



Department of Geography Newsletter

University of Alabama

Box 870322 Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0322, Vol. 5 Spring 2009

Chair's Greeting

Congratulations to Dr. Seth, who was tenured and promoted to associate professor since the last newsletter. He was also the recipient of an Arts and Sciences Teaching Grant made possible by the Arts and Sciences Collegiate Fund. The department also congratulates Dr. Luoheng Han, former chair of the department, for his new position as Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. Along with his responsibilities as Associate Dean, Dr. Han continues to teach and work with students in the department. Given his new responsibilities, the department is appreciative of his time and effort. As a result of Dr. Hans' new position, I was appointed by the Dean as Interim Chair of the department, starting in January 2009. I accept the position as a great challenge, and I appreciate the support of the faculty and staff. Drs. Joe Weber, Michael Steinberg, and Jason Senkbeil will serve as members of the Chair Search Committee along with two more members from outside the department selected by the Dean.



The department was also notified that the "Eight-Year Program Review" is due the next academic year (2009-2010). Committee members for the review of geography are selected from a pool of eight nominees in which the Chair of the Department nominates two members. Professors Ian W. Brown from Anthropology and Jim Hall from New College are the departmental nominees. To serve as external consultant for the review of geography, the department nominated Professor Leo Zonn, Chair of the Department of Geography at University of Texas and Professor Stanley Brunn of the University of Kentucky, both highly respected in the field of Geography.

The department is pleased to announce two new faculty appointments starting in the Fall Semester 2009. Dr. Jason Senkbeil who is presently a full time instructor and director of the undergraduate program in the department was appointed to a tenure tract position as an Assistant Professor. He received his Ph.D. from Kent State University in 2007 and will be teaching and doing research in physical geog-

raphy. The department welcomes him in his new position. Mrs. Mary Pitts, full time instructor in the department, will direct the undergraduate program as Dr. Senkbeil devotes more of his time to research. We are also pleased to welcome Dr. Justin Hart, who received his M.S. degree in Geography from the University of Alabama and his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. He is already in the process of establishing an outstanding research record in the field of biogeography and will be an important addition to the department, along with Dr. Senkbeil.

Congratulation is extended to Megan L. Buchanan for being selected the outstanding undergraduate in Geography. And for the outstanding undergraduate award in Environmental Science, we congratulate also Chase S. Fraley. At the graduate level, we congratulate Rebecca A. Vaught as the recipient of the chairperson's award, and Zachary E. Andersen for the outstanding graduate research award. Crystal J. Brown, who will be working toward a Ph.D. in geography, received the outstanding graduate student award.

For the spring semester 2009, the department enrolled 23 graduate students in residence with more than half holding graduate teaching assistantship. One of the major goals of the department is to expose its students to research. The department acknowledges the following students for their participation in the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Conference: Courtney Thompson, Hunter Rayfield, Andrew Magee, and James Luke Boutwell.

Finally, the department faces many challenges, but with challenges come opportunities to improve the quality of existing programs and provide the ground work for future successes. With hard work and dedication to do what is best for the department, the future is ours.

Bobby M. Wilson, Interim Chair
Department of Geography

Faculty and Staff

Seth Appiah-Opoku



A number of significant milestones were recorded in my career this past year. I was promoted to associate professor with tenure last year. I served on the Faculty Senate and represented the Senate on the University Awards Committee. I also served on our university's Research and Service Committee. I received a teaching grant from the Arts and Sciences Faculty and also served as a Teaching Fellow in Service Learning.

At the Geography Department I continued to enjoy teaching planning courses, geography of Africa, and a study abroad course in Ghana. In addition, I served on the Colloquium Committee and several comprehensive examination committees. One of my students successfully completed her thesis on manufactured homes in Tuscaloosa. This was successfully presented at the recent AAG Conference with my assistance. I am co-authoring a manuscript on this topic to be submitted soon for publication. I submitted a manuscript to the *Journal of Nature and Society* for review and publication. Also, I was invited to submit a manuscript on 'urban and regional planning' for publication in the *Encyclopedia of Geography*. The manuscript is pending publication.

