

MTSU Geosciences

Issue 3
Spring/Summer Edition



Message From the Chair

We are excited to begin a new chapter in the Department of Geosciences with the launch of our redesigned undergraduate curriculum. At the heart of this redesign is our continued commitment to preparing students with the knowledge and job-ready skills they need to succeed in today's geoscience workforce. Shaped by student

feedback and informed by evolving industry trends and workforce needs, our curriculum features a common geoscience core emphasizing foundational concepts and hands-on skills—including geospatial technology, data analysis, field techniques, and laboratory methods—that students complete alongside their concentration coursework. Students build specialized expertise through one of three concentrations: Environmental Science, Geospatial Science, or Geology. This integrated approach provides students with a strong disciplinary foundation and practical skills while creating a more cohesive department and clear pathways toward careers, graduate school, and continued professional growth

Todd W. Moore, Chair/Professor

Department of Geosciences, Middle Tennessee State University



Make a gift today and make a difference in the lives of today's Geosciences students. See inside this newsletter for details!



Alumni Updates



1st Female full
professor in
Geosciences



Adventures in
Switzerland and
Italy

Student Accomplishments



Our major, **Amelia Ferreira**, was named a recipient of the **U.S. Department of State's Gilman-McCain Scholarship**, marking the third time an MTSU

student has earned the competitive award for studying abroad.

An Honors Buchanan Fellow majoring in environmental science from Clarksville, Ferreira will study abroad in Switzerland and Northern Italy, and continues a unique family legacy at MTSU, following her sister **Hannah**, who received the scholarship last year.

The **Gilman-McCain Scholarship**, administered by the U.S. Department of State, provides \$5,000 awards to undergraduate children and spouses of active or activated U.S. military personnel to support credit-bearing study or internship experiences abroad.

During her study abroad, Ferreira will explore sustainability in urban environments. She hopes this experience will enrich her academic path in environmental science.

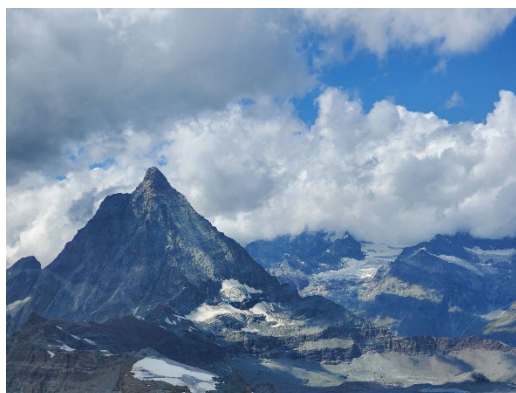
"I was recommended for the scholarship by a few different people,

including my geology teacher and the organizer of the geosciences study abroad trip, Mark Abolins."

Ferreira's study abroad program focuses on urban sustainability, a topic closely aligned with her environmental science studies.



Congratulations to our major, **Teagan Sullivan**, a dual major in business innovation and entrepreneurship and environmental science, for being awarded this summer, the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship supporting study abroad and careers in the global economy! Teagan traveled to Switzerland and Italy this summer to study geology and sustainability practices in alpine environments with a group of students led by Dr. Mark Abolins.





While abroad, she hiked the Alps, visited the Aletsch Glacier, and explored the Hölloch cave system. She also observed how Swiss society integrated sustainability. Teagan said the experience aligns closely with her academic and career goals. "Studying Switzerland's geology and sustainability will strengthen my scientific knowledge and broaden my understanding of environmental solutions," she said. "This will help me become a more thoughtful and globally aware environmental consultant." She added that studying abroad has long been a personal goal and will enhance her cultural awareness and ability to work in diverse communities. Congratulations to Teagan on receiving this award.



AIPG Scholarship Winner

Our current graduate student, **Grace**

Sandige,

was

awarded a

scholarship

from AIPG

in 2025 as

an

undergrad

for students

pursuing

careers in

Geology.

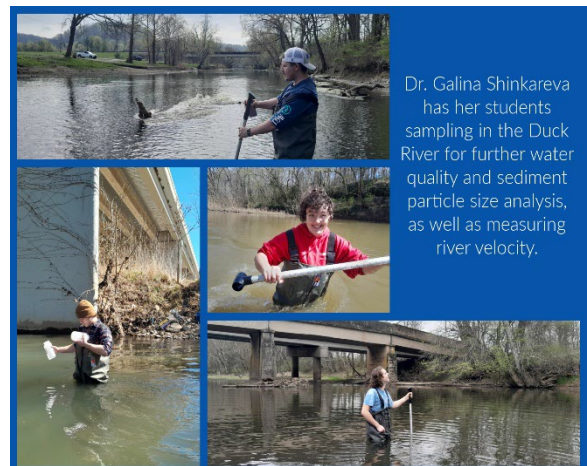
10 students

were



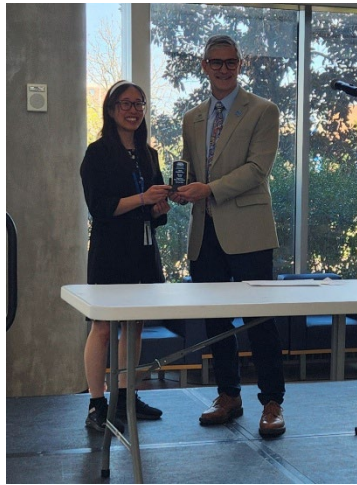
awarded \$1,500. As a part of the application process, each student submitted essays on the theme, "Why I Want to be a Geologist." Her essay was published in the June/Aug/September publication.

