



2013-2014 - #3

Friday, February 07, 2014

Faculty News:

We have seen a large number of faculty and graduate student publications and presentations of late:

Duan, Yuanyuan*, Li, J., Hong, Y., **Kolivras, K.N.**, Prisley, S, **Campbell, J.**, and Gaines, D. Statistical Prediction for Virginia Lyme Disease Emergence based on spatial-temporal counts data. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association. Montreal, Canada, August 3-8, 2013.

Kolivras, K.N., Dymond, S.E.*, Hong, Y., Li, J., Prisley, S, **Campbell, J.**, Gaines, D. and Dymond, R. Environmental variability and the continued emergence of Lyme disease. Presented at the International Medical Geography Symposium. East Lansing, MI, July 8-12, 2013.

Luebbering, C. R., K. N. Kolivras, and S. Prisley. In press. The lay of the language: Surveying the cartographic characteristics of language maps. *Cartography and Geographic Information Science*.

Jim Campbell was recognized on the Office of the Vice President for Research homepage (<http://www.research.vt.edu/>) as the Scholar of the Week for the week of December 2 through December 6.

Baird, T. (2013, October) Bio-diversifying: How biodiversity conservation breeds social and economic diversity across scales in northern Tanzania, [Virginia Tech Africa Coalition](#), Blacksburg, VA.

Baird, T. (2013, November) Conservation and Institutional Diversity. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the [African Studies Association](#), Baltimore, MD.

Baird, T., Lewis, A., and Fowler, S. (2013, November) PINK TIME: Moving from grade-based to intrinsic motivations for student learning. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the [Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers](#), Roanoke, VA.

Timothy D. Baird and Clark L. Gray. Have had a paper accepted by World Development: Livelihood Diversification and Shifting Social Networks of Exchange: A Social Network Transition?

Parece, Tammy E., and J. B. Campbell. 2013. Comparing Urban Impervious Surface Identification Using Landsat and High Resolution Aerial Photography. Remote Sensing. Vol. 5. pp. 4942-4960. doi:10.3390/rs5104942.

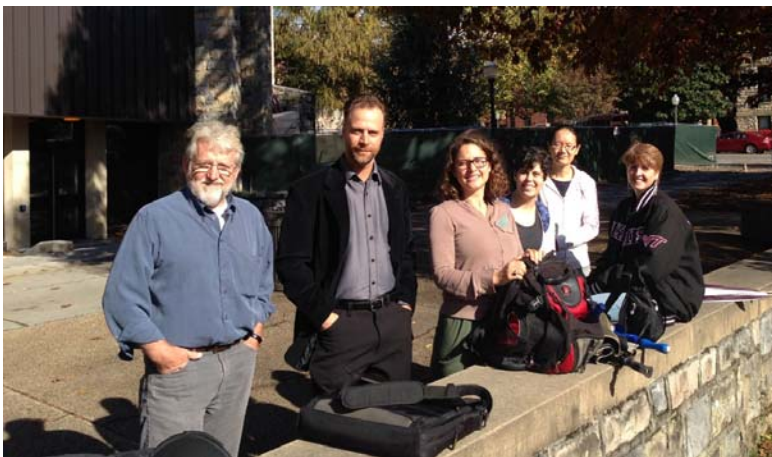
Grants:

Tim Baird has recently received a 2014 Inclusion Pedagogy Grant from the [Office for Diversity and Inclusion at Virginia Tech](#). The grant will fund PINK TIME activities this spring in the Seeking Sustainability II class.

Student News:

Congratulations to our Phi Beta Kappa inductees: **Katherine Jones, Alison Regan, and Jessica Smyth**

And to our GTU initiates to be inducted on April 8, 2014: **David Alger, Mario Garza, David Goldberg, Scott Johnson, Mussie Kebede, Jessica Kirkland, Taylor Meade, Randall Rechkemmer, Cody Snyder, Shikhee Soeb, and Catherine Steentofte**



Community Garden Seminar Presentation

On Friday, November 1, **Jim Crawford** (MS, Geography, 1995) and Mark Powell, Founder and Director of the Roanoke Community Garden Association, gave a



presentation titled “*Growing Food, Building Community*” in our Geography Department Colloquium. Their presentation discussed the history and success of the Roanoke Community Garden Association, including their most recent community garden being constructed at 13th Street and Mountain View. The presentation drew audiences from many different departments and colleges across Virginia Tech’s campus.

On Saturday, November 9, **Rachael Lubitz** and her colleagues from the Virginia Tech Bujinkan Taijutsu Club drove to Roanoke and assisted in the construction of the new Mountain View Community Garden.

Undergraduate Student club news:

For the week of September 23rd through the 26th **Virginia Tech Meteorology Club** hosted EPIC Storm week in coordination with the Montgomery County Library in Blacksburg. This week was all about weather! The first day some of the Hokie Storm Chasers came and talked about their experiences on the summer storm chase. The second day was a showing of the movie Twister. The third day Robin Reed from WDBJ7 hosted a Children’s Weather Seminar to teach



youth about the processes of weather and the atmosphere. The final day consisted of forecaster Ken Kostura from the National Weather Service here in Blacksburg talk about local weather forecasting in southwest Virginia. We had a great turn out and we hope to make this an annual event. Special thanks goes out to **Nick Luchetti** who was the organizer for this event!

