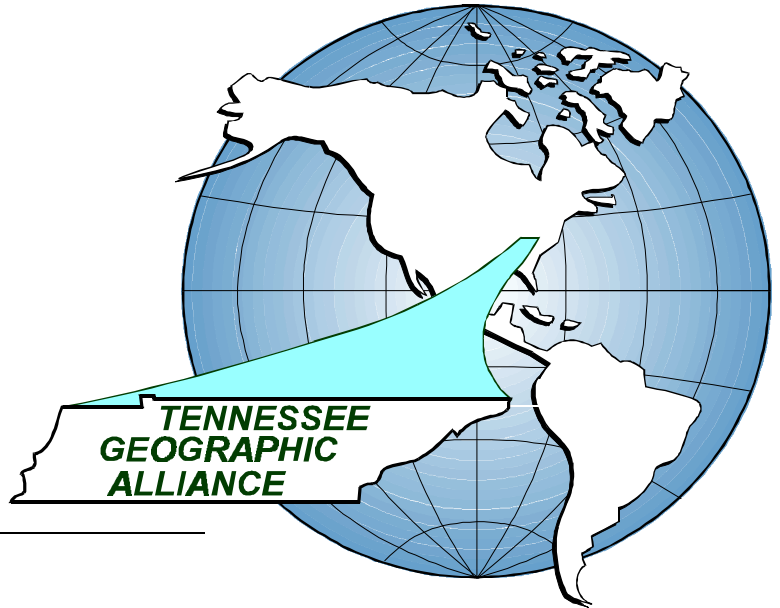
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Name \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be a presenter? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
 If yes, on what topic? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What grade level(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of time needed (min.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Equipment needed? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **“E-rate” Reduces Internet Costs**

Schools can cut their Internet access charges by up to 90% by using the new “e-rate.” The “e-rate,” mandated by the *Telecommunications Act of 1996*, reduces scholastic charges for Internet access, certain local and longdistance calls, and internal wiring. To receive the “e-rate,” a school must identify realistic goals and strategies for improving classroom and library technologies. All schools and libraries have been sent “e-rate” applications. To receive further information, call the client-assistance desk at the Schools and Libraries Corporation at (888) 203-8100.



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### *Inside This Issue*

**UTK Geography Receives Bequest For Building  
Endowment for Geographic Education  
New Software, GAW summary, and more!**

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The University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1420**

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