This summer, she has been taking part in a summer internship with the town of Smyrna. We just learned she has been given the position of GIS technician for the town of Smyrna.



Dr. Galina Shinkareva has her students sampling in the Duck River for further water quality and sediment particle size analysis, as well as measuring river velocity.

Grace Sandidge won 3rd place in the spring Master's Student Poster category at the CBAS Scholars Day event.



Graduate Student Thesis Defense

Graduate Student Thesis Defense



Graduate student **Emily Keiningham** defended her thesis during the spring semester. Her topic was "A Multivariate Spatial Analysis and Logistic Regression of Hurricane Helen Landslides Around Chimney Rock, NC." She earned her master's in Geosciences this spring. Congratulations, Emily. Emily was hired in March to work for Consolidated Utility District of Rutherford County as their Senior GIS Analyst.

Graduate student **Sean Sanders** successfully defended his master's thesis, "Air Pollution, Microclimates, and Environmental Inequities in Nashville Neighborhoods," in the spring semester. His committee included Dr. Alisa Hass (chair), Dr. Henrique Momm, and Dr. Ngee Chong. During his time in the program, Sean was also instrumental in successfully carrying out climate literacy research through an NSF-funded project. Congratulations, Sean!

Honors Thesis Defense: Isabella Gilbert

On March 30, **Isabella Gilbert** defended her honors thesis, 'A Historical Assessment of Disturbance Events in Laurel Bed Lake, Virginia.'



Isabella with Dr. Brittany Price

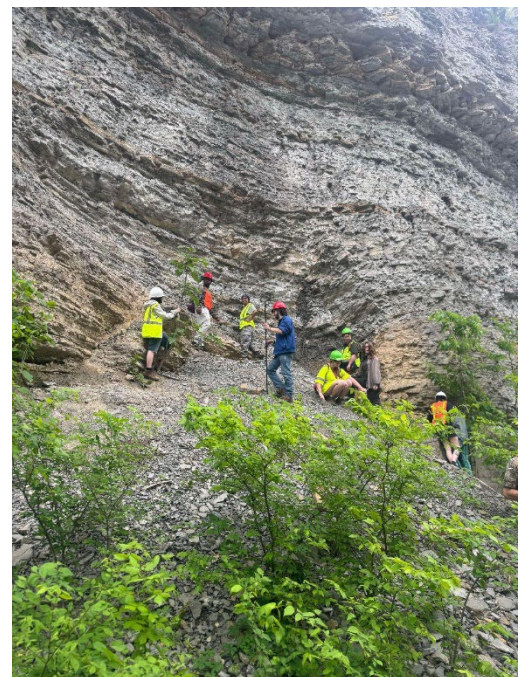


Spring & Summer Semester Field Trips

Geology 3050 Field Methods in Geology Excursion

Dr. Mark Abolins took his GEOL3050 class out in the field in March to an area near Barfield Crescent Park so they

could view some karst features in limestone.



Jeremy Aber's Summer PGEO 3401 Field Studies in Physical Geography Trip



Once again, Jeremy took ten students on a road trip to southern Colorado this summer. The PGEO 3401 Field Studies in Physical Geography course took their typical cross-country trip to explore issues surrounding land use and the ethics that surround how we choose to use our natural resources, and to learn to observe and appreciate the landscape.



As usual, they made stops at various sites in Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, including Dodge City, KS, where the students got

to meet the western legend himself, Doc Holliday! They also did a lot of hiking in the mountains and got to see many natural wonders, like Great Sand Dunes National Park.



And, of course, they had to stop at the UFO Watchtower in Hooper, CO. It's important to connect with the local culture!

Their itinerary ran into a few speed bumps along the way, starting with World Cup activities making it impossible to visit some of the sights in Kansas City. They also had a minor setback when Dr. Aber's truck decided it didn't want to start in the middle of nowhere in Syracuse, KS. Fortunately, after about an hour of getting familiar with the gas station parking lot and replacing the battery (that didn't actually need to be replaced!), the truck decided to play nice and let them continue on the trip. It has since started up without a hitch every single time, go figure!



GEOL3050 Geomorphology Field Trip

Dr. Brittany Price took her students to Head of the Crow State Park – one of three parks that were formerly known as South Cumberland State Park. Located in Franklin County, the park spans 4,258 acres and includes the Sewanee Natural Bridge shown below. The bridge is a 50-foot sandstone arch that frames Lost Cove and Buggytop Cave, one of the largest cave openings in Tennessee. Thank you, E. Keiningham, for the photo of the group.

