



2013-2014 - #1

Thursday, August 29, 2013

**Ken Stiles**, instructor in the department recently received the following notice after his recent retirement from a long career in the Central Intelligence Agency:

*Mr. **Kenneth Stiles** is receiving the Career Commendation Medal in recognition of his exceptional achievement during his 29 years of service that substantially contributed to the missions of the Central Intelligence Agency and Intelligence Community. A recognized expert in Geographic Information Systems and geolocation targeting, Mr. Stiles was repeatedly sought out by the Agency and Intelligence Community partners for his technical targeting expertise and his ability to operate across organizational boundaries. As a result of his work, he brought new sources and methods to bear in the war on terrorism that directly impacted the success of high risk, high gain technical collection operations saving numerous lives.*

*Serving with distinction in positions of increasing responsibility and complexity, his entire career reflects the exemplary service of an outstanding officer. His dedication and loyalty to the objectives of the Central Intelligence Agency and Directorate of Science and Technology was evident in his noteworthy record of accomplishment throughout his career. His depth of experience, superior technical skills, creativity, and dedication to duty justly earned the respect and admiration of those with whom he served. Mr. Stiles' commitment to excellence and high standards of professionalism reflects credit on himself, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the federal Service.*

Last summer, a number of students satisfied their “field experience” requirements in interesting international situations: **Katie Starr** is a rising sophomore in MTRG. She worked in Hyderabad, India with a group called Tiny People Matter, a missionary group of doctors and nurses who train medical providers better practices in working with newborns. While the medical staff was teaching, Katie ran a sports and craft camp for the orphans. **Gwen Ferguson** is a senior in CRID who worked in Ozd, Romania with Bonus Pastor Foundation. This is a Romanian NGO that works with alcohol and drug addicted families in a residential treatment program. Gwen worked with a children’s summer camp while parents were in treatment programs and participated in a Life Coaching conference while in Romania. **Cznader Tan** spent the summer working with the Phoenix Art Group in Morocco. A team of US interns partnered

with university students from Morocco to organize events that promote and display visual and performing arts.

A team of seven geography (**Catherine Howey, Ioannis Kokkinidis, Taylor Siegler, Jayashree Surendrababu**) and forestry graduate students took home Virginia Tech's second consecutive title in the national GeoLeague Challenge at the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing conference held earlier this spring in Baltimore, Md.



The team, which calls itself the Trail Blazing Hokies, is composed of master's degree and doctoral degree students from the College of Natural Resources and Environment and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who are members of Virginia Tech student chapter of the society, one of the leading professional organizations devoted to advancing research and applications of geospatial data.

**Candice Luebbering**, a recent PhD. graduate, had her paper accepted for last year's Nystrom award competition in Los Angeles, and the paper is set to appear in a special issue of the *Professional Geographer*: **Luebbering, C. R., Kolivras, K., Prisley, S. P.** (in press).  
Visualizing linguistic diversity through cartography and GIS.

Recent graduate **Tania Zeisler** (BA, 2113) has taken a position with the Washington County (TN) Economic Development Council as the organization's first research associate. She will primarily be utilizing geographic information systems as part of the council's ongoing efforts to recruit more business to the area.

**Tammy Parece** (currently a Geography student in the Geospatial and Environmental Analysis doctoral program in CNRE at Virginia Tech) along with her thesis advisor, Professor Emeritus **Lawrence Grossman**, have published the following article: **Tammy E. Parece, Lawrence Grossman**, and E. Scott Geller. 2013. "Reducing Carbon Footprint of Water Consumption: A Case Study of Water Conservation at a University Campus." In *The Handbook of Environmental Chemistry Volume 25*, pp. 199-218, edited by Tamim Younos and Caitlin A. Grady. Springer Berlin Heidelberg

**Lynn Resler** has just accepted a position as an Associate Editor at the international, peer reviewed, journal Arctic, Antarctic and Alpine Research, published by the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Institute of Alpine and Article Research.

GEA doctoral candidate **Tammy Parece** recently received a scholarship from the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF). Her award is one of six awarded to doctoral applicants nationwide. USGIF is dedicated to assist promising students interested in the geospatial sciences with scholarship awards. The USGIF award committee, composed of 12 professionals from several of USGIF corporate member organizations, rigorously reviews scholarship applications, typically taking three months to complete a very competitive review process. They seek to award scholarships to high-achieving and highly motivated students who have demonstrated scholastic strengths, who can articulate innovative ideas for advancing

geospatial science and technology, and are able to connect their innovative visions to the broader mission of human security. Tammy will use her award to support her dissertation research.

Alumni News:

**Alex Zendel (MS, 2005)** writes from Knoxville, TN to let us know that “Six months ago, I purchased a renovated 1800 sq. foot home in an attractive but older neighborhood. The primary motivation for my move was to be within 1000 feet of the rapidly growing Urban Wilderness trail system that currently features just over 40 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails just three miles from Downtown. I started riding the trails with my GPS receiver three years ago and built the official trail database for the county. They then asked me to produce the maps for the kiosks that are shown on the Urban Wilderness web page - in addition to several printed maps. That was a fun project to say the least.”

“On a professional level, I'm still working at Metropolitan Planning Commission. We are currently in the midst of PlanET, a five county long-range plan. It largely entails land use planning scenarios and measuring the numerous impacts that different development patterns create or abate. It's been an interesting, challenging project.”

## Interesting Map of the Issue:



Illness and death are the common lot of humanity, but just how they get you depends in part on where in the world you live. This artwork makes that point by combining the beauty of microscopy with the geography of disease. Each continent is painted as microscopic views of the parts of the body that, when diseased or dysfunctional, cause most death or illness for the people who live there.

North America is built from fatty adipose tissue because of its epidemic of obesity. Europe and Russia is represented by brain tissue, representing the neurodegenerative disease of its ageing population. East Asia and the Pacific region is shown as pancreatic tissue, which when diseased causes diabetes. Greenland is marked by a few sperm cells that represent infertility