

DRYVER Z. FINCH
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Department of Geography and Sustainability
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Knoxville, TN 37996

Geographer specializing in remote sensing applications for land and resource monitoring, conservation, and ecological disease surveillance. My work integrates both satellite- and UAV-based multispectral imaging with machine learning techniques to support sustainable management of natural resources and hydrological systems. Passionate about developing Python tools to automate workflows and promote accessibility to advanced analytical tools.

EDUCATION

2026 (expected)	Master of Science, Geography University of Tennessee, Knoxville Topic: Satellite Anthrax Surveillance in Texas, USA Advisor: Dr. Hannah Herrero
2024	Bachelor of Science Geographic Information Science and Technology University of Tennessee, Knoxville <i>Magna cum laude</i>

CERTIFICATIONS

Valid through 09/2027	Remote Pilot License, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems US Federal Aviation Administration Certificate No. 5217840
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PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2024 – Present	Graduate Teaching Assistant University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Geography and Sustainability <i>GEOG 413: Remote Sensing of the Environment</i> Overhauled lab curriculum to reflect industry standards; Introduced over 40 students to fundamentals of remote sensing <i>GEOG 314: Intro to Uncrewed Aerial Systems</i> Prepared students for the FAA Part 107 Knowledge Exam; Introduced students to professional/academic UAS applications
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2024 – 2025	<p>GIS Labs Assistant University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Geography and Sustainability</p> <p>Assisted Lab Manager with upkeep of over 60 department lab computers' hardware and software; Conducted field missions with department UAS technology in support of various research projects.</p>
2024 (Aug.-Dec.)	<p>Education Collaboration at ORNL (ECO) Intern Remote Sensing Group Mentor: Dr. Matt McCarthy</p> <p>Supported ongoing narcotics smuggling interdiction research with United States Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security</p>
2024 (May-Aug.)	<p>Science Undergraduate Laboratory Intern (SULI) Remote Sensing Group Mentor: Dr. Matt McCarthy</p> <p>Developed vessel-detection methods using deep learning techniques in Tensorflow</p>
2023 – 2024	<p>Legal/Executive Assistant Stephens & DiRado, LLP Knoxville, TN</p> <p>Served as main point of contact for the firm; prepared motions, orders, and briefs to be filed in criminal court</p>
2022-2023	<p>Environmental Compliance Intern Knoxville Utilities Board Department of Safety and Technical Services</p> <p>Created site maps for wastewater treatment facilities for annual compliance reports and developed a records-management system</p>
2021-2022	<p>Water Systems Engineering Intern Knoxville Utilities Board Department of Water Systems Engineering</p> <p>Digitized and catalogued all new and repaired assets in ArcGIS Enterprise system; Created project maps for engineers in the department</p>

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Bruce Ralston Geospatial Achievement Award
2025	TN View Fellowship Recipient
2024	University of Tennessee GIS&T Student of Distinction

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 (Sept.)	TN View Annual Webinar Title: <i>Hog-Spot Analysis: Monitoring the Fiends of the Smokies</i>
2025 (April)	American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Mid-South Oak Ridge National Laboratory Title: <i>High-Resolution Land Cover and Phenological Analysis of Anthrax Outbreak Landscapes in the Texas Anthrax Triangle Leveraging Cloud-Based High-Performance Computing</i>
2025 (March)	American Association of Geographers Disease Ecologies Session Detroit, MI Title: <i>Landscape or Founder Effect: Examining differences in land cover characteristics associated with two distinct lineages of Bacillus anthracis in the Texas Anthrax Triangle</i>
2025 (Jan.)	UTK Geo-Symposium University of Tennessee, Knoxville Title: <i>Narrowly Avoided the Past: Remembering Nathan Bedford Forrest at Parker's Crossroads Battlefield</i>

FIELD EXPERIENCE

2025	UAS Imaging of Cataloochee Valley Great Smoky Mountains National Park In support of NSF RAPID Grant #2501466
2025	Archeological Aerial Data Collection Heathsville, VA In support of UTK Dept. of Anthropology

GUEST LECTURES

2025	Geography 513: Advanced Remote Sensing
2025	Geography 111: Our Digital Earth
2025	Geography 331: Natural Hazards
2024	Geography 413: Remote Sensing of the Environment

MEMBERSHIPS

UTK GeogGrads, *Department Events Committee Graduate Representative*
UTK DARC Lab, *Managing Member*
American Association of Geographers
American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers