

Geography

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# Geography Newsletter

March/April 2019

## **April Happenings**

Can you believe it? Finals are just about a month away – and that's no (April Fool's) joke! So much to do, so let's get to it:

There are two colloquia this month, both occurring next week due to scheduling issues:

- Wednesday, April 17, 2:30 PM, Classroom Building 106B.
   Dr. Leonid Vyazov, from Russia's Kazan Federal University & Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, will give a talk titled "Early human-environment interactions in small river sediment archives in the forest-steppe region of Eurasia." Please note the earlier-than-usual starting time.
- Friday, April 19, 3:30 PM, Noble Research Center 207. MS student Chris Krieger will give a talk titled "Stillwater's Gated Communities: Triangulating a Landscape Approach."

Several students are defending their theses/creative components this month:

- Friday, April 12, 10 AM, Keso Room MS student Shelby Rider – Creative Component title: "Does Uncle Sam Really Want You? An Analysis of Oklahoma National Guard Recruiting Patterns."
- Monday, April 15, 3 PM, Keso Room MS student Catherine Shropshire – Thesis title: "The Importance of Geographic Realism in Genre Fiction: How Landscape in Robin Hobb's Assassin's Quest Inspires Social Criticism".
- Friday, April 19 1:30 PM, Keso Room MS student Tessa Cook – Thesis title: "The Impacts of Public-Private School Choice on Public Schools in the St. Louis Area."

### **Upcoming Events**

The schedule is so packed, we need a whole other page for events! Try to catch 'em all...

- Wednesday, April 10, 6 PM Student Union Ballroom 2019
   College of Arts & Sciences Awards Banquet.
- Friday, April 12, 3 PM Keso Room (MUR 327) **Geography** Club Elections for 2019-20 Officers.
- Wednesday, April 24, 2:30 PM Student Union Council Room (SU 412) – Graduate College Awards Ceremony. Several Geography graduate students are nominated for awards – we'll see if they win!
- Saturday, April 27, 2 PM Boomer Lake Shelter #4 (SE side) –
   Geography Club end-of-year cookout.
- Friday, May 3, 5:30 PM Murray Hall Parlor **2019 Geography Awards Gathering**. See next page for details.
- Friday, May 10, 7 PM Gallagher-Iba Arena 2019 Spring Graduate Commencement and Hooding Ceremony.
- Saturday, May 11, 3-5 PM Murray Hall Parlor 2019
   Geography Senior Graduation Party.
- Saturday, May 11, 6 PM Gallagher-Iba Arena **2019 Spring** Undergraduate Commencement (College of Arts & Sciences).

## **News from Around the Department**

BS degree candidate **Racine Swick** competed at the undergraduate 3-Minute Thesis competition, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall but also receiving the People's Choice Award. This is, we believe, the first time Geography has competed in the undergraduate competition. Way to go, Racine!

PhD student **Ben Hemingway** was recently awarded a 2019 Holistic Science Prize Award from OSU. He splits