

I officially retire on December 31, 2006. On January 1, I'll be leaving for 7 weeks in Africa seeking out some of the biomes, plants and animals I've been talking about in classes for years. First, a friend and I will fly to Casablanca and meet up with Regina Antonina (class of '01). She is living in Morocco now and has graciously offered to take us to the Sahara. Then it is off to the Canary Islands for 5 days for the annual meeting of the International Biogeography Society. When that is over, we will head to Johannesburg, South Africa. The plan gets a little fuzzy after that. We may hire a car and drive to Namibia. The original quest was to see *Welwitschia* in its native habitat in the Namib Desert, but now that we are both writing books on African biomes, we also want to include highveld, savanna, the succulent karoo, and the Cape Province in our itinerary. We'll just have to see how much territory two old gals can cover in a month.

Dr. Susan Woodward Retires

My books-in-progress are on grassland and marine biomes. They'll be part of a set I'm editing for Greenwood Press as reference volumes intended for high school libraries. (Dr. Roth and Dr. Kuennecke are also writing volumes: freshwater and temperate forests, respectively). Everything is supposed to be completed by August 2007...then I can think about really retiring!



Dr. Ioffe Publishes and Presents a Paper at an International Conference

In October, The University of Pittsburg Press released Dr. Grigory Ioffe's new book, *The End of Peasantry? The Disintegration of Rural Russia*. The release continues Dr. Ioffe's impressive publication list of eight published volumes. On November 11-12, Dr. Ioffe attended an international conference organized by the Institute of Civic Space and Public Policy, Lazarski School of Commerce and Law in Warsaw, Poland. He presented a paper titled, 'Belarus: A State, Not Yet a Nation.'

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Dr. Roth has been on sabbatical during Fall 2006. It has been busy, with work on a book on the freshwater biome (rivers, wetlands, and lakes) consuming the bulk of his time. However this has been an active time in the annals of the New River, as well, with the relicensing process for Appalachian Power's Claytor Hydro Project (known locally as Claytor Dam) underway. As president of Friends of the New River, Dr. Roth has worked with Appalachian Power and other stakeholders to ensure that future operations of the project protect the river biota and the interests of downstream river users. Dr. Roth continues his work with the New River Watershed Roundtable and the statewide Friends of the Rivers of Virginia as well. The Roundtable is a group that focuses primarily on maintaining and restoring water quality in the New River watershed.

Doctor Roth on Sabbatical

Sarah R. Combs is the new departmental secretary. **Carolyn Sutphin** left the department for her new position as Database Manager and Web Page Designer for the Center for Experiential Learning & Career Development.

The Department is currently recruiting for a faculty member. Check the Spring Issue for the results of the search.

CHECK OUT THE ALUMNI NEWS ON THE NEXT PAGE

ALUMNI NEWS (Send us your news.)

Andrew Foy (2005) Completing Master's degree at Virginia Tech and working for City of Radford

Ben Gilmer (2004) Completing Master's degree at West Virginia University

Jason Hart (2006) Project Manager, MAPCOM, Richmond, VA

Brandon Luck (2005) Environmental Specialist, DEQ

Craig Turner (2005) Instructor, Environmental Education, University of Georgia's Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Oconee National Forest, GA (Applying to graduate schools.)

Jon Gantz (2004) Old Dominion University Research Foundation, Water quality monitoring, Elizabeth River

Cody Musick (2004) GIS Mapper, Cabarrus County, NC

Gabrielle Riesner (2002) Earth and Environmental teacher, high school, Burnsville, NC

David Wilson (2002) Completed Master's degree in Environmental Education from UNH, now working on PhD

Regina Antonina (2001) Teacher, Rabat American School, Morocco

Andrew Garman (1994) Transportation Planner, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Norfolk, VA

Charity (Ingram) Peterson (1996) GIS specialist, State of North Carolina Division of Emergency Management

Bruce Barrett (1993) Land manager for private conservation land trust in southern Maine)

Chris Brewster (1992) Manager of a construction company in Anchorage, AK. Still skiing, hiking, biking, and rock climbing

Palma Messick (1991) Living in Cleveland, VA and working as a courier after several stints as a GIS

Antonio Correa Received his PhD in geography from the University of Sao Paulo at Rio Claro, Brazil. Now teaches geography and geomorphology in Pernambuco. Recently appeared in Brazilian papers and on Brazilian TV because of his paleontological work with fossil giant ground sloths.

Suntemple Helgren (1996) has a daughter, Dakota Summer Helgren

Andrew A. Weinmann (2003) Planner/GIS Coordinator, Triad Engineering, Inc.

Clay Perry (2002) Graduate Studies, UNC, Charlotte

Benjamin Anderson (1986) Graduate School in New England (somewhere)

Janet (Ferguson) Cakir (1993) Completed PhD. UNC, employed with EPA. Recent addition to the family, a daughter, Daphne.

Carrie Jubb (1995). Insect Mass Rearing Supervisor - Research Specialist in the Department of Entomology at Virginia Tech. We are rearing / researching a predatory beetle that we hope will help control the hemlock woolly adelgid which is killing native hemlock trees in devastating quantities on the East Coast.

Matt Slater (2002) park ranger, Grand Canyon National Park (Matt and **Ronda Newton** were married and I think she is also working there; they have a little girl named Gaia

Albert Crigger (1999) Source Water Protection Specialist, Virginia Rural Water Association,

Dave Kinder (2004) I heard teaching at SWVCC)

Chris Slaydon (2000) Assistant Planner, Rockbridge County, Lexington, Virginia,

Michael Asma (2001) Compliance Specialist, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Roanoke.

Michael Stallings (2006) Zoning Official, Town of Windsor, Virginia

Katie Grasty, (2004) completed Master of Environmental Management, Duke University

Jesse Whitt (2005) is in graduate school in Pennsylvania; working on masters degree in Geography