Outside the UA campus, I continued to serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Environmental Impact Assessment* and as advisor to the Tuscaloosa Sister Cities Commission. This summer, I will lead a team of three Tuscaloosa Sister Cities' officials on a fact-finding trip to Ghana.

David Brommer

Things on campus continue to pick up speed in my third year at UA. I have been active in continuing to develop my research agenda, maintaining my work on precipitation characteristics and climate variability. In August 2008 I began a new line of research, working with Dr. Jason Senkbeil on the perceived threats related to land-falling hurricanes. We received a grant from the National Science Foundation to interview evacuees in the path of Hurricane Gustav to determine which meteorological variables were most significant in their decision to leave. We have had great success with the data we collected and are currently waiting to hear about additional grants we have applied for to continue

our research during the 2009 hurricane season. We hope to go wherever the hurricanes take us, within the United States, to continue our data collection and analysis. In May, 2008, I returned to Cuba for a second time with UA to continue working with fellow geographers from the Institute of Tropical Geography in Havana, Cuba. On this trip, Dr. Lisa Davis and I met with our cohorts to discuss various environmental and climatological issues in Cuba. Our visit was very productive (including an article in the *Southeastern Geographer* with one of our Cuban colleagues) which could lead to sustained research activity with our peers on the island. In the fall, I began working with the Athletic Department to provide forecasts and information on any weather issues that may arise during on-campus events. During football games, I was involved in monitoring the weather and informing the officials of any potential problems (all from the sideline)...it's a tough job, but someone has to do it! In the classroom I am trying to employ new technology for both myself and the students as often as possible. As class sizes increase, I am trying to connect with my students in as many ways as possible. As a result, students have the opportunity to watch and listen to recorded classes, participate in virtual "field trips", and use "clickers" to engage in class through quizzes, activities, and exercises. It's challenging but well worth the effort, as students in large and small classes have enjoyed the unique opportunities for interaction.



Lisa Davis

2008 was a busy academic year filled with new projects, new students, and new classes! Speaking of classes, I taught two new classes last year: a seminar in Fluvial Geomorphology (Spring 2008) and a special topics class on Research Principles for Physical Geography (Fall 2008), both of which were challenging, as well as rewarding experiences. The Research Principles in Physical Geography class involved a weekend field trip and research practicum in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which was enjoyed by all (see section on Smokies Trip for photo). In addition, I taught



Geomorphology in Spring 2008 and Watershed Dynamics in Fall 2008.

I had two articles accepted for publication last year. They will appear in print in 2009. One is a single-authored article in the journal *Physical Geography* called, "Sediment entrainment potential in modified alluvial streams: implications for remobilization of stored in-channel sediment," and the other, a co-authored article with David Brommer, in the *Southeastern Geographer*, titled, "Observations of environmental change in Cuba," see section on UA Geographers in Cuba for information about our trip to Cuba. I spent a great deal of time in Fall 2008 collaborating with Dan Royall of UNC-Greensboro on writing and preparing a National Science Foundation research proposal that was submitted early January 2009. If successful, the grant will be used to begin new research investigating the impacts of drought on sediment storage in rivers in the Piedmont of the Southeastern United States, where drought has been particularly severe in the last decade.

In 2008, I presented research at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Boston, MA (April) and the Greater Atlanta Geomorphology and Hydrology Research Conference held at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA (October). I also presented and participated in a National Science Foundation, On the Cutting Edge Teaching Workshop called, "Teaching Geomorphology in the 21st Century" held at Colorado State University (July/August) in Ft. Collins, CO. I attended the annual meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers held in Greensboro, NC (November). Since I am currently serving as Alabama State Representative in SEDAAG, I delivered a report on the State of Geography in Alabama and attended the Steering Committee Meeting. I also served on the Nominations Committee for SEDAAG last year.

