

Annual Report on the Status of Geography in Tennessee, 1999-2000

Submitted to the Steering Committee of the Southeast Division of the Association of American Geographers

November 19, 2000

Craig R. Laing, SEDAAAG Tennessee Representative

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Institutions	Faculty						Majors						Enrollment in Courses		Courses(c) or Sections(s) Taught	
	Full	M	F	Part	M	F	UG	M	F	G	M	F	UG	G	UG	G
APSU	5	5	0	2	1	1	40	16	24	-	-	-	800	-	40(c)	-
ETSU	5	4	1	4	3	1	90	54	36	45	27	18	206	22	18(c)	6(c)
MTSU	5	5	0	3	3	0	40	24	16	-	-	-	1082	-	15(c)	-
RSCC	2	2	0	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	-	8	-
TSU	2	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	-	16	-
TTU	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	6(c)	-
UM	7	6	1	8	5	3	60	27	33	30	18	12	2000	50	30(c)	8(c)
UTC	2	1	1	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	700	-	28(s)	-
UTK	12	8	4	3	2	1	61	27	34	50	31	19	2604	237	94(s)	16(s)
UTM	3	3	0	-	-	-	22	12	10	-	-	-	559	-	30(s)	-
VSCC	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	15(s)	-

APSU = Austin Peay State University

ETSU = East Tennessee State University

MTSU = Middle Tennessee State University

RSCC = Roane State Community College

TSU = Tennessee State University

TTU = Tennessee Technological University

UM = University of Memphis

UTC = University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

UTK = University of Tennessee at Knoxville

UTM = University of Tennessee at Martin

VSCC = Volunteer State Community College

State Summary

Questionnaires were mailed to fifteen colleges and universities in Tennessee that taught geography courses and were listed in *Schwendeman's Directory of College Geography in the United States*. Ten colleges and universities returned questionnaires and their responses are shown in the above table. All institutions that offer undergraduate and graduate degrees responded to the survey. According to these surveys, approximately 9,000 students were enrolled in undergraduate geography courses during the year and slightly more than 300 were enrolled in graduate courses.

Six institutions across the state offer an undergraduate degree program in geography. Three institutions—East Tennessee State University, University of Memphis, and University of Tennessee at Knoxville—offer graduate degrees in geography. Across the state, 313 students are earning undergraduate geography degrees (160 males and 153 females) and 125 are earning graduate degrees (76 males and 49 females). In 3 of the 6 institutions offering undergraduate degrees, the number of female majors exceeded the

number of males; however, in all 3 of the institutions offering graduate degrees males exceeded females.

Elsewhere in the state, several institutions that do not offer geography degrees report large enrollments in geography courses. About 700 students were enrolled in geography courses at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Also, Tennessee Tech and Volunteer State Community College each had enrollments of 300 students a year.

Despite problems with funding for higher education in Tennessee, the state's geographers seem optimistic about the discipline's stature in the state. Several institutions are in the process of adding faculty or added faculty in the past year. For example, East Tennessee State University has two hires pending, Tennessee Tech is hopeful of adding another faculty member, University of Memphis is hopeful of making a couple of new hires, and both UTK and Austin Peay added one faculty member in the past year.

Selected Institutional Highlights

Austin Peay State University reports that geography is generally very healthy. They hired a new faculty member during the year, **Sergei Andronikov** and state that many of their majors are finding jobs using GIS in both the public and private sector.

Tennessee Technological University while it does not offer a geography degree, is planning to hire a second geographer this year and is creating a concentration in GIS within their geology curriculum.

Roane State Community College reports that they are gaining a presence in the college due to increasing enrollments in geography courses and attributes this to demands for GIS offerings and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance's efforts to increase the visibility of geography in the public schools.

University of Memphis reports that university administration is planning to merge the geography and geology departments into a new department called the Department of Earth Sciences. New faculty members include **John Bies** and **Ngwaiweng Chen**. Also, **Hsiang-te Kung** was selected by the Institute of Shipboard Education to participate in the Semester at Sea Program during Fall 1999.

University of Tennessee at Knoxville reports the completion and opening of the new Burchfield Geography building (they were formerly housed in a building shared with geology). Its location in the heart of campus is sure to increase the presence of geography on campus. New faculty members include **Henri Grissino-Mayer** and **Molly Foraker** (on a 1 year position). Also, the department received the James and Catherine Ralston Family Fellowship in support of GIS activities. **John Rehder** received the Cummings Award for his book *Delta Sugar*. **Bruce Ralston** received the Edward L. Ullman Award for outstanding contributions to the field of transportation geography. Several graduate students have received recent honors: **Molly Foraker** received the Outstanding Student Paper from the AAG's Rural Geography Specialty Group in 2000; and **Xiaohung Xiu** received the Outstanding Master's Thesis from the AAG's Transportation Geography Specialty Group in 2000. The survey reports that the faculty continues to display a high degree of dedication and enthusiasm.

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga reports a large demand for geography courses across campus even though they do not have a major in geography. They have more geography minors today than in the last ten years.

University of Tennessee at Martin reports that geography continues to move forward on their campus. **Robert Simpson** and **Helmut Wenz** received faculty development grants to travel to Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Austria. **Jeff Simpson** produced a comprehensive 20 year growth plan for Carroll County, Tennessee.