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# ❖ Tennessee Geographic Alliance News ❖

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

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Volume XIII Issue 2

Spring 1999

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## NGS CHAIRMAN, GIL GROSVENOR, GIVES UTK COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

The chairman of the National Geographic Society, Gil Grosvenor, delivered the fall commencement address for the University of Tennessee at Knoxville on Sunday, December 20. In his speech, he challenged the UTK graduates to spend a lifetime studying geography.

Grosvenor told the 1,400 fall graduates that managing world resources and population are becoming very challenging problems. Earth's population grows by 250,000 every day, he said. "We add another Canada to the world's population every 100 days and another United States every three years. Unless this rates abates within a half-century, the world population will have grown to almost 10 billion people." "Can we feed everyone, can we shelter everyone, can we sustain our environment," he asked. It will be very difficult."

An understanding of geography by everyone is essential to stewardship of resources, he said. "I have a shameless request. I urge you to spend the next 40 to 50 years learning geography. It is the fabric around which other disciplines are interwoven."

Making an allusion to the university's football team, Grosvenor said UT-Knoxville's geography department "is also number one in the USA." He said the campus geography

building now under construction will be one of the finest facilities for the study of geography in the United States and the world.

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"We add another Canada to the world's population every 100 days and another United States every three years. Unless this rates abates within a half-century, the world population will have grown to almost 10 billion people."

**Gil Grosvenor, NGS Chairman**

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Prior to delivering his address, Grosvenor toured the site of the Burchfiel Geography Building, reviewed plans for the building with department chairman Carol Harden and alliance coordinator Sid Jumper. He also toured the Department of Geography physical geography research labs in the Science-Engineering Research Building. He was also briefed on the results of a National Geographic Society Education Foundation grant that allowed six K-12 teachers to become members of a research team studying evidence of glaciation in the Dominican Republic.

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### Notes From the Sawdust Pile

Is it better to know a lot but to be unable to use what you know,  
to know relatively little but be able to use what you know,  
or to know a great deal and have the ability to use what you know?

During my last several years teaching freshman geography courses at UTK, I became painfully aware that in attempting to solve problems students failed to use evidence/information that they had been given, or that they had learned in other contexts. Even when told, very directly, that the solutions they arrived at must take into consideration certain facts they had been given, more often than not they ignored the instructions and the facts. Solutions offered to problems, although sometimes "creative," were usually at odds with evidence, lacked logic, and had no relationship to reality.

When the December, 1998, edition of the Newsletter of the Michigan Geographic Alliance reached my desk, one of the articles jumped out at me. It concerned results of testing 400 5th graders. One of the conclusions was that the same "disconnect" between solutions crafted by students and evidence they had been given, or that they should have been able to draw upon from prior exposure.

Question: Have we focused too much on WHAT students should know, to the exclusion of how to use what they know?

Question: Should knowing be the objective of our teaching, or how to use what we know?

Question: Should we accept, as examples of creativity, ideas or plans that fly in the face of logic and reality.

Question: Is the possible disconnect between the way students go about solving problems, and the knowledge they have about those problems, at the root of many of the difficulties we have in American education today?

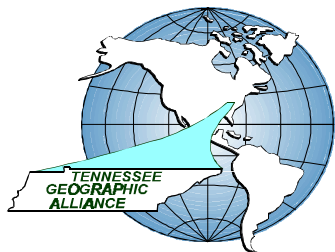
Question: HOW CAN WE AS GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS, ADDRESS THE PROBLEM?

Is this a worthy matter for discussion? I would appreciate any advice or evidence you may be willing to share with me.

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Sid Jumper

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## UPCOMING TGA WORKSHOPS UKRAINE, REMOTE SENSING/GIS, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC & MORE

### CHATTANOOGA

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Place: Catholic Center, UTC

Time: 4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Speaker: Nick Peshterinu

Topic: "The Ukraine"

Specials: Dinner and door prizes provided

### NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Place: Erma Siegel Elementary School, Murfreesboro

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Speaker: Catherine Kelly

Topic: "Dominican Republic Field Experience:  
Applications for the Classroom"

Specials: Light Complimentary Dinner

### KNOXVILLE

Monday, February 1, 1999

Time: 4:30 - 8:00 P.M.

Place: Crest Room, Univ. Ctr., UTK

Speakers: Dr. Tom Sever, NASA

Topic: "Remote Sensing/GIS Analysis: Answering  
Questions About the Ancient Maya to Protect Future  
Resources"

Specials: Dinner and door prizes provided

### JOHNSON CITY AND UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Place: Johnson City

Speaker: Charlie McRorie & Marcia Whetzel

Topic: Technology in the Classroom

Specials: Refreshments, door prizes



**Don't forget to Sign Up for the 1999 Summer Institutes  
on Population, Environmental Change, and Tech.  
REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 5**

## STATEWIDE MEETING A SUCCESS

The third annual Statewide Geography Conference was held at Knoxville's University of Tennessee campus on Saturday, October 17. Approximately 125 teachers enjoyed the all-day meeting. The keynote speaker was Karen Gibbs, Tennessee liaison for the National Geographic Society. Her speech was titled, "Eye Witness". Dr. Lynn Champion, Director of Outreach for the College of Liberal Arts, welcomed the group to UTK. Special awards were presented to Carolyn Anderson and Brenda Lee for their dedicated service to the alliance.

The meeting was held in the University Center and the Humanities Building, began with registration at 8:00 a.m. and ended at 4:15 p.m. In addition to the opening session keyed by Gibbs, 27 breakout sessions were held. The meeting also featured a geography store, an exhibit area, and a poster session. The Program Committee for the conference consisted of Donna Jett, Brenda Lee, Charlie McRorie, Martha Snelson, Regina Tullock, and Dr. Sid Jumper.

Next year's statewide meeting will be held in early November of 1999 at Cumberland University in Lebanon. Professor Monty Pope will chair the program committee and provide for local arrangements.

If you have news or information you would like included in the TGA News, forward them to TGA, c/o Department of Geography, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-1420, ATTN: Charlie McRorie.

Newsletter Editor: Charlie McRorie

Newsletter Layout: Kyle Rector

# Upcoming Institutes, Summer 1999

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## The Power of Population

Over Economic, Environmental, and Social Problems

An Institute, To Be Held at Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville,  
June 14-19, 1999

Featuring: Population experts; talented K-12 teachers consultants; free teaching materials; lesson plans; *field trip to Atlanta led by outstanding urban geographer*; hands on activities; and much more.

Eligible Applicants: Teachers from Tennessee's public or private K-12 system who are members of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance or are willing to become active members. Science, math, social studies, geography, and economics teachers can benefit.

Costs: Free to all Tennessee teachers who are members of the Alliance.

Benefits: Lunch provided daily. \$50 stipend for commuters. Dormitory housing provided to those whose commute would exceed 30 miles, one way, along with a \$100 stipend. One-half of tuition cost provided at in-state rate for those seeking credit at UTK.

Credit Options: One hour graduate or undergraduate credit.

Additional Options: Participants may also apply for the institute on GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE and the TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (see below and following page, and the Institute Application Form).

Requirements: Attend all sessions, complete all assignments, and agree to offer at least one in-service workshop to colleagues during 1999-2000 concerning what you have learned during the institute.

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## Global Environmental Change

An Institute, To Be Held at Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville,  
June 21-24, 1999

*Learn how trees reveal secrets of the Lost Colony; How lake muds hold keys to understanding hundreds and thousands of years of vegetation change, climate change, and fire frequency; How current rates of change compare with those of hundred and thousands of years ago; How past changes help us to understand the present.*

Featuring: Geographers who are experts on global environmental change; K-12 teachers who have been members of a research team investigating global change; field experience in coring trees, collecting sediments, and other methods for reading nature; Free teaching materials.

Eligible Applicants: Any public or private school teacher in Tennessee, who is a member of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance or is willing to become an active member.

Costs: Free to all Tennessee teachers who are members of the Alliance.

Benefits: Lunch provided daily. \$50 stipend for commuters. Dormitory housing provided to those whose commute would exceed 30 miles, one way, along with a \$100 stipend. One-half of tuition cost at in-state rates for those seeking credit at UTK.

Credit Options: One hour graduate or undergraduate credit.

Additional Options: Participants may also apply for the preceding institute on THE POWER OF POPULATION and the TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (see above and following page, and the Institute Application Form).

Requirements: Attend all sessions, complete all assignments, and agree to offer at least one in-service workshop/demo to colleagues during 1999-2000 concerning what you have learned during the institute.