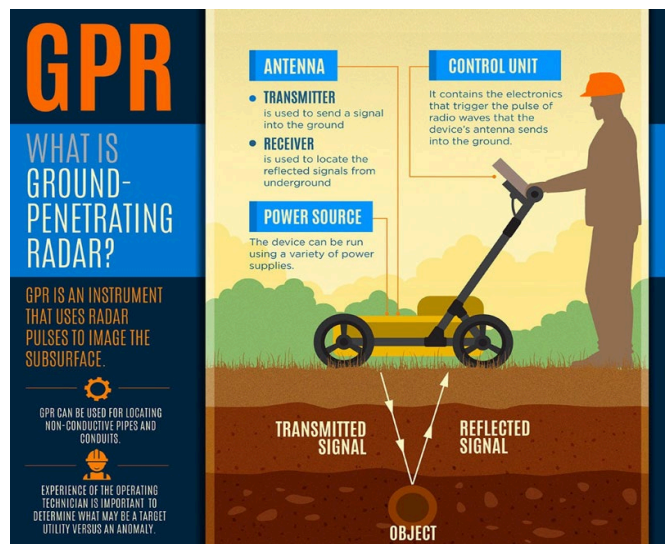


Fort Negley Research with GPR

This spring Brittany Price, joined by Zada Law and Mark Abolins, took a group of our students to Fort Negley in Nashville to research with the GPR unit. Their objective in the research was to develop a broader understanding of the pathways and controls on subsurface water flow/transport (contaminated or not) at Fort Negley and explore the likely disease vectors that would have resulted from improper sanitation and sewage protocols in close proximity to drinking water sources such as wells and cisterns.



Zada, Brittany, and Mark setting up GPR





This effort would focus on conducting a series of tests (ground penetrating radar and electrical resistivity tomography) to determine whether or not the shallow subsurface



can be adequately imaged using these technologies, and if so, to identify potential flow paths (presumably fractures and karst features) in the shallow subsurface.



L to R: Grace Sandidge, Dylan Carr, Dave Cantrell with his father, and several others assisted with the geographical survey of the location with ground penetrating radar (GPR).

Dylan Carr pulling the GPR unit, seeing if the unit's imaging of the subsurface shows flow paths.

Historical Geology Field Trip

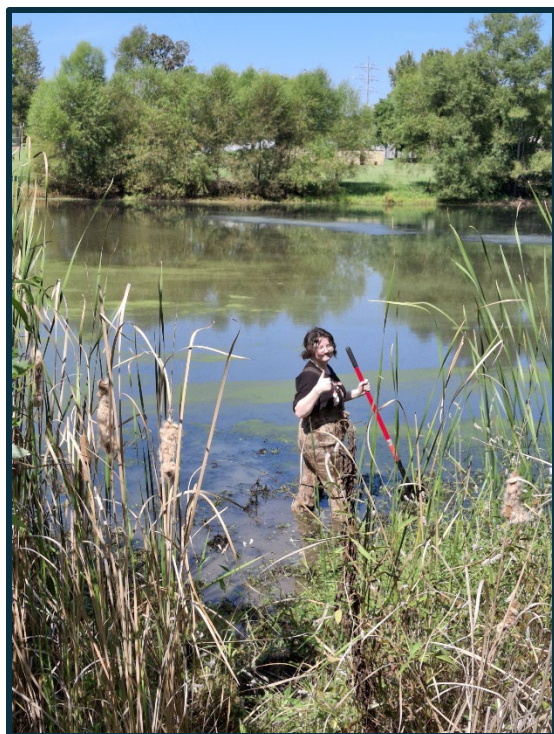
Melissa Lobegeier took her Historical Geology students in the spring semester to visit an old quarry at Short Mountain.



Stone Quarry



Afterwards, they all headed to visit Alan Brown's Earth Experience Museum in Murfreesboro.



Undergraduate Charlie Glendowne Collecting sediment to test water quality at Lake Weatherly off Rutherford Blvd., across from the campus

Bells Bend Park Archaeology Day



Photo taken at Bells Bend Park in Nashville on September 26 at the annual Archaeology Day public festival hosted by the Tennessee Council for Professional Archaeology and Nashville Metro Parks. Zada Law, representing Fort Negley Park's Fossil Finders program, explains how a *Smilodon* skull (an extinct saber-toothed cat) was found during construction of a parking garage in downtown Nashville in 1971 and inspired the Nashville Predators' NHL hockey team logo. Shown seated is Dr. Molly Miller, a retired Vanderbilt geologist.

Follow us on

Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/groups/mtsu_geosciences



Give Students an Experience That Lasts

Your support can make a difference in the lives of today's Geosciences students. Gifts to the Department of Geosciences help provide hands-on experiences that set our students apart, including field trips, laboratory experiences, undergraduate research, conference travel, student club activities, internships, and other opportunities beyond the classroom.

Whether you give \$25, \$100, or more, your contribution helps our students **learn by doing, explore new places, build professional connections, and prepare for careers in the geosciences.**

As a Geosciences alum, you know that some of the most meaningful parts of your education happened outside the traditional classroom.

Help us give the next generation of students those same opportunities. Give today and invest in the future of Geosciences at MTSU.



Click on the QR code above and click on the 'give' button to go to our gift page.

Click "other" from the drop-down menu and add Geosciences to the box.

Any amount you give will help **our** students!



We hope you enjoy our newsletter. If you know of any alumni who may not have received it, please email Karen Wolfe at karen.wolfe@mtsu.edu with their current email address so we can add them to our alumni mailing list.