Currently, I am working with three graduate students in the department as an advisor: Alexis McGraw, Dusty Kimbrow, and Adam Watkins. Alexis and Dusty have research interests in fluvial geomorphology and both are working to complete masters theses in this area. Adam is developing his topic. I spent a portion of the summer working with Alexis collecting field data for her thesis project in Bogue Chitto Creek in Dallas County Alabama, near Selma. Her research looks at the role of fluvial processes in determining the distribution of a wide variety of mussel species in the river. She presented preliminary results of her research at the Greater Atlanta Geomorphology and Hydrology Research Conference at Georgia State University. Dusty also attended. The completion of a full summer field season that included encounters with two snakes and

an alligator mean that Alexis's research is very near completion! Dusty is currently working on his thesis proposal but thinks it is very likely he will be working in Little River Canyon in northern Alabama. For my part, I am hoping there are no alligators there!

Jeff Richetto

This academic year marks my twenty-ninth at the Capstone. I continue to focus my teaching and research interests in the areas of urban and economic geography. An invited manuscript is scheduled to appear in the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Geography (Sage Publications) and an article is in review with former graduate student, Lauren Hocutt, entitled "Safeguarding Revenues-Generating Assets in Austere Economic Environments: A Case Study of Dadeville, Alabama". Other ongoing research projects include: "Towards the Development



of a Planning Recycling Methodology: a Case Study of Tuscaloosa, Alabama with former graduate student Brendan Moore and "Designing Emergency Services Urban Corridors with graduate student Zachary Anderson. I continue to teach in the University's Freshman Seminar Program (past 5 years) that introduces new students, on a more 'personal' basis, to the University and are designed to help them acclimate to a post-high school learning and research environment. Also, I continue to travel to the University of Nebraska during the summer, along with many other college and high school instructors, to serve as an AP Reader and test developer for high school Human Geography courses. Finally, I currently serve on the editorial board for the *Southeastern Geographer* and the post as Graduate Studies Director for the department's Masters of Science program.

Jason C. Senkbeil

2008 – 2009 has been an exciting year for me. I continued to serve as the Undergraduate Director for both Geography and Environmental Science becoming a key facilitator in the rapid growth and popularity of both majors. I also taught my standard load of 3 sections of GY 101 each semester. After the Boston AAG in April, I taught GY 101 and GY 102 in summer and geared up for hurricane season. I was part of a team of researchers that acquired a small NSF Grant for hurricane evacua-

tion research. For several years I have been discussing alternative ways to measure and rate hurricane hazards from the human perspective. Along with Dr. Brommer, we collected valuable human response data during the evacuation of Hurricane Gustav (see Gustav Road Trip) that finally validated many of my assumptions. We currently have 2 manuscripts under review from Gustav, and we hope to continue to use the information we gathered to assess future hurricane perception in other regions



of the United States. In addition to hurricane research I have many other ongoing projects, most notably southeastern drought and precipitation variability and the development of a classification scheme for winter storms in the southeast. I really enjoy living in Tuscaloosa and I am excited about joining the faculty as a permanent member in fall 2009.

David Shankman

My primary research focus during the past years was on bottomland forest ecosystems and species distributions in the southeastern Coastal Plain. This includes continuing projects on forest-grassland transition in the mid-south, riparian forests in the Appalachian Plateau, and historical reconstruction of floodplain forests in Mississippi. Three of our graduate students, Matthew Harper, Laura Wesley, and Michael Sandel, are working with me on these and related research projects. Also, I continue my work on flood management in the Yangtze River valley in China. This research deals with levee construction and flood prevention projects affecting flood risk on large tributaries of the Yangtze River. During the summer 2008 I spent several weeks in China working on this project and plan to return again this year. This year I was a volunteer science teacher at Maxwell Elementary School, which I found to be, by far, the most challenging teaching assignment of my career.

