February Happenings

It’s a short month, and we’re already halfway through! Meanwhile, activity levels are still at a mild pace. Hopefully newsletter submissions and events will pick back up!

The AAG meetings are fast approaching...all virtual yet again. The conference runs from February 25-March 1.

Wednesday, February 16 – 4-5 PM – departmental open house for prospective students on the 3rd floor of SSH.

Friday, February 18 – 5:00 PM – deadline for applications to departmental travel scholarships (Greiner, Norris, and Tweedie). Announcements were sent out recently with all materials due to Jon Comer via email.

Monday, February 21 – President’s Day. The university does not observe this as a holiday, but dress up as your favorite historical president!

We welcomed a new graduate student this semester. Emmanuel Kumi received his BS in Geography and Regional Planning from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana.
News from Around the Department

• Dr. Hamed Gholizadeh received an Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies Professorship from the School of Global Studies and Partnerships.

• Ph.D. student Ny Aina Rakotoarivony received a travel award from the National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis to attend the Environmental Data Science Summit. The theme of the meeting is “Harnessing Diversity in Environmental Data Science.”


• Kianoosh Hassani received a $5,000 Delores and Jerry Etter scholarship. This scholarship provides support to selected M.S. and Ph.D. graduate students who are currently working on research related to the Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

• A recent article in the Southeastern Geographer by Ph.D. student Jesse Andrews and Dr. Allen Finchum about the prevalence of the word “Dixie” was mentioned in the Washington Post Magazine in a story about how St. George, Utah is dealing with the term.

• Barbara Goodnight and Laura Kreutzer are working towards making Geography a Certified Healthy Department. Certified Healthy Department was created in 2011 to recognize work groups at OSU Stillwater and align with Oklahoma’s “Certified Healthy” Program.