

# Geography Newsletter

September 2013

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## Welcome Back!

The 2013-14 school year has started and that means new faces, interesting places (visited), and wide open spaces. This edition of the newsletter highlights faculty personnel changes, new graduate students, news collected from around the department, and summer travels.

With the start of the new year, we say goodbye and hello. First, sadly, Dr. Jianjun Ge has left the department for greener pastures (?) by taking a research job with Monsanto, in St. Louis. We will miss him greatly but wish him well in his new venture. However, the department has been authorized to advertise for his replacement and we will be busy receiving applications and interviewing applicants in the fall for an August 2014 start date for the new hire.

Also, Visiting Assistant Professor Matthew Miller has moved on as well. This position had been in adjunct status for many years, but 2013-14 is the year we were able to return it to tenure-track status, and so...

We have welcomed Dr. Amy E. Frazier (PhD, The University at Buffalo, 2013) to the department as an Assistant Professor. Watch for her biographical sketch in the annual Zenith newsletter, coming out later this fall.



Jianjun Ge



Matt Miller



Amy Frazier

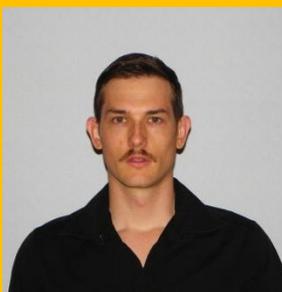
## New Graduate Students

**Samayita Bandyopadhyay** is a first year PhD student. Her research interests involve human-environment dynamics, particularly in socio-ecologically vulnerable landscapes. Her masters dissertation was on the anthropogenic impacts on landslides in the tea gardens of Kurseong in the Darjeeling Himalayas.



**Jeremy Henning** is a PhD student who plans to integrate remote sensing and water resources for his dissertation. He graduated in 2010 with a BA in Anthropology (minor in Geology) and then an MS in Geoscience in May 2013 from Fort Hays State University in Kansas. He has an almost 10 year-old daughter.

**Clay Barrett** has a BS in Environmental Sciences (Natural Resources Management focus) from OSU. His interest in the MS program stems from earning a GIS certificate, and his research interests are remote sensing of natural resources and water quality. Clay lives on a small acreage in the country with his wife, son, and chickens. On week-ends he enjoys chainsaw therapy and gardening.



**Jordan McAlister** is a PhD student from West Texas. He received his BA in Geography and History at Texas Tech University in 2009 and will receive an MA in Geography from Kansas State University December 2013. His interests are in cultural and historical geography. He is particularly fascinated by architectural geography, New Deal artwork, and the historical geography of the Great Plains of the United States and Canada.

**Thomas Craig** is a first year PhD student whose interests primarily lie within cultural/historical geography, specifically in geographic education. He earned an MA in Geography from the University of Akron (2008), and a BS in Secondary Education from Concordia University Nebraska. He spent the past five years teaching high school social studies in Carson City, Nevada. He and his wife, Keira, have two children, Jackson and Madison.



**Gustavo Ovando** was born in Mexico City but grew up in the tropical shores of the Gulf of Mexico in Campeche. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a BS in Geography. He is interested in the applications of GIS to solve transportation and resource management problems. He is married and has an almost 2 year-old baby boy. He loves sports, especially rugby and college football.

**Keeley Heise** is a first year PhD student hoping to continue her research on social vulnerability and weather hazards in the northern US Great Plains. She received her BS in Meteorology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2006 and her MS in Geography from OSU in 2013.



**Kathryn Roberts** is a first year MS student. She received a BS in Geography from James Madison University with a concentration in Environmental Conservation and GIS. Her research interests are in natural resource management, human-environment interactions, and social vulnerability. In her free time she likes to run, hike, camp, and rock climb.

## News from Around the Department

- **Steven Ericson completed the GIS Certificate during the Spring 2013 semester. He began an appointment as an instructor at The University of Alabama, in Tuscaloosa, AL, on August 16. He is teaching four courses: two sections of World Regional Geography, Geography of Europe, and Cultural Geography.**
- **This summer Matt Haffner worked as a transportation intern at the Association of Oklahoma Governments in Oklahoma City. He worked mainly in GIS and was able to directly apply concepts he learned in class over the past year. He was also a finalist in OSU's first Three Minute Thesis competition in June.**
- **Two undergraduates, Greg Schiller and Trenton Williams, had summer internships. Greg worked at Kamo Power in Vinita as a GIS Intern, while Trenton worked for the Delaware County commissioners developing an Asset Management Inventory using GPS and GIS.**
- **Senior Andrew Potter received a \$1,500 scholarship in the South Central Arc User Group (SCAUG) regional competition in April 2013 at the SCAUG 2013 meeting in Addison, Texas. Also, MS alumna Pamela Journey, who has been active in SCAUG for many years, received the Founders Award, which recognizes “exceptional contributions by an individual or agency, from either the private or public sector, that have significantly enhanced the importance of geospatial sciences and made significant contributions toward advancing the use of GIS.”**



Andrew Potter (R)



Pamela Journey (C)

## Summer Travels

**Jon Comer led a Study Abroad trip through Germany, Austria, and Belgium in May 2013. Major sites included the Ardennes, Cologne, Berlin, Nuremberg, Munich, Dachau, Salzburg, and the Eagle's Nest. Though he almost lost the Stadlers to the S-Bahn patrol in Berlin, ultimately all were safe and accounted for at trip's end!**



OSU contingent at the Bundestag (formerly Reichstag) building in Berlin



**Carlos Cordova traveled to Chile in July. He visited the Atacama Desert, where he took pictures for his Geography of Arid Lands class, and La Campana National Park, one of the areas where the Mediterranean climate vegetation exists in Chile. With the latter Carlos completed his tour of the five Mediterranean climate type areas of the world (the Mediterranean, the South African Cape, south and southwest Australia, California, and Chile). Photo: the capsule used to rescue 33 miners trapped during the collapse of a mine in 2010. The capsule was designed and built by the Chilean Navy.**

Dr. Cordova poses beside the "Fenix" in Chile