

Oklahoma  
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# Geography Newsletter

December 2014

## December Happenings

The department is in the midst of interviewing candidates for a new tenure-track position in land use/land cover change (LULC). Two more colloquia are scheduled this week for Monday December 1 (212 CLB) and Thursday December 4 (203 CLB), both at 3:30. The first candidate presented on Monday, November 24.

On December 2, the Third Annual Fanfare of Lights celebration takes place on the OSU campus. The Fanfare of Lights is designed not only for OSU students and employees, but also for families from Stillwater and surrounding areas. The festivities begin at 7 p.m. in front of the Edmon Low Library. Those in attendance will receive free glow sticks and free cookies and cocoa. All events are free and open to the public.

The departmental Christmas party and potluck dinner is being hosted by the Comers on **Sunday, December 7, at 6 PM**. Maps are available in the Geography Office. This party features a "White Elephant" or "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. For those who wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift worth approximately \$10 for exchange.

Graduate hooding for MS and PhD candidates is Friday, December 12 at 7 PM in Gallagher-Iba Arena. Doctoral candidates Steven Ericson and William Flynn both recently successfully defended their dissertations, and MS student Junlong Liu defended his thesis. Congratulations to all!

As a reminder, Finals Week is December 8-12, and then the university is closed from Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, January 2. The Spring 2015 semester begins on Monday, January 12. Departmental employees (GTAs and GRAs) are expected to be on duty the week of January 5-9.

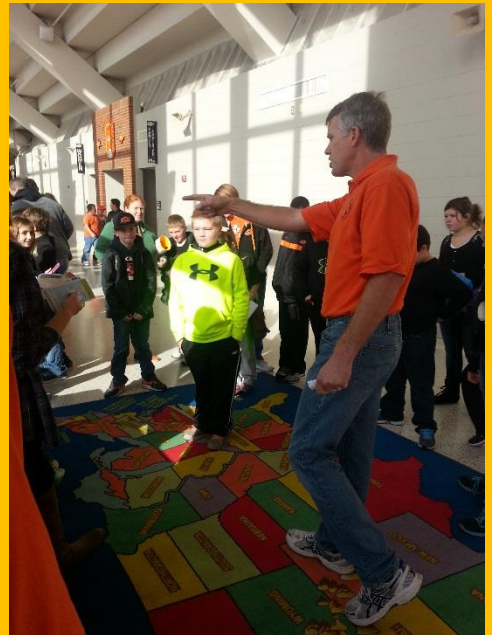
## Departmental News

Dr. Reuel Hanks was recently named to a Dan & Cathey Humphreys Chair in International Studies, our first endowed chair in the department! Chair holders are selected by a campus committee and are faculty members with a demonstrated and ongoing record of promoting student opportunities abroad. Funds associated with the chairs are primarily designated to support long-term student activities in other countries. Congratulations, Dr. Hanks!

On November 14, the Geography Club staffed a booth at the second annual “Cowgirls Class at the Court” event at Gallagher-Iba Arena. Students from area schools in grades K-8 browsed educational booths on the concourse an 11 AM women’s basketball tip-off. Geography Club Members Nick Deyoe, Emily Ellis, Ava Keenen, and Daniel Surach, plus graduate students Keeley Heise and Nick Rose, quizzed students on capitals, states, and other trivial pursuits.



Emily Ellis works the crowd and gives the kids a workout.



Jon Comer says “Go East, you kids!”

The department has recently acquired 14 new Nikon Coolpix AW120 (16-megapixel, GPS-enabled, WiFi-capable, rugged, water-proof, and, of course, bright orange) digital cameras, which were funded by the College of Arts & Science technology fee. These cameras will be used mainly to support teaching efforts, but can also be utilized for research; so, geotag away!



## Geography Bowling Competition

On Wednesday, November 19, a large contingent of geographers and friends assembled for a rematch of the September softball game, this time at Stillwater's bowling alley for what is henceforth to be known as "Great Bowls A Fire."

This three-way competition pitted **Undergraduates** (Teddy Breig, Eric Comer, Nick Deyoe, Emily Ellis, Taylor Iberosi, Ava Keenen, Lauren Montalbano, Micah Parnell, Nathan Smith, and Daniel Surach) versus **Graduates** (Jordan Brasher, Keeley Heise, Kimberly Johnson, Junlong Liu, Nick Rose, and Lauren Wood) versus **Faculty** (Brad Bays, Jon Comer, Amy Frazier, Dale Lightfoot, Tory Lightfoot, and Tom Wikle). The top five scorers from each team (based on a two-game total) were added to determine the team scores for 10 total games (aggregate scores in parentheses):

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Graduate students (1172)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Undergraduate students (1062)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Faculty (1011) ☹**

Congratulations to the winners!  
A rematch is expected for spring.

### Individual Honors:

Best Overall – Nathan Smith (Undergraduate), 293

2nd Best Overall, top Graduate – Nick Rose, 275

Honorable Mention – Jordan Brasher (Graduate), 248

Best Faculty bowler – Tom Wikle, 220



Daniel Surach tries the old "Statue of Liberty" play (we think)



Dr. Lightfoot attempts to use The Force to get a strike

Nick Deyoe, Ava Keenen, and Daniel Surach can only laugh (or smirk) at the bowling skills of the faculty



## Geography Field Trips

Students of GEOG 4313, Field Techniques and Geodata collection, spent 3 days in the field (November 13-15) at Greenleaf State Park completing various research projects with the help of park officials. It was very cold out, but the weather was better than we expected! In the end, it was perfect weather for a warm fire and s'mores!



(L-R) Jackie Vadjunec, Lauren Montalbano (kneeling), Chike Etumudor, Adam Majors, Morgan Johnson, Rachel Oestmann, Kirsten Kuhn, Sarah Lamoreaux (sitting), Morgan Lee, Chaperone/Chauffeur Michael Larson, Ryan Connor, Tommy Casey, Ross Romero, Nathan Smith, and Teddy Breig.



(L-R) Gustavo Ovando, Chaperone/Chauffeur Michael Larson, Jordan McAlister, Allen Finchum, Jake Cornwell, Nick Rose, Yanxia Wu, Er Yue, Yun Zhao, Keeley Heise, and Matt Haffner in front of the Kansas City skyline, such as it is.

GEOG 6120, Urban Geography Seminar, students spent the weekend of November 8-9 in Kansas City and visited the Negro League/Jazz Hall of Fames, the World War I Memorial Tower, Arthur Bryant's BBQ, Country Club Plaza, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, among other sites.

## GIS Day at OU

OSU sent a good contingent to GIS Day at OU in Norman on November 13. In total, 5 students were able to attend (1 undergrad, 4 grads) and master's student Clay Barrett presented a poster. Everyone got a chance to speak with industry representatives including city government, federal agencies, tribes, and some OU students and faculty. Adam Mathews manned our booth and talked with many potential future students about our program, as well as with some USDA researchers that may have some internships and post-docs opening up that our students can take advantage of.