Students Take to the Road

GSA Meeting

The Geological Society of America's (GSA) Triple Joint Section Meeting took place in Memphis, March 8-11. Seven of our current grad students and one alumna attended. Our department paid for a booth spot during the convention

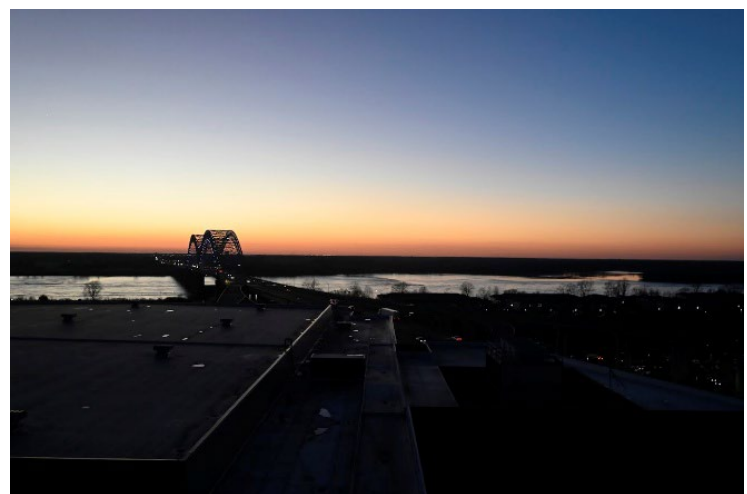


To share some information and swag with attendees.



The group explored the Mississippi Embayment and New Madrid Seismic Zone while connecting with others in the geoscience community.

We are so proud of this group for representing MTSU: Brandon Butler, Qingzhi Lou, Raj Jaiswal, Allison Good, Marissa Pickett, Grace Sandidge, and Milo Gillim, alongside Dr. Todd Moore and Dr. Brittany Price.



Beautiful Memphis at sunset

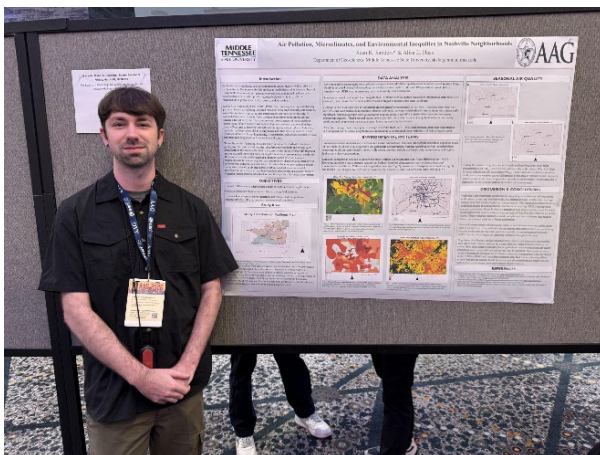


American Association of Geographers Annual Conference

Also in March, two of our students, **Sean Sanders** (graduate student) and **Miyah Konyn** (undergraduate student)

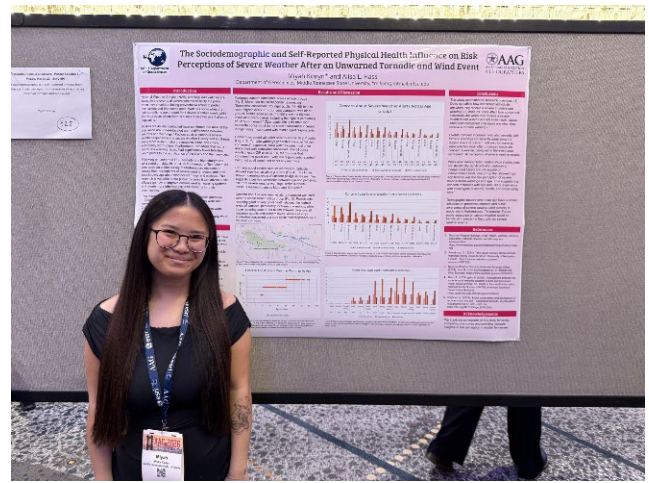


presented posters at the American Association of Geographers (AAG) annual conference held in San Francisco, CA, March 17-21. Dr. Todd Moore and Dr. Alisa Hass attended with them.



Sean's poster was entitled, "Air Pollution, Microclimates, and

Environmental Inequities in Nashville Neighborhoods."



Miyah's poster was entitled, "The Sociodemographic and Self-Reported Physical Health Influence on Risk Perceptions of Severe Weather After an Unwarned Tornado and Wind Event."

Tennessee Geographic Information Council & Awards

In April, several of our grad students attended the Tennessee Geographic Information Council (TNGIC) Annual Conference held at Embassy Suites in Franklin, the 14th to the 16th. The conference was a great opportunity for



networking, GIS data workflows, learning, and sharing work through



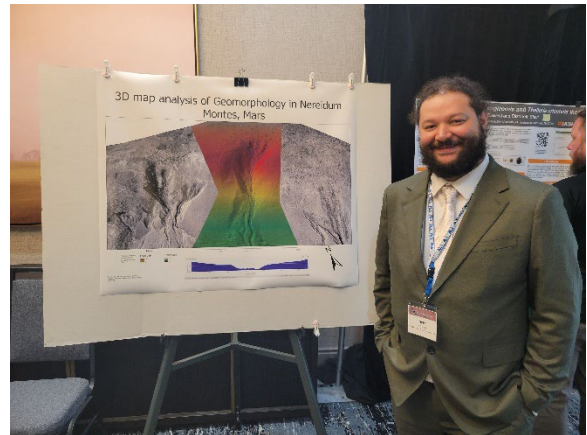
keynote speakers and presentations.

Those representing MTSU included Raj Barnwal, Bianca Cain, Emily Keiningham, Grace Sandidge, and Seth Martinez.



Several took awards for their poster presentations: Raj received 3rd place for his poster "GeoAI Modeling of Urban Wildlife Corridors." Bianca received 3rd place for her poster, "LiDAR Analysis on Fault Lines of the Humboldt Range, Nevada." Grace got 3rd place for her poster. Emily received 2nd place for her

poster.



Seth's poster on Erosional Patterns on Mars gained a lot of attention!



Zada Law, Director of our Fullerton Geospatial Lab, poses with our students.



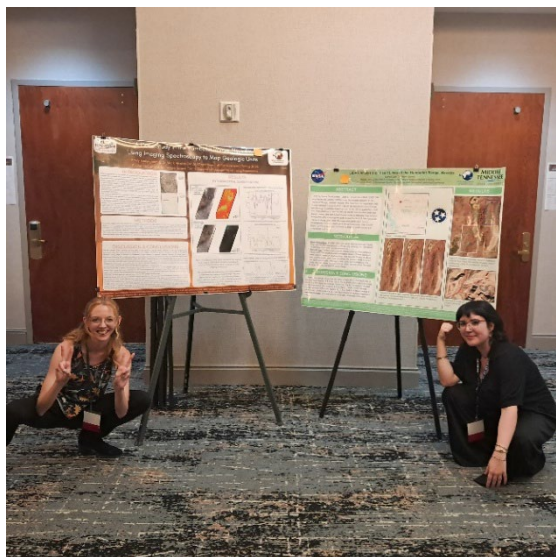
From Alpine glaciers to underground passages, MTSU Geosciences students explored Switzerland and northern Italy with Dr. Mark Abolins during the July 10–24, 2026, Education Abroad trip.



Hiking across the Chessjengletscher

Above Saas-Fee, Switzerland

The journey connected spectacular scenery with Earth's history at the Glarus Thrust, Flims landslide, and Rhine Gorge, with a Bernina Express



We also wanted to mention that Geosciences alumnus Preston Ford was the Map Gallery Coordinator for the event!

Summer Study Abroad Trip To Switzerland and Italy



Visiting glaciers and oceanic rocks of the Gornergrat



Visiting the Aletsch Glacier and Moosfluh Landslide in Switzerland.

crossing into Italy and a day off in Milan. Students hiked across the Chessjengletscher above Saas-Fee and visited the Aletsch Glacier and Matterhorn Glacier Paradise above Zermatt. They examined an exhumed crust-mantle boundary high above Chiareggio, Italy, and they climbed on ancient oceanic rocks high in the mountains at the Gornergrat.



Students near Lago Pirola, Italy, shortly after visiting the exhumed continental crust-mantle boundary (Moho).



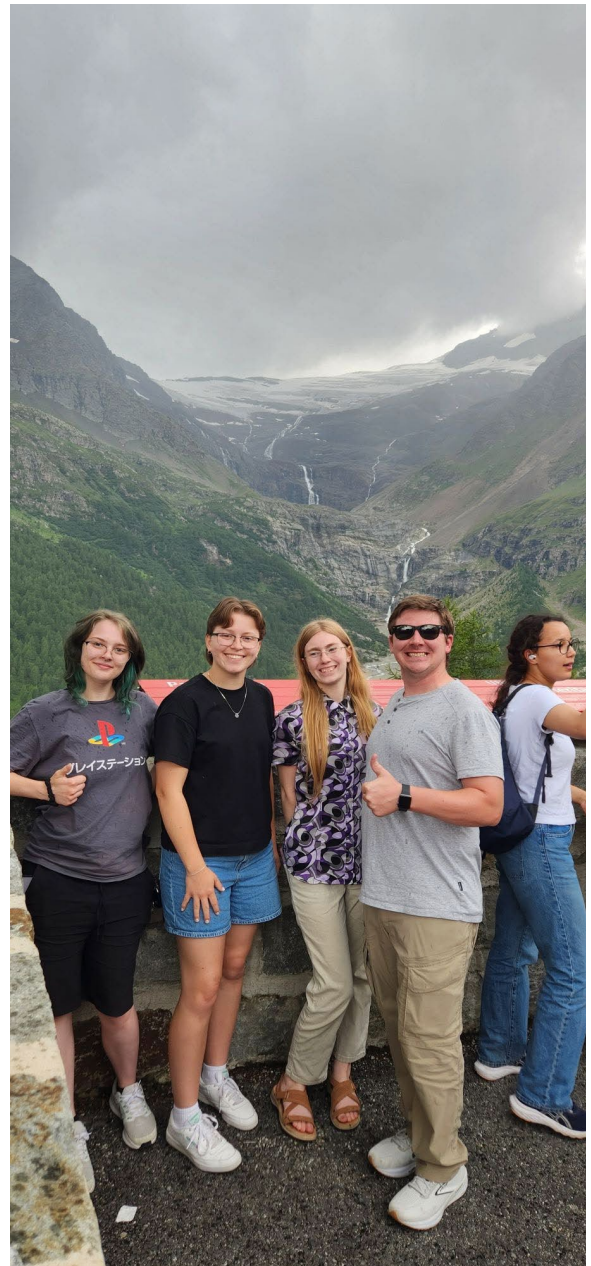
Dr. Dominik Letsch explains the Quaternary aquifer that is used to supply water to the local area.

