



## Geography

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# Geography Newsletter

March 2017

## March Happenings

Despite the agony of a week without classes during Spring Break, there's plenty to do the rest of the month to keep everyone busy and even a defense *during* the break!

Two defenses are scheduled this month:

- Matt Haffner will defend his dissertation proposal, titled "Assessing the Validity of Location Based Social Media," on Friday, March 17 at 10:00 in the Keso Room.
- Emily Ellis will defend her thesis, titled "Ideal Methods for Identifying Urban Vegetation and Assessing Vegetation Change: A Study of Oklahoma City, 2006-2013," on Wednesday March 29 at 9:30 in the Keso Room.

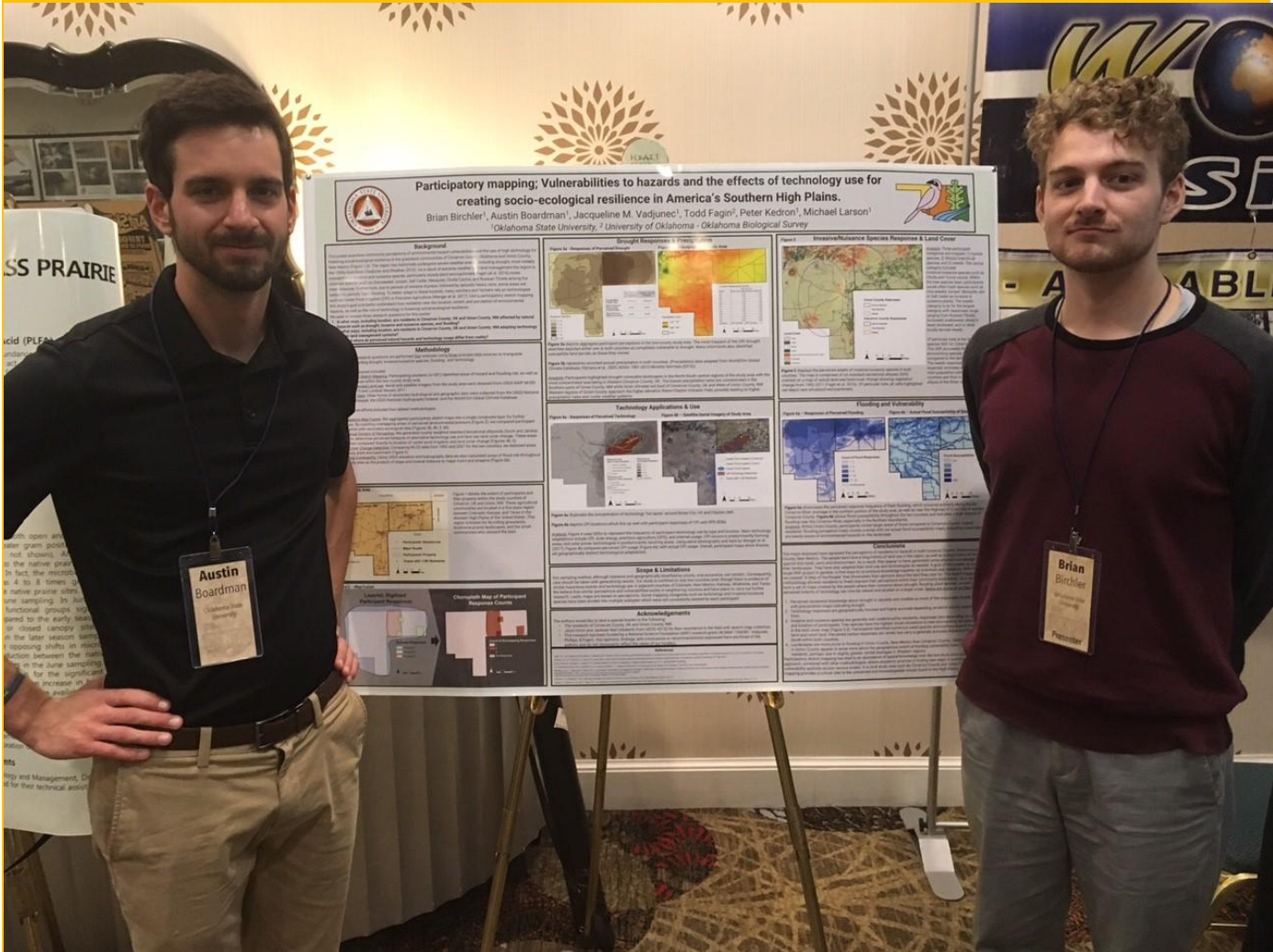
The ever-popular International Beer, Wine, & Cheese Party will be held on Friday, March 31 at 7 PM at the home of Dr. Wikle.

On Friday, March 3, Dr. Bill Doolittle (below) gave a colloquium presentation titled "The Importance of the Seemingly Insignificant and Going Far Afield." The audience greatly expanded its knowledge of aqueducts along the way!



## News from Around the Department

On Thursday, February 23, BS student Austin Boardman (below, left) and MS student Brian Birchler presented a poster at the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference in Tulsa. The research is part of Dr. Jacqueline Vadjunec's NSF grasslands project. The title of their poster was "Participatory Mapping: Vulnerabilities to hazards and the effects of technology use for creating socio-ecological resilience in America's Southern High Plains." Other co-authors included Dr. Todd Fagin (formerly here in the department, now at OU), Dr. Peter Kedron, and Michael Larson.



Geo-Joke of the month: Did you hear about a magical device that helps you understand maps? (See next page for answer).

## Three Minute Thesis® 2017

Six Geography graduate students participated in this year's Three Minute Thesis® competition on campus. MS student Emily Ellis, and PhD students Colton Flynn, Stephanie Heald, Keeley Heise, Robert Garrett, and Yanxia Wu all competed in A&S preliminaries, and Ellis, Heise, and Heald (shown below, L-R) qualified to compete in the A&S College Finals on February 22 in the Library Browsing Room.

While none of the three qualified for the University Finals, they all still did a great job and represented Geography and their research most excellently!



Photos courtesy of A&S Communications and Marketing

Joke answer: Never mind, it's just a legend.

## STEM Fair at Will Rogers

On Friday, February 24, CARS Coordinator Jean Wang, Drs. Peter Kedron and Amy Frazier, and PhD student Gustavo Ovando (below, L-R) visited Will Rogers Elementary School in Stillwater for the school "STEM Fair." They taught 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders about satellites and aerial photographs and had small groups put together a floor puzzle map of the Stillwater area.

