## Oklahoma State University



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# Geography Newsletter

February 2015

### **February Happenings**

Departmental colloquia are coming...

On Monday, February 23, 2015, the first geography colloquium of the semester will be a roundtable discussion with the theme of "Kazakhstan: Regional Development and Security in Eurasia." The panelists will be Professors Bolat Tatibekov, Galym Zhussipbek, Joel Jenswold and Reuel Hanks, with Dr. Dale Lightfoot moderating. The colloquium will be at 3:30 PM in 035 Murray Hall (basement auditorium).

Another colloquium is scheduled for Monday, March 2, title and presenter TBA.

The OSU Research Symposium held in conjunction with Research Week will occur February 18-20 in the Student Union. MS student William Van Ness will display a poster on Thursday, February 19 from 1:00-2:00 PM in the Starlight Terrace (465 SU) and MS student Chris Krieger is scheduled to give a presentation on Friday, February 20 from 11:20-11:40 AM in the Varsity Room (465A SU). The Research Symposium is a cost- and travel-free way for Geography students to meet their presentation requirement. Please support our students if your schedule permits and attend their presentations.

Finally, it is awards season in Geography. Applications for the John F. Rooney Outstanding Junior Award have already been due, applications for the Outstanding Senior Award are due Monday February 9, and applications for the Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship and the new Jerry Croft and Family Award in Geography Education (undergraduates and graduates eligible) are due Monday, February 23. Calls for applications for the Robert E. Norris Field Research and Conference Travel Awards will be coming out soon...

### **News from Around the Department**

Last month, Dr. Carlos Cordova was one of the lead presenters in the monthly OSU Science Café series at the Edmon Low Library. The topic of his presentation (with Dr. Joseph Donoghue from Geology) was "Climate Change Past and Present: Demystifying the Ice Ages and exploring human survival and how scientists reconstruct climate."

Dr. Cordova was on sabbatical in Fall 2014 and we are glad to have him back. Hopefully we will have a report on his sabbatical activities in a future newsletter! (hint hint)



On January 28, the Geography Club staffed at table at the Student Organization Fair the evening before the Career Fair. This new event allowed representatives from numerous employers to visit with student group representatives and advisors to learn more about ways to engage with organizations. Club members (L-R) Emily Ellis (Secretary), Ava Keenen (Vice President), Daniel Surach (all around handyman), along with Club Advisor Jon Comer, attended.



#### **Students Making News**

Ph.D. student Aswin Subanthore is transitioning into the next phase of his career while finishing up his dissertation in Washington, D.C. As an adjunct geography faculty in the nation's capital, he is currently teaching World Cultural Geography at the University of the District of Columbia as well as Geography of Africa & Asia at Trinity Washington University. In December, Aswin hosted Ph.D. student Thomas Craig in D.C. during his trip to attend the American Anthropological annual conference. In addition to his AAA paper, Thomas was a guest speaker in Aswin's geography class and enlightened D.C. students on Edward Said's Orientalism see photo below).



In January 2015, Aswin and Ph.D. student Robert Garrett got their paper accepted in the International Geographical Union (IGU) Conference to be held in May 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. On their behalf, Robert will be presenting the paper titled, "Spatializing Food Equity with Accessibility: An Interpretation of Urban Inequalities in Bangkok." The paper will examine the juxtaposition of the cultural geography of food security with regards to accessibility in Thailand's largest city.

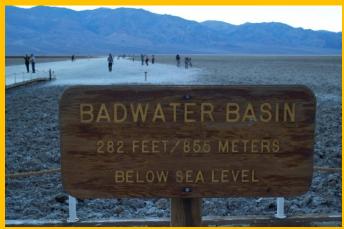
OAMC Dairy Barn has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thomas Craig wrote the nomination in GEOG 6210 during the spring semester of 2014. Great job Thomas!



#### **Student Travels**

Over the winter break Ph.D. students Samayita Bandyopadhyay and Jordan McAlister (along with Samayita's family) visited the Death Valley National Park and the Manzanar war relocation center.





"The two pictures above show Ubehebe Crater (left) and Badwater Basin (right). It was a calming and profound experience to place myself in front of these wonders of physical geography: one, a volcanic crater and another, a dried salt pan and the lowest point in the North American continent!"





"These two pictures are taken in the Manzanar war relocation center in California, now established as a National Historic Site. This place marks the mass Japanese incarceration during World War II. Located in the foot of the Sierra Nevada, the place is as beautiful as it is somber, accompanied by the harsh extremes of the desert climate. I am standing in front of the visitor center (left picture) and Jordan in front of an epitaph for all those who died during imprisonment."