Memorable hosts brought the science to life: Dr. Gabriel Aguirre Fernandez took students behind the scenes at the University of Zurich Natural History Museum, while guide Gregi introduced the geology, biology, and underground environment of Hölloch Cave—adding personal connections to a journey through some of Europe’s most remarkable landscapes. For the third trip in a row, the delightful Margrit Egli guided students through the Lucerne Gletschergarten, and Swiss



Margrit Egli (red shirt)

Professional Geologist, Dr. Dominik Letsch, shared his expertise with students at urban and natural sites in the Zurich area.



Students pose in front of the Vadret da Palü glacier in Switzerland

Other Department Events

Earth Day 2026

April 22, Earth Day was celebrated, and Geosciences joined with other groups on campus for the Table Talk for the Earth event sponsored by The Center for Energy and Sustainability in the Student Union Commons from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. A group of our students did a very successful



rock

painting activity with the public and handed out information on recycling.



Guest Speakers

We were so pleased to offer our students the opportunity to enjoy not one but two industry speakers during the spring semester.

Our first guest speaker in March was Jonathan Stem, Stormwater Coordinator for the Rutherford County Planning and Engineering Department.



He shared information about his department, 4 summer internships opening in April,

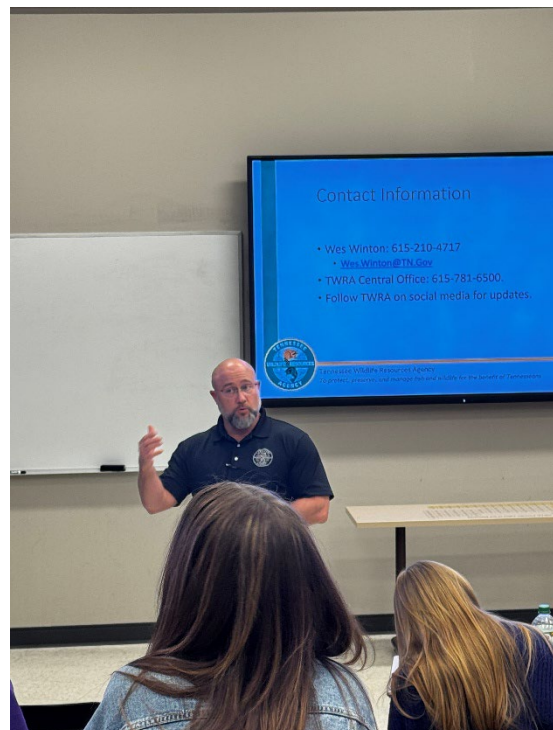


upcoming educational events and projects, and how his degree led him to the career he loves.

Our second guest speaker in April was Wes Winton, the Region 2 Wildlife



Program Manager for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in Nashville. He came and spoke to our students and gave an overview of what TWRA does and the job descriptions and skills they look for when hiring.



Earth Experience Museum Social Hour

On February 20th, the Earth Experience Museum hosted its first “Social Hour” for faculty and students to socialize and experience the first natural history



museum in Middle Tennessee. We had a small but nice turnout to have snacks and drinks while enjoying all the museum has to offer. Another similar event will be held this fall.



Enjoying a cool spring day discussing how to make field measurements with Dr. Mark Abolins.



Spring Student Recognition Ceremony

In April, we held our Annual Spring Student Recognition Ceremony in the Tom Jackson Building here on campus. We had 104 attendees at the event. We recognized 17 graduate students; gave 9 scholarships and 6 awards; recognized 6 of our honor students; and named our top 3 scorers for the fall 2025 and spring 2026 exit exams. Every student attending received a gift

from the department. This year's appreciation gift was a Geosciences hat. A few pictures from the event:

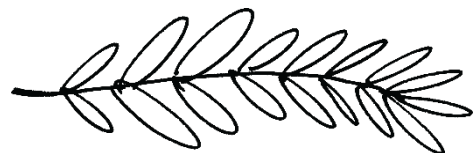


CBAS Graduate Fair

March was the month for the CBAS Grad Fair in the atrium of the new Science Building. Grace Sandidge and Dr. Henrique Momm manned our table for the event.



We had great expertise in the making of the poster at our table from grad students: Allison Good, Grace Sandidge, and Marissa Pickett.



Our Faculty/Staff in the News

Zada Law Recognized



Zada Law, Director of the Fullerton Spatial Technology Lab, was selected in April as the 2026 awardee for the

Achievement Award given by the Metropolitan Historic Commission.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission celebrated its 50th annual Preservation Award Program on May 12th, when Zada's award was presented for her extraordinary leadership in preserving Nashville's history and historic architecture through her service with Nashville City Cemetery and Fort Negley. Congratulations, Zada, on this well-deserved recognition!

Also, it was reported in the Winter issue of *The Courier* that Zada's grant from the Historical Commission was funded for the next two years.

*Middle Tennessee State University, Fullerton
Laboratory for Spatial Technology: \$136,000
GIS services for historic/architectural survey for
the next two years.*



This summer, Chair, Todd Moore, and others from MTSU CBAS were invited by The Boring Company to learn more about the impressive engineering and technology behind one of Nashville's largest transportation projects, touring the site, and discussing opportunities for MTSU students.

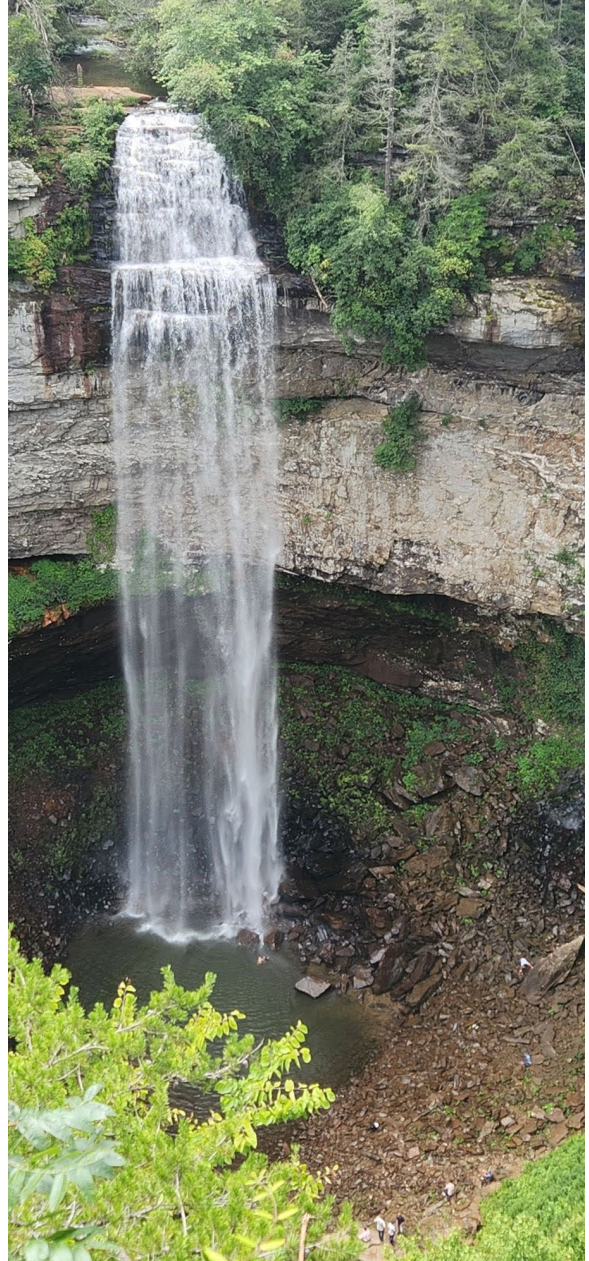


Interesting News:

Zada Law is a member of the TN Committee for the Board of Geographic Names. They recently unanimously voted to name a currently unnamed island in Dale Hollow Lake "Parris Island," to commemorate Joel Parris, born circa 1776, who moved to Overton County, where he acquired property along the Obey River. Joel Parris served on the Overton County Court from 1825 until he died in 1833. The property remained in the Parris family until it was sold to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1942.

Mark Abolins Develops Partnership with Fall Creek Falls State Park

During the spring semester, Devin Simmons, Assistant Park Manager for Fall Creek Falls State Park, reached out to us with an interest in developing a partnership with Geosciences to assist them in developing a deeper understanding of their natural and cultural resources. Dr. Mark Abolins jumped on the opportunity! Over the summer, plans were made, and in early August, he made a week-long visit to the park to get familiar with their ecosystem, caves, waterfalls, fossils, and meet the staff. He developed a Geology Ranger professional development workshop with the staff.



We are looking forward to more opportunities with Fall Creek Falls and getting our students involved with some of their programs in the future!



Racha El Kadiri Department of Geosciences Promoted to Professor

Racha El Kadiri was recently promoted to professor and is our first female full professor in Geosciences! She is also Associate Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at Middle Tennessee State University. Her work combines hydrology, hydrologic engineering, and geospatial science. She applies satellite remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and machine learning to questions involving water-resource management and agricultural sustainability.

Her research encompasses groundwater drought, assessments of freshwater quantity and quality, soil erosion, sediment transport, and the spatial targeting of agricultural practices. Much of this work has been conducted in collaboration with federal and state agencies and university partners. Findings from these projects have informed decision-support tools used by scientists, resource managers, and conservation practitioners.

Since joining MTSU, El Kadiri has contributed to securing more than \$2 million in external research funding from NASA, the National Science Foundation, the National Park Service, and agencies within the U.S.

Department of Agriculture. She has published 30 peer-reviewed research articles in journals covering hydrology, remote sensing, environmental management, and geosciences and has presented her work at national and international scientific conferences.

Dr. El Kadiri earned her Ph.D. in Hydrology and Remote Sensing from Western Michigan University and her B.S. in Hydrological Engineering from Mohammed V University in Morocco.

Her teaching is closely connected to her research. Students in her courses use field investigations, spatial data, and geospatial technologies to analyze environmental problems. Through projects funded by NASA, NSF, and USDA, she has mentored undergraduate and graduate students as well as research scientists, including a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow. She has also developed international hydrology field programs in Morocco and, in collaboration with faculty at other institutions, interdisciplinary courses on the connections among water, food, and soil. Course evaluations frequently cite her subject-matter expertise and attentiveness to student learning. Her academic service spans program development and university governance.

As coordinator of MTSU's Environmental Science program, El Kadiri led program external review and assessment, student advising, and the expansion of experiential learning opportunities. She also designed multiple specializations that broadened the curricular pathways available to Environmental Science students. As chair of the University Council for Sponsored Scholarship, she worked

with faculty to improve research support, create opportunities for collaboration, and improve processes related to sponsored scholarship. She later co-chaired the Academic Quality Pillar of the MTSU 2035 Strategic Planning Steering Committee, contributing to the university's long-term priorities for academic quality and research.