Michael Steinberg

This past year has been a very busy and productive one for me. I was happy that my book

Stalking the Ghost Bird was published by LSU Press in March 2008. As a

result, I have been asked to give a number of talks around the South on the ivory-billed woodpecker, the subject of the book. I have discovered through these talks that, not surprisingly, birders are a very passionate group of outdoors people. I also served as guest editor (or cat herder) for a special issue of the *Geographical Review* that focused on birds and geography. It will be published sometime next year. I have also been busy with my teaching duties which are split between geography and the New College. I have taught two new courses this past year, the Geography of National Parks, and the Arts and Science of Fly Fishing. Both courses have found a receptive audience with the growing numbers of students at UA who are interested in the outdoors and environmental conservation.



Joe Weber

During Fall 2008 I was on a very nice sabbatical break. I traveled out to the Southwest to investigate several old highways, including Route 66, in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. I also visited a number of national parks and took a close look at their road systems and how they have evolved over time because of changing management strategies and increasing visitation. A highlight was visiting Balanced Rock in Arches National Park, where the environmental author Ed Abbey once lived while working as a park ranger (which he wrote about in his book *Desert Solitaire*). He saw the transition from a wilderness park accessible only by rough dirt roads to a popular park with paved roads crowded by cars and tour buses. He did not think it an improvement and he feared for the future of national parks. I also saw new transit systems being used in parks such as Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks to reduce congestion and pollution. I carried with

me a stack of old postcards showing scenes in national parks and along highways, and spent some time tracking down locations to see if they can be used as data to show changing roadside landscapes. I'm also working on developing some new research topics in accessibility and network analysis (though I think I said the same thing the last three years), and my time away from Tuscaloosa gave me a lot of new ideas to think about. It has been

fun to get back to the classroom and start applying these new ideas and thoughts, and I'm eager to make use of all that I've learned. (For pictures of Dr. Weber's travels turn to page 9.)

Hobson Bryan

Friendships and support in the Department this past year are especially valued.

I am indeed fortunate to be in a supportive and collegial atmosphere that not only facilitates my work life, but supports me in my personal life as well. Thank you students and colleagues!

Early in my career I published a book, Conflict in the Great Outdoors: Toward Understanding and Managing for Diverse Sportsmen Preferences. The theories and concepts developed in this work became mainstream in the outdoor recreation and leisure literature. Accordingly, I was urged to republish the original work and to update the bibliography on recreation specialization, its core theoretical content. I have done so through The University of Alabama Press (2008, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0380). The monograph carries a new Foreword by David Scott, a professor in the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M, as well as a Preface to the 2008 edition by the author. A key contention is that recreation participants can be arranged on a continuum of commitment and skill from the "casual" to the "committed," and that each level of specialization carries distinctive preferences by participants and, in turn, different implications for management.

I was honored to speak at and participate in the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the New Zealand Fulbright Program in Auckland in November, having been a Senior Fulbright Fellow to Lincoln University and the New Zealand Commission on the Environment a number of years ago. I continue to teach "Environment and Society" every fall and



"Social Impact Assessment" and "Environmental Decision Making" in alternate spring semesters, as well as to write and consult in the areas of outdoor recreation and environmental policy.

Amanda Espy-Brown

This year I continued teaching world regional and physical geography classes and began my first year as supervisor to the physical geography (GY 101 and GY 102) graduate teaching assistants. Working with our outstanding graduate students has been a personal highlight for me. We are averaging around 1200 introductory physical geography students each semester so it is keeping our thirteen GTAs busy!

UA Geographers in Cuba – Part of College of Arts and Sciences Alabama/Cuba Initiative

Dr. Davis and Dr. Brommer were selected to travel with a group of UA faculty in May 2008 to Havana, Cuba as part of a College initiative to develop educational opportunities and programs for UA students in Cuba. While in Havana, they met with geographers working in the Institute of Tropical Geography and spent several days learning about and observing environmental change that is ongoing in Cuba with Cuban geographer Enrique Rodríguez-Loeches Diez-Argüelles, who is the president of the Cuban Society of Geography.