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## Technology Institute

An Institute, To Be Held at Morristown-Hamblen High School, West,  
June 28 - July 2, 1999

- \* *Do you have or have access to a computer or computer lab, but feel inadequately prepared to use the facilities in a productive and non-embarrassing way?*
- \* *Do you have good computer skills, but need some help in learning the pluses and minuses of available software?*

***IF EITHER STATEMENT APPLIES TO YOU, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER APPLYING FOR THIS INSTITUTE***

Featuring: K-12 teachers who have expertise and tons of experience in classroom applications of available software. Free teaching materials; Free software. Learn to use presentation software and Internet sources in classroom settings; how to use digital cameras and flatbed scanners to develop lesson materials; the pros and cons of numerous software applications.

Eligible Applicants: Any public or private school teacher in Tennessee, who is a member of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance or willing to become an active member.

Costs: Free to all Tennessee teachers who are members of the Alliance.

Benefits: Lunch provided daily. This is intended primarily as a commuter institute, but participants whose commute would exceed 40 miles from Morristown, and who wish to spend three or more nights in or near Morristown, a \$150 stipend will be provided. Commuters will be provided a \$50 stipend. One-half of tuition cost provided at in-state rate for those seeking credit at UTK.

Credit Options: One hour graduate or undergraduate credit.

Additional Options: Participants may also apply for the institute on The POWER OF POPULATION and GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE (see prior page, and the Institute Application Form).

Requirements: Attend all sessions, complete all assignments, and agree to offer at least one in-service workshop/demo to

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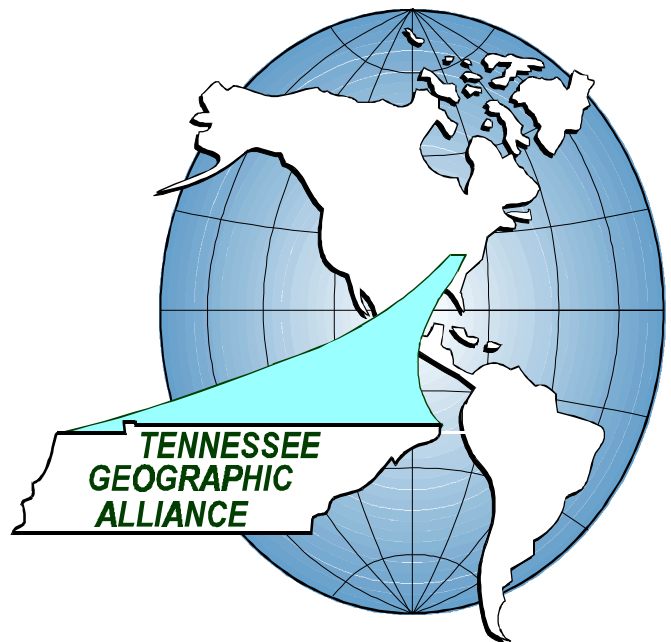
## NOWADING, GUNN NEW TGA CHAPTER COORDINATORS FOR CHATTANOOGA AND MEMPHIS

Veronika Nowading has recently been appointed as the Coordinator for the Chattanooga Area Chapter of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, and Kristy Gunn has been selected to head the Memphis chapter.

Nowading is no stranger to the Alliance. She was a member of the original group sent to Washington, DC, to start the Tennessee Geographic Alliance in 1986. Veronika teaches at the Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga. Her home address is 167 Young Road, Trenton, GA 30752.

Kristy Gunn, the new Memphis Chapter Coordinator, is a teacher at Shadowlawn Middle School. Her home address is 1976 Snowden Avenue, #1, Memphis, TN 38112.

The Alliance welcomes these two highly-qualified women to leadership positions.



Do you have access to the Internet? Do you want to know about the latest comings and doings at the TGA? Visit the TGA's homepage at:

[HTTP://web.utk.edu/~sjumper](http://web.utk.edu/~sjumper)

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*Are You a Member of the  
Tennessee Geographic Alliance?*

If you are not currently a member of the Tennessee Geographic Alliance, or you know of a friend or colleague who is not, please complete, or have them complete, and return the following form to:

Tennessee Geographic Alliance, Inc.  
c/o Department of Geography  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1420

Or if you have access to the Internet, join online at the TGA's website (<http://web.utk.edu/~sjumper>).

Name

Home Address

Home Telephone

School Name and Address

School Telephone

How many hours of college credit do you have in geography?

What grade levels do you teach?

What subjects do you teach?

What suggestions do you have for the Alliance in its efforts to improve the geography curriculum in your school and statewide?

Would you be interested in:

Geography Workshops at your school?

Attending a Summer Institute?

Attending Distance Learning Seminars?

Workshops to improve your skills in use of educational technology?

Other?