As associate dean of the College of Graduate Studies, El Kadiri provides university-wide leadership for the graduate student lifecycle and MTSU's portfolio of graduate programs. Her responsibilities span admissions, recruitment and marketing, enrollment and program growth, graduate assistantships, student success, and the review and launch of new programs. She has led data-informed enrollment initiatives, expanded assistantship opportunities, and improved policies, workflows, and communication for students, graduate faculty, and academic units. She also leads and coordinates training and professional development for graduate program directors, staff, and graduate assistants. She works with colleges and departments on program quality and growth.

El Kadiri launched Grad-AI, a campus-wide signature initiative that supports the discipline-specific integration of artificial intelligence into graduate education. Its goal is to ensure that MTSU graduate students are prepared to use AI intentionally and responsibly in their professional practice.

Digging Up Bones



In July, Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Geosciences instructor Alan Brown traveled to Glendive in Eastern Montana for the Earth Experience Museum's annual dinosaur excavation. Joining the three-week expedition were two current MTSU students and one alumnus. The field crew initially focused on excavating a partial *Triceratops* skeleton. After substantial overburden

removal, they successfully uncovered several elements, including ribs, vertebrae, and limb bones. However, operations shifted when the property owner discovered another site containing *Tyrannosaurus rex* remains. The team dedicated the majority of the trip to this unusual secondary site, uncovering highly dispersed *T. rex* teeth and pedal elements. During designated field-prospecting time, all participants discovered personal fossils, including various dinosaur teeth and skeletal fragments. Notably, several recovered specimens belonged to species previously unrepresented in the museum's collection and have now been placed on public display.

This fall, on Wednesday
nights at 6 pm CST is
Geosciences Colloquium
We invite guest speakers
from all over the US
(former alumni, industry
speakers, etc.)
You are invited to join us. Watch
your email for details!

Alumni Updates

Jordan Brasher 2014 grad



I am originally from Milan, Tennessee, and attended MTSU from 2010-2014, graduating with a Bachelor's in Geosciences and minors in Archaeology and Environment and Human Society. I have taken a winding career path since then that has spanned academia, private industry, and now landed me in the public sector. One fond memory I have of my geoscience education at MTSU is when in 2013 I got the chance to present my map-based research conducted in Dr. Patricia Boda's class to the State Senate Chambers at the capitol in Nashville as part of Holocaust Memorial Day. This "Geography of Hate" project inspired me to think about space and place from the perspective of people who have suffered violence, discrimination, displacement, and

genocide, a path I would continue to follow through graduate school. Upon graduating from MTSU, I completed a Master's in Geography at Oklahoma State University and then a PhD in Geography with a Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies from the University of Tennessee. I worked as a professor at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia, where I earned the Educator of the Year award and published research in cultural geography and heritage tourism that was cited on the front page of the Washington Post (July 12, 2020), engaged with by over 339,000 readers of The Conversation, and won the Journal of Heritage Tourism's Best Paper award. I left academia for the private sector to work at Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) as a GIS instructor and technical support analyst. At ESRI, I collaborated with distributors and customers around the globe to troubleshoot, document, and solve complex technical issues, closed 675 technical support cases, logged nine original software bugs that were subsequently fixed by Esri developers in future software releases, and maintained a 4.8 out of 5 customer satisfaction rating based on customer feedback. For the last six months, I have been working at the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

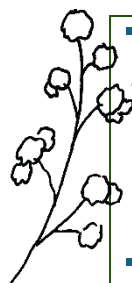
as a GIS Training & Support Specialist, where I support MnDOT's GIS use by providing technical guidance and software training, owning GIS projects, analyzing and processing data, developing maps and web experiences, and stewarding GIS products and data through their life cycles. I love that my geosciences and geography studies have allowed me to broaden my perspective on the world and given me the flexibility to follow a non-traditional career path and pursue different kinds of professional opportunities. I would love to connect with students, faculty, and alumni on LinkedIn, where I share updates about what I am working on, such as the deer-vehicle collisions web app I recently made using ArcGIS Experience Builder.



Collins Eke Grad 2011



Since graduating from MTSU, I have completed a Master of Science degree in Geosciences from Western Kentucky University (I crossed over to the dark side... 😊), where I did research in cultural and historical geography as well as GIS. I currently work as a GIS Analyst for Metro Water Services in Nashville and have been there for the past seven years. I currently have my sights set on pursuing a doctoral degree in geography and am in the process of researching and preparing.



If you'd like to be featured in our Alumni Update, please email karen.wolfe@mtsu.edu with a photo and an update on what you have been up to since graduating from MTSU.

Guerron Marsh *Grad 2022*



Since graduating from MTSU with my B.S. in Geology, I've had the opportunity to work across several areas of the geosciences. I began my career in environmental and geotechnical consulting, gaining experience with groundwater sampling, environmental site assessments, subsurface investigations, and fieldwork. I later transitioned into the energy industry as a well-site geologist with Epoch Geoservices, where I work on drilling projects across the country and assist with geological interpretation, formation identification, mud logging, reporting, and field operations.

More recently, I returned to school to pursue my M.S. in Geoscience at Western Kentucky University, where my research focuses on flood risk and modeling in eastern Kentucky. I'm very

grateful for the foundation MTSU Geosciences gave me, and for the professors and experiences that helped shape my career.