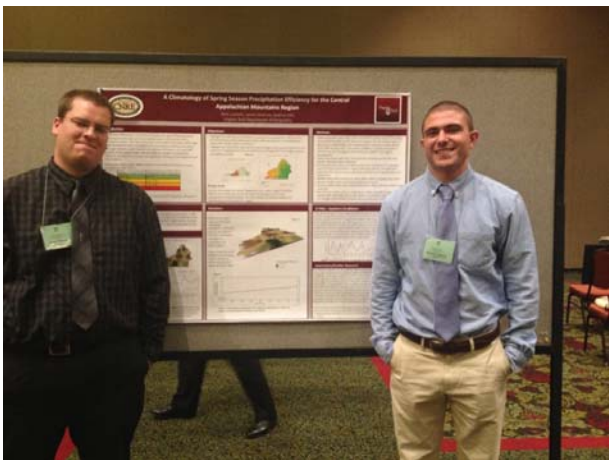
Meteorology Club Students Volunteering at Epic Storm Week: **Mario Garza, James Morrow, Hans VanBenschoten, Elliot Shibem, Nick Luchetti, Sarah Ash, Jordan Pegram, Ashley Athey, Adrienne Engel, and Kaylyn Duda.**



James Morrow and Robin Reed demonstrating the water cycle at Epic storm week!

The week of October 12th through the 17th members from the VT Meteorology Club, with the help of funding from the University as well as the Geography department were able to travel to the National Weather Association Conference in Charleston, SC. Virginia Tech was represented by 7 club members (**Ashley Athey, James Morrow, Henry Cantrell, Nick Luchetti, Carina Ucciferri, Sierra Sult, and Caitlin Pennington**), along with VT PhD Student Jen Henderson, and alumni Dan Goff. **James Morrow** and **Nick Luchetti** presented a poster about their summer research entitled, “A Climatology of Spring Season Precipitation Efficiency for the Central Appalachian Mountains Region”. Jen Henderson won second place in the graduate student poster session at the conference for her poster research entitled, A

Calculated Risk: One Storm Chase Groups Experience with the El Reno and OKC Tornadoes. **Ashley Athey** and **James Morrow** also presented a poster representing the Virginia Tech Blue Ridge Chapter of the AMS/NWA. Many of the students had the opportunity to meet the

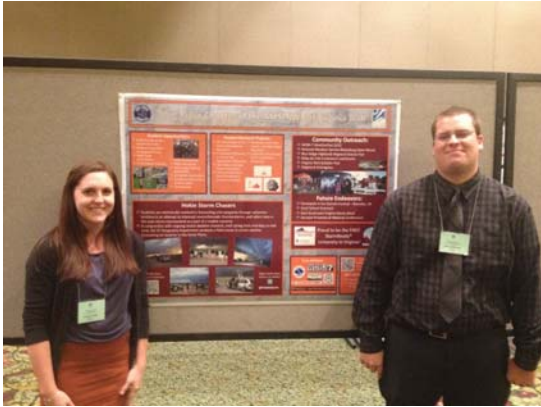


James Morrow and **Nick Luchetti** at the NWA Student Poster session with the president of the NWA, Janice Bunting as well as the former director of the National Hurricane Center, Bill Read, and many other professionals in the field of Meteorology.



Virginia Tech Meteorology Students at the NWA Conference:

Henry Cantrell, Ashley Athey, Sierra Sult, James Morrow, Caitlin Pennington, Nick Luchetti and Carina Ucciferri



Ashley Athey and James Morrow at the NWA Student Poster Session



Jen Henderson at the NWA Student Poster Presentation Session

On Sunday October 27th students from the Meteorology Club at Virginia Tech visited the WSET news station in Lynchburg. We were given a tour of the studio by broadcast meteorologist Lyndsay Tapases and stayed to watch the recording of the 6pm newscast. Some students were given the opportunity to practice their broadcast meteorology skills in front of the camera. Chief meteorologist Sean Sublette also made an appearance while we were at the studio and we discussed the Virginia Tech Meteorology program. Visiting WSET in Lynchburg gave our students the opportunity to network and learn more about broadcast meteorology.



VT Meteorology Club students (Elliot Shiben, Nick Gilmore, Jordan Pegram, James Morrow, Sarah Ash, Megan Sirbaugh, Matt Baker, Amanda Leitz, and Ashley Athey) with broadcast meteorologist Lyndsay Tapases, news anchor Dhomonique Ricks, and sports reporter Justin Feldcamp



VT Meteorology student **Elliot Shiben** takes his turn in front of the camera!



Alumni News:

Dan Shaffer (BA 1999) wrote looking for possible employees to complete a project in Qatar: “I am currently working on a project in Qatar that will run for several more months and we could use some GIS-savvy field personnel. I thought you might know of some recent graduates who have yet to find a job and could use \$10-12,000 in their pocket, after taxes. We would need them ASAP and it is expected that the positions would run through the end of April.”

Dan reports that he is still working for Sanborn.