Davis and Brommer saw many interesting things during their stay, including old American cars that still make their way through Havana streets (right), but also some surprising things, such as urban farms (bottom) that exist throughout the city and provide as much 30% of the produce consumed in the country.

In addition, the historic architecture found in Old Havana was beautiful, with many historic structures, such as the Ambos Mundos Hotel, a former residence of Ernest Hemingway.





I've also had the opportunity to act as advisor to our newly reorganized geography group, SAGA (Student Association of Geographers at Alabama). We have started small, but have big plans for educational, recreational, and volunteer activities. One of our best events was a cookout with canoeing on the Black Warrior River supported by the great folks at

the Natural History Museum. My research continues to be in school active transport patterns. Working with Linda Watson who is Director of the Place Names Research Center, we presented our current research at the annual SEEDAG and AAG meetings. Through this research I have become involved with SAFE Kids Tuscaloosa in developing a city-wide plan for encouraging safe walking and biking to local schools. It is a great way to support child health, reduce fuel use and improve air quality. We are particularly excited about the International Walk to School Day which happens every October and is part of a global effort that gets millions of children around the world to walk or bike to school!

Mary Wallace Pitts

This has been a very busy year for me - my first year as a full-time instructor in the Department. It has been a very rewarding time and I am looking forward to the coming year with great anticipation and not a little trepidation! One of my responsibilities will be a new role for me - that of Undergraduate Advisor to our 75 Geography Majors and 50 Environmental Science Majors. Getting to know them and their needs will be a large part of my focus next year. My move to the third floor earlier this year was motivated by my urgent need for daylight, but has also had the added benefit of lots of great company including our talented Graduate Students. It must be said that the Department could not continue to provide such quality lab instruction without them. My thanks to them for all that they do and all that they put up with!

During the coming year I will also teach 102 Earth Surface Processes again, which along with all of our courses is enjoying an increase in enrollment. Natural Hazards continues to be a very rewarding course for me personally and has grown from an initial enrollment of 8 students in the Fall of 2007 to 24 students this past semester. The course is continuing to evolve and hopefully to improve. It now includes a number of very popular guest speak-

ers from FEMA, Alabama's EMA, the Geological Survey of Alabama and local environmental consultants. Two students from this class, Luke Boutwell and Hunter Rayfield, have taken their class projects to another level and have presented their research at the Undergraduate Research Conference held in April 2008. Congratulations are due to both of them on an excellent job. Student job opportunities and Internships with the Hazards Division of the Geological Survey of Alabama have also been taken up by students from this class, including Julie Tinnon who is currently working with Sandy Ebersole in the Hazards Division. I look forward to continuing this mutually beneficial relationship with GSA in the future.

I have published a number of book reviews in Environmental Geology during the past year which has ensured that I am keeping up with at least a fraction of the new research related to water quality issues. On a more personal note - my family is healthy and happy and the children continue to grow at an alarming rate. Last summer they enjoyed their ninth trip to Ireland. They may soon be able to lead a Department trip to Ireland. We even managed a short stay in England, visited London, but not the Queen, much to their disappointment!

Luoheng Han

I started my new position as Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences in January 1, 2009. Prior to this appointment, I continued to serve as the chair for the department. I taught Remote Sensing II in Spring 2008, Advanced GIS in Fall 2008, and Remote Sensing I in Spring 2009. I served as co-organizer for a paper session and gave a presentation at the AAG annual meeting held on March 2009 in Las Vegas. I am currently supervising two Master's theses.



