# Douglas writes chapter in historic book

Joni Tyler
*Staff Reporter*

The Upper Cumberland region encompasses several counties in middle and East Tennessee and Kentucky. Other than to the residents of the area, hearing this region mentioned does not elicit much of a response, but maybe it should. Released in December 2004, "Rural Life in the Upper Cumberland" is a book dedicated to the diverse, unique and often historic region.

The first chapter, "Minerals, Moonshine and Misanthropes," is written by one of Volunteer State's own. Dr. Joseph Douglas, associate professor of history at Vol State, guides the reader through the regions rich environmental history.

According to a press release by The University Press of Kentucky, "Rural Life in the Upper Cumberland" is written by several "prominent scholars." Included in the compilation are seventeen distinct essays, each specifically chronicling a part of the Upper Cumberland's culture and history.

Michael E. Birdwell and W. Calvin Dickinson, editors of "Rural Life in the Upper Cumberland," knew that Douglas had already done research in the area, and had been published in the Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology, on a similar subject. Birdwell and Dickinson approached Douglas, a friend they had met while attending Tennessee Tech., and asked him to contribute to the book.

In his essay, Douglas lists five ways people of the Upper Cumberland interacted with the caves in their area. Douglas chronicles the caves many uses, including for domestic needs, and even hiding places for moon shiner's stills.

Douglas explained that "people's interaction with the environment is complicated," and many of the uses for the caves tend to contradict or overlap one another.

Douglas's said his love of environmental history, the study of people's interaction with their environment, has led him into 1000 caves in the United States and Mexico, many in the upper Cumberland area. Douglas, who has lived in Tennessee nearly all his life, became interested in environmental history, after taking a class at Middle Tennessee State University. So fascinated by the field, Douglas decided to pursue environmental history and abandon his first choice of study, Russian and American Cold War relations.

"I didn't know there was such a field as environmental history. I thought wow, this is interesting," stated Douglas, "and the Cold War was over," he playfully added, further justifying his choice.

Douglas is not letting any cave mold grow under his feet. He has been keeping busy "hanging around with archeologists," which Douglas says, has led to an interest in historic and prehistoric environmental research. He is presently working on material to be included in two archeology books.

# Bucy on sabbatical to write history book

Timmy Claytor
*Staff Reporter*

This semester Dr. Carole Bucy, an associate professor of history, is taking a sabbatical from her teaching duties.

Bucy is combining her love of history and education in order to write a history textbook for 5th graders in Tennessee schools.

"This is an immense honor for any professor. It is not uncommon for several professionals to write books," says Dr. Karen Valencia, dean of the Social Sciences department at Vol. State.

"We have several wonderful faculty members, and it is not uncommon for some of them to take leave so that they can contribute of the pool of knowledge," says Dr. Valencia.

Carole Bucy, associate professor of history, has been chosen to write a history book for the 5th graders in Tennessee.
*Photo by Public Relations.*

# Whiteside resigns, search continues

Jason Drumm
*Staff Reporter*

Have you ever woke up for school one snow-filled morning wondering if Vol State was open? Have you ever looked at a catalog for Vol State? Whose job is it to give out all the information about the college?

The answer lies within the Public Relations (PR) department on campus. As in many departments, there is a head or director calling the shots. In the case of Vol State, that person was Ann Whiteside.

Ann Whiteside worked at Vol State for 22 years, 18 in PR, and 15 as the head of PR department. Not only was she the director of PR, but the director of marketing, and publications.

According to Whiteside, she was responsible for the newspaper, press releases, college information such as catalogs, schedules, view books, writing commercials for Vol State, and also started advertising ideas for the college in her 22 years of service.

After 22 years at Vol State, why did Whiteside resign?

*Photo courtesy of Public Relations*

Despite any rumors, Whiteside said that a number of factors gave cause to her final decision.

"I started out working closely with students, but, as time went on, my involvement with students was less and less. I missed student involvement," said Whiteside.

She went on to say, "PR was getting too hectic and demanding. As a PR person, I was 'always on,' I never had a break, I never could clock out like other jobs do. I was just burnt out."

On a personal note, she said, "With one daughter out of school, and one daughter in her last year of school, it was just a good time for me to leave."

Now that Whiteside has resigned, what will happen to the PR department?

The Search Committee is in charge of finding a replacement for the director of PR.

The chairman of the Search Committee is Dr. Warren Nichols, President of Vol State.

What are the responsibilities of the new director of PR whom the committee is looking for?

According to Tim Amyx, a member of the Search Committee and the Director of Admissions, "the PR director oversees marketing, the website, and media relations for the campus."

Amyx also stated that there were 54 applicants for the position of director of PR. How does the Search Committee narrow down such a large number of applicants to just one person?

According to Amyx, the committee first received the applications and resumes for reviewing. After further assessment of the applicants' skills and ability, the committee then chose nine of the 54 to go on to phone interviews.

Following the phone interviews, the committee chose 3 of the nine applicants for the final on-campus interviews.

"The three finalists for on-campus interviews are Deborah Baker, Lynette Di Meola, and Caroline Fielding" stated Amyx.

Deborah Baker is from Memphis, Tenn. and is a Communication Manager for Memphis City Schools. Lynette Di Meola, from Leesburg, Ga., is the Director of College Relations for Darton College in Albany. Caroline Fielding was a former Supervisor for Sales Programs for Pidmemont Natural Gas in Charlotte, N.C. Fielding is from Goodlettsville, Tenn.

Now that the search is almost over, who will be the new director of PR? The answer to this will be in the next issue of the Settler.