

## Dr. George Kipphut establishes the Alice and George Kipphut Sr. Scholarship

Dr. George Kipphut, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department of Geosciences, recently established the Alice & George Kipphut Sr. Scholarship in Earth and Environmental Sciences, in honor of his loving parents and to assist students at Murray State University in obtaining an education to prepare them for a career in the field of earth and environmental sciences. Dr. Kipphut had a successful career as a research scientist at the University of North Carolina, the University of Alaska, and the University of Wisconsin before coming to Murray. During his 25+ years at Murray State University, Dr. Kipphut is highly published, very successful in securing grants; and has received several honors including the Neil Weber Award for Excellence and the Max Carman Outstanding Teacher Award. We are truly grateful for Dr. Kipphut's generosity and his many contributions to Murray State.

Rock, paper, scissors. Gary chose rock. Gary Stinchcomb's fascination with all things rock and soil began when he was 5-6 years old when his mother had to drag him out of the sand box. He followed this up by digging large exploratory holes in the garden. Fast forward a decade or so and he completed his BA from Penn State (2001), MS from Temple University (2006) and then a PhD from Baylor University (2012). He returned to Penn State as a postdoctoral fellow, focusing on soil geochemistry. Gary is now an Assistant Professor in the Watershed Studies Institute and Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Murray State University.

His research interests include studying soil geomorphic response to environmental change. He currently advises three graduate students, Ben Ferguson, Lance Stewart and Kevin Bynum, and mentors several undergraduate students in his research lab. They study soils in Ethiopia, Kenya and USA. Some of their current work focuses on buried soils and paleoflood deposits along the Middle Tennessee, Clarks and Delaware River with the aim of reconstructing past environments and deciphering deep soil carbon dynamics. Their work has been funded through the National Science



## Update from retired faculty

*(Dr. Tom Kind with family in Florida)*

It sure doesn't seem like retirement happened nearly ten years ago in June, 2009. "They" say that "time flies when you're having fun" or "as one gets older." Both are true in my case. Being retired offers the freedom to do what one wants when one wants, within a few limits of course. My wife, Jan, and I have visited many interesting places nearby and around the country. We have also nearly worn out portions of I-40 on the way from Murray to Little Rock and Santa Fe where our children and their families reside. One of our favorite places to be with family is St. George Island, FL, where walking the beach, shelling, and fishing are pretty much the entertainment. I continue to be involved in Watershed Watch, a volunteer group that assists in monitoring the health of local water bodies, and the Planning Commission of the City of Murray. I also enjoy fishing, hunting, racquetball, tying flies, gardening, photography, and visiting with friends. 📍 By Dr. Tom Kind

## Update from alumni

Allison Keller, Environmental Inspector, Department of Environmental Protection, West Virginia

In 2010 I graduated as the Outstanding Geosciences Senior in Environmental Geology. As a graduate student at Michigan Tech I co-taught a field course in Kenya and South Africa in 2011. I moved back to Kentucky to work at The Explorium of Lexington as the Science Education Coordinator. In summer 2012 I then moved to Charleston, WV to work for the Department of Environmental Protection as a coal mine Environmental Inspector. My main duties are ensuring mine operators follow federal and state laws regarding blasting, mining, revegetation, reclamation and water. I became a certified Blasting Inspector in fall 2017. Quarterly we inspect via helicopter to check for on-site damages in the steep mountainous terrain. I was married to Nick Keller in October 2018.