Placenames Research Center Activities

Last year was one of the most successful years ever at the Placenames Research Center. We were awarded three new contracts from the US Geological Survey. The funding received by the Center, over \$500,000, was enough to put us in the Top Ten Contract and Grant Award Recipients for 2007-2008. These contracts are to update the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database. The USGS is



Linda Watson, Director, Placenames Research Center

in the process of integrating the GNIS with another related USGS GIS compatible database, called the National Structures Database. This database contains geographic information about manmade structures, such as buildings and

other facilities critical for emergency operations. Two of our newest projects deal specifically with creating GIS data layers for that integrated effort. We are literally working across country these days with separate projects ranging from the Alabama Gulf Coast to Alaska. Through this increased funding and workload, we were able to hire Audrey Miller as a full-time placenames researcher/GIS analyst. Audrey received her Masters in Geography at UA in August. While working on her degree, Audrey was a Graduate Research Assistant, first in the Map Library, and then in the Placenames Research Center. She was awarded the Geography Department's outstanding Graduate Research Assistant award last Spring. We are very fortunate to have her toponymic and GIS expertise to help us with our projects. In addition to Audrey, we have hired Scott Miller as the Placenames Center's GRA for this year and Corey Moten as our undergraduate student assistant. Both Scott and Corey have made themselves indispensable to our projects. Next year could prove to be even busier as we have had inquiries about additional projects!

In late August, Dr. Jason Senkbeil and I had the opportunity to get in the eye of Hurricane Gustav. We received a grant from the National Science Foundation to survey evacuees in the path of Hurricane Gustav. Our goal was to determine which meteorological variables they considered most significant in their decision to leave (such as wind, rain, or storm surge). Our team of researchers (four total, including undergraduates Tyler Reaves and Courtney Thompson) departed for southern Louisiana August 30. We interviewed evacuees stopping at interstate rest areas along two major evacuation routes. We collected a total of 275 interviews from evacuees during the two-day period, and while interviewing, we heard many more stories of previous experiences with land-falling hurricanes, from Camille to Katrina. Because of our location after concluding the interviews, we rode out the hurricane on the campus of Louisiana State University September 1st. After Gustav made landfall, we experienced the most intense portion of the storm (the remnants of northeast eye wall), where we had measured wind gust into the lower 90s, with estimated gusts of near 105 mph. When conditions improved, we left in the early afternoon of the 1st to return to Tuscaloosa.

The data collected from the evacuees from Hurricane Gustav have provided us a great opportunity to better understand and evaluate the concerns of people in the path of a land-falling hurricane and what ultimately drives them to evacuate. We have presented our initial findings SEDAAG, to the Birmingham chapter of the National Weather Association, at the AAG in Las Vegas, and at the Inland Impacts of Tropical Storms Conference in Atlanta in June. One of our undergraduate students who assisted in the data collection and analysis (Courtney Thompson) is also presenting some of our findings at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Conference at UA in April. Two manuscripts are currently under review as well. The data collected from Hurricane Gustav has positioned us to also apply for more significant, long-term grant opportunities so that we can continue our research all along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic seaboard. Our hope is that the data we collect will help to improve the evacuation process and provide potential evacuees with the best information possible when considering an evacuation decision.

Road Trip with a Hurricane

By Dr. David M. Brommer

Field Studies in Africa: Ghana 2008 Crystal Brown's experience in Ghana

Sometimes hands-on experiences are the only way to fully appreciate a subject-matter. During the summer of 2008, I had the opportunity to expand my knowledge base of Africa by participating in Dr. Ap-piah-Opoku's field studies course that led me to Ghana. Despite having a genuine interest in cultures different from my own and preparatory studies before landing in West Africa, there are just some things you must encounter to understand.



For instance, no amount of readings would prepare me for the experience of being successfully tricked by a monkey. My lesson occurred at the site of a monkey sanctuary where the monkeys that reside within the village are considered sacred and therefore protected. After watching a clever little monkey scamper off with my only banana, it became quite clear that he was the first monkey I had ever fed. On the other hand, it was quite obvious that this was not the first banana he had ever stolen.

During the trip we had quite a few opportunities to interact with animals as well as with nature. A trip to Mole Park provided a new perspective on how to house animals. While staying the night at the park, we were safely fenced within our cabins; whereas, the animals were housed outside the fences free to roam about. That exposure provided an alternative to the zoo experience that is found so commonly in America.

Not every day can you claim to see a family of elephants taking a leisurely stroll down a dirt road. However, in Mole Park that is a typical sight. Other activities while in Ghana included adventures such as: watching a traditional priest-healer perform a ritual ceremony, going on a canopy tour of Kakum Park, visiting Elmina Castle, meeting with Senchi's Chief (Senchi is a resettlement village that was displaced by the Volta Dam construction project), and touring the Cedi Beads Factory.

The Cedi Beads Factory, located at Odu-mase-Krobo, was the focus of my field research while I was in Ghana. The Cedi Beads Factory recycles old, glass bottles utilizing indigenous methods

to convert waste into newly formed beads to be re-sold as jewelry. During my visit to the factory, I was permitted the opportunity to meet with the owner, Cedi, as well as observe the intricate bead manufacturing process that I left genuinely inspired by the whole experience.



Just as people acquire knowledge differently, I believe each participant now carries with them a different lesson from their Ghana experience. Visiting Ghana was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I hope that future students will be able to benefit as I have from getting a glimpse of the rich Ghanaian Culture.

**Featured
Student:
Alexis
McGraw,
Masters
Student**
Advisor, Lisa
Davis



“An ecogeomorphological analysis of the distribution and diversity of freshwater mussels in an alluvial river (Bogue Chitto Creek, AL)”



Sampling for mussels from streambed.

Bogue Chitto Creek is an alluvial stream located in the Coastal Plain of Alabama. It contains one of the state's most diverse freshwater mussel populations. Both biological and physical processes determine the spatial distribution of mussels in streams. Less is known about physical processes involved in determining the spatial distribution of mussels. This research investigates the role of spatial changes in sediment transportation characteristics in helping determine mussel distribution in a 1 km study section.



Bogue Chitto Creek.

Students used the magnificent biogeographic, geomorphologic, and climatological characteristics of the Park to hone their geographic observational skills.



Dusty Kimbrow crosses a landslide scar.



Laura Wesley ventures into Alum Cave



Examples of variety of mussels found.



Measuring mussel size, number, & species.

Travels to the Southwest



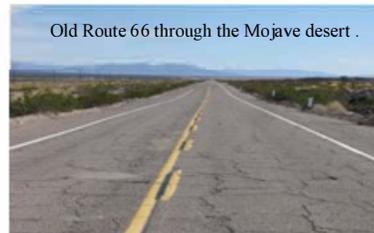
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Pictorial of Dr. Weber's Research on Old Highways & Transportation in National Parks)

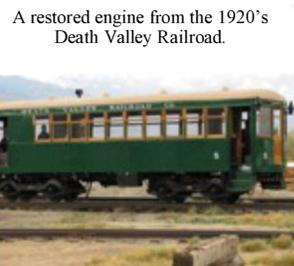
Students Visit Smoky Mountains National Park for Class on Research Principles in Physical Geography taught by Dr. Davis, Fall 2008.



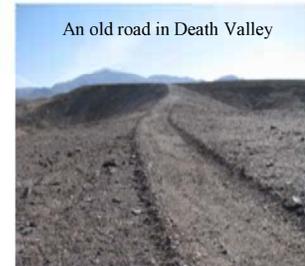
Top of Mt. LeConte (elevation of 6593 ft), from left to right: Matt Trousdale, Laura Radford, Laura Wesley, Dusty Kimbrow, Ben Blackerby, Adam Watkins, and Alexis McGraw.



Old Route 66 through the Mojave desert .



A restored engine from the 1920's Death Valley Railroad.



An old road in Death Valley



UA professors Brommer and Davis Davis with Cuban Geographer Enrique Rodriguez-Loeches Diez-Argüelles

Where are They Now?

Lisa Channell

After graduating in May of 2007, I was hired by LJT & Associates, Inc., an engineering services company. As a GIS Analyst, I support the Midwest GeoReadiness Center, part of Naval Facilities and Engineering Command (NAVFAC) at Naval Station Great Lakes. NAVFAC manages the planning, design, and construction of shore facilities throughout the world. My focus is on Navy Region Midwest, a sixteen state region in the heart of the country. In addition to geospatial analysis and data maintenance, I work as a cartographer, conduct fieldwork, and train new GIS users. I



very much enjoy my position and the dynamic work environment. My husband, Todd, and I currently live in Chicago. Shortly after our move, our new city became our home. We try to take advantage of all

the city – sporting seums, concerts in We also changing Winter is bad as the Spring wonderful!



Ambos Mundos Hotel

has to offer events, mu-cuisine, the park. like the seasons– not quite as they say and and Fall are

Tim Hein-

se



UNESCO World Heritage Site in Havana

AMTEC's GIS Manager Gets Certified

AMTEC's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Manager has obtained professional certification making him one of the top recognized leaders in his field. Tim Heinse recently was certified as a GIS professional by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). The certification means he met the minimum standards for educational achievement, professional experience and ethical conduct as established by the institute.

Before he was accepted, Tim had to meet strict requirements for continuing education, experience, community and professional involvement, and on-going training. His background also was scrutinized and reviewed by an independent third-party organization, the GIS Certification Institute comprised of leading professional associations, i.e.... the Association of American Geographers (AAG), The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) The University Consortium of Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

With the certification, Tim joins the ranks of 53 others in Alabama and approximately 4,300 nationwide. "This is the first GIS certification program that is recognized worldwide, measures everyone by the same standards, and documents a level of professional achievement in this career field", said Heinse. Every five years he must be recertified and

he's required to document continuing education and participation in activities that will promote and advance the GIS profession.

I recently received my GISP certification and I wanted to encourage others to pursue this certification. A big part of this is documenting educational achievement in individual coursework and degree(s) obtained. The recertification process will require even more continuing education as a part of the process. I owe my career success in large part to the education provided by UA's Geography Department and Dr. Han especially. I have three other Geographers working with me here at Redstone, each earning over \$50,000 a year. There is an increasing demand for GIS professionals but especially for Geographers who know how to put the "science" into the GIS process. (See Story Below.)

Tim is the Senior GIS Database Manager for AMTEC's GIS support contract with the U.S. Army Garrison's Environmental Division on Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. He has been responsible for leading the Environmental Division in a wide range of GIS projects, developing new geospatial databases, coordinating and updating numerous existing spatial datasets, and serving as GIS lead in converting and updating archived data and imagery into a GIS usable format.



Using the latest GIS and graphics software and high-end print media, the Environmental Division's staff has the tools and creative ability to design and produce extremely effective map products. This experienced GIS staff provides spatial analysis, environmental assessments, data conversion, and development of user databases to ensure the proper tools are available to monitor the entire 38,000 acres on Redstone Arsenal and the environmental impact on the surrounding area.

A retired US Air Force Master Sergeant, Heinse obtained a BS at Troy (State) University, then completed his MS in Geography at the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa). He has been employed by AMTEC since 2003.

The Graduate Teaching Assistants **(Thank you for your hard work!)**



Top: Charles Long 2nd Row: Tara Loyd, Todd Hester, Ben Blackerby, Kyle Beasley, Adam Watkins 1st Row: Crystal Brown, Alexis McGraw, Marie Cross, Rebecca Vaught, Dusty Kimbrow, Josh Hunter, Chase Gatlin

University of Alabama
Department of Geography
Box 870322
Tuscaloosa AL 35487-0322

