



Geography

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Geography Newsletter

August 2018

August Happenings

Welcome back! Even before the semester starts, we have lots of activities to kick off the new year.

Thesis Proposal Defenses:

- August 13 – **Ava Keenen**, August 13, 9 AM, 327 MUR (Keso Room) – “Patterns in the Locations of U.S. Mass Shootings”
- August 17 – **Catherine Shropshire**, 10 AM, 327 MUR – “The Importance of Geographic Realism in Genre Fiction: How Place and Landscape in Robin Hobb's *Assassin's Quest* Produce Subversive Social Criticism”

Meetings:

- August 14 – Department Meetings, 460 Student Union (Regency Room):
 - 8:30 AM – tenured faculty only
 - Lunch and afternoon Department Meeting – all faculty and staff
- August 16 – Department orientation meeting, Murray Hall Parlor:
 - 9:00 AM – All graduate students
 - 9:45 AM – donut break, photos
 - 10:00 AM – All faculty, staff, and students

Recreation – Department Bowling, Friday, August 17, 6:30 PM, Frontier Lanes

Monday, August 20 – Fall 2018 Semester Starts

Field Work in the Panhandle

June and July were busy months for Dr. Jackie Vadjunec and the ARID (Agroecosystem Resilience In times of Drought) team. The team composed of graduate students Austin Boardman (below right, droning), Fernanda Ramirez Saenz and Maria Ramirez Saenz (bottom right, working?), Dr. Vadjunec, Dr. Todd Fagin (Oklahoma BioSurvey, University of Oklahoma), and Michael Larson from OSU Cartography Services conducted over 100 household surveys and performed over 30 drone flights in Cimarron County, OK, Union County, NM and Las Animas County, CO. The purpose of this research is to collaborate with residents living and working in the grasslands of the High Plains Aquifer region of Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Colorado in order to better understand how policies impact land-use and water management in grasslands regions, and how these decisions impact local livelihoods, especially during times of drought.



Fulbright Research in Ethiopia

Colton Flynn recently published this article as part of his instructional research in Ethiopia this past summer. Here, he is shown below during actual instruction of the activity at Gondar University in Gondar, Ethiopia.

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Improving Spatial Thinking Through Experiential-Based Learning Across International Higher Education Settings

Kyle C. Flynn
Oklahoma State University - Main Campus, kcflynn44@gmail.com



Grandparent University

For the first time ever, Geography was featured as a major at Grandparent University (GPU) this summer. GPU is an event sponsored by the Alumni Association and brings grandparents and their grandchildren (OSU legacies) together for intergenerational learning at OSU. Students select a major and then live on campus, attend classes in their major, and then graduate. Alyson and Adam submitted a proposal to include Geography, and their proposal was selected. They focused their activities around the theme “Exploring Your World,” which included a number of mapping, GPS, and remote sensing-related activities. Following the announcement of Adam’s departure, the intrepid Clay Barrett stepped up to help. He not only stepped up, he stepped so much during the planning for a geocaching activity that he got blistered feet. Jamey Voorhees and Jean Wang also provided key GPS and tech support. Steve Stadler helped brainstorm some additional activities and contributed some essential photos on very short notice. This combined effort enabled Geography @ GPU to be a wonderful success for our participants, who ranged in age from 7 to 71.



Grandparent University (cont.)



AP Human Geography Grading

Numerous geographers past and present gathered in Cincinnati in June to conduct the annual grading of high school AP Human Geography papers. Graders are paid expenses, stipends, meals during the week that they conduct the grading. Pictured below at this year's grading session are (L-R): Kelly Stiller Titchener (MS, now at Rogers State University), Brian Gilson (current PhD student, MS), Steven Ericson (PhD 2014, now at University of Alabama), Ted Goudge (MS, now at Northwest Missouri State University), Janis Bates (Shepton High School), an unidentified man, Shanedra Nowell (Assistant Professor, School of Teaching, Learning and Educational Sciences, OSU), Thomas Craig (PhD expected summer 2018), and Stephanie Heald (PhD Spring 2018).

Others present but not pictured included Don Colley (Assistant Professor of Instruction and Undergraduate Advisor), Emily Fekete (previously held Don's position), Chris Storm (former PhD student), and Amanda Weber (current PhD student).



News from around the Department

Last June doctoral student Fernanda Ramirez was invited to Paris by her boyfriend, Peter Richtsmeier. After visiting some iconic places in the city of love, (and walking nearly 16,000 steps a day!) Peter proposed on Champs de Mars in front of the Eiffel Tower on June 28th. Of course, she said "YES!" (after briefly saying "NO!" because she needed a rest), and now they are happily engaged. Congrats, Fernanda and Peter!

Peter, Fernanda, and his parents at The Louvre (L), Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel (lower L), and we think she said yes (below)



Movin' On (Up)!

Many of our doctoral students have found academic jobs this year:

- **Thomas Craig** (PhD 2018) is moving to Mayville, ND as an Instructor of Geography at Mayville State University.
- **Matt Haffner** (PhD 2018) has moved to Eau Claire, WI as an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
- **Stephanie Heald** (PhD 2018) is heading to Durant, Oklahoma as an Instructor of Geography at Southeastern OSU and also as assistant track and cross country coach.
- **Bill McBrayer** (PhD 2017) will be teaching geography at the University of North Georgia in the Atlanta region.
- **Yun Zhao** (PhD 2018) has moved to Springfield, IL as an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Illinois-Springfield.
- PhD students **Nick Rose** and **Yanxia Wu** have moved to Coeur d'Alene, ID, where Nick is Lead Geography Instructor at North Idaho College. Nick sent this view from his office (left), which slightly beats our view of Theta Pond...

