

David Rutherford is a Ph.D. student in the geographic education program in the SWT Department of Geography, and he works as a research assistant in the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education. His area of interest in geographic education is the teaching and learning of geography in higher education, and his specific research focus is upon introductory coursework at the undergraduate level. David's work as research assistant involves service as Associate Editor of the scholarly journal *Research in Geographic Education*, as co-author of the History and Geography Project, as graphic artist and coordinator for Grosvenor Center publications, and in providing leadership for many Grosvenor Center proposals and projects.

David brings broad experience in geography and education to his graduate studies and Grosvenor Center work. With Bachelors and Masters degrees in geography, David has worked in research and interpretative roles in national and state park systems as well as leading non-profit activities serving people in less developed countries. As an educator, David earned a teaching credential and taught geography and earth science at the secondary level. In addition, he has spent numerous summers leading wilderness expeditions, conducting fieldwork courses, and assisting with YMCA summer camps. Educational application of multi-media technology has been a long-standing interest, and David has worked part time and on contract in the audio-visual field. Additional experience that combines photography and travel augments the accomplishments that David brings to Ph.D. level research and study.

David's return to school results from a goal to focus his education, experience, and training upon research, teaching, and service that not only improves the teaching and learning of geography in higher education but also advances the discipline of geography in the academy at large. Specific objectives within that goal include establishing a career as a university professor and participating in the scholarly community of geographers and geography educators. Work with Dr. Boehm and the Ph.D. program at SWT provides an excellent pathway into fulfillment of these objectives.