

Oklahoma
State
University

Geography Newsletter

February 2014



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February Happenings

Departmental colloquia are coming...

On Monday, February 3, 2014, two Geography students will give slideshows based on their recent trips abroad that were partially funded by the **Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Award**. This annual award (\$500) is given to geography students who wish to undertake interesting and even life-changing trips to further their educations. Presenters will be:

- Undergraduate student Connor Wenning, who received the 2011-12 award, spent the spring 2012 semester studying abroad in Granada, Spain.
- Graduate student Yun Zhao, recipient of the 2012-13 award, traveled on a departmental study abroad trip to Germany, Belgium, and Austria in May 2013.

The colloquium will be at 3:30 in 207 Noble Research Center.



On Monday, February 24, Associate Professor **Wendy Jepson** of the Geography Department at Texas A&M University will give a presentation based on her research. A title and location will be announced later, but as always colloquia are held at 3:30 P.M on Mondays. Read her geo-blog at <http://wjepson.wordpress.com/>

A student research colloquium is scheduled for Monday, April 28. Geography graduate students may use this venue to satisfy the departmental presentation requirement. Currently there is one open slot on this date; see Dr. Finchum immediately if you are eligible and interested.

News from Around the Department

Alyson Greiner and life partner, Luis, traveled to Hong Kong over Thanksgiving. Alyson was invited to give a presentation in the colloquium series of the Department of Geography at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU). Her talk, "Internal Periphery or Final Frontier? Malaria Control in the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas" grew out of some of the research she conducted while on sabbatical last spring. She and a colleague at HKBU, Professor Xiaojiang Yu, are collaborating on a research paper.

Those who have been to Hong Kong will recognize the sign for one of the mass transit stations. To ride, most everyone has an "Octopus card." Here, Luis practices the Octopus sign.



A view of Hong Kong and Kowloon from Victoria Peak

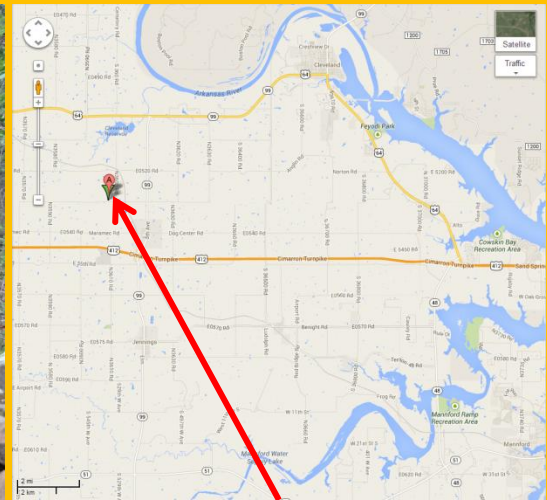
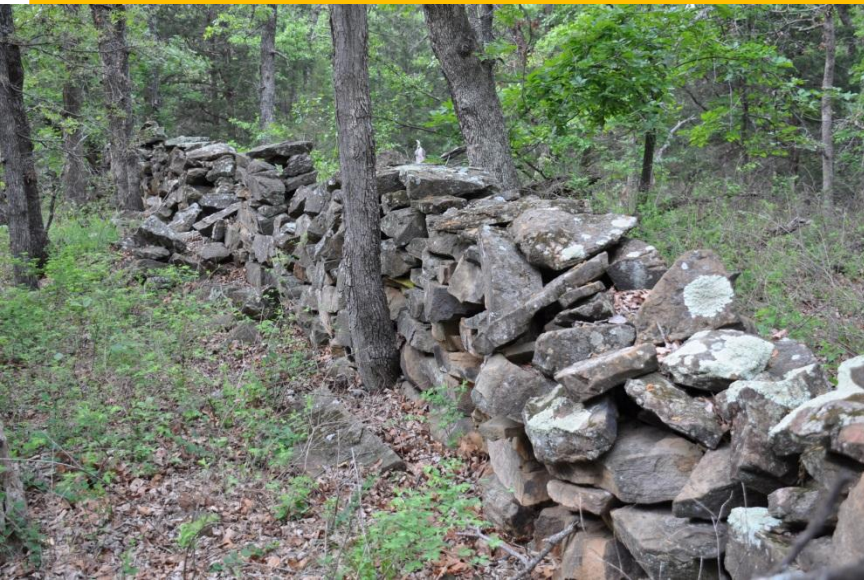


On December 4, Jon Comer was recognized at the University Awards Convocation for receiving the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) Outstanding Graduate Coordinator Award for the 2012-13 year. The award was originally announced in April at a GPSGA ceremony. Jon receives congratulations from awards presenter Shiretta Ownbey, Associate Dean in Human Sciences, on the convocation stage.

Oklahoma Historic Barn Survey

Brad Bays began the final phase of the five-year Oklahoma Historic Barn Survey this semester. The survey has been funded by the U.S. National Park Service via the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Bruce Battles and Adam Lightfoot (CARS) are providing valuable assistance by obtaining historic U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute quadrangles, digitizing outbuilding locations, and identifying extant buildings from high-resolution ortho-photos. So far fieldwork utilizing this method has been very fruitful. The photo at right is of a vee-notched single-crib log barn in northern Atoka County, found using this method.



$36^{\circ} 14.816'$, $-96^{\circ} 35.453'$

As a spinoff project, Brad has begun a database of the state's rural landscape relicts discovered in the field by geographers. This project is primarily inspired by Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov's Texas Log Cabin Register, initiated in 1973. The Oklahoma database, which includes log buildings and other folk landscape relicts, will help us identify settlement patterns that should lead to a better understanding of our extremely interesting, yet understudied state. Curiosities abound out there, such as this unexplained sandstone fence northwest of Hallett (south-central Pawnee County), in the Cross Timbers woodland. You can view the find the fence at: $36^{\circ} 14.816'$, $-96^{\circ} 35.453'$.

Christmas Party 2013

The departmental Christmas Party was Friday, December 6, at Dr. Dale Lightfoot's home. Much food and merriment was had, and the "Dirty Santa" gift exchange was conducted without altercation for the 4th year running!



Is that a onesie Nick's wearing?
Yep, it's a onesie!



Oh Christmas palm,
Oh Christmas palm...



If we gave their names,
would it be a "Craigs list"?



Coming Soon: The International Beer,
Wine, & Cheese Party!!!

Honors Geography 1113 Class Activity

Students in Dr. Greiner's Honors Introduction to Geography class recently took part in a cross-cultural simulation activity, which was facilitated by graduate student, Aswin Subanthore.



Students are separated into different societies, one patriarchal, the other focused on trading. The students must learn the language and cultural beliefs and practices of their society, and then visit and try to learn about the other, experiencing some culture shock in the process.

Photos by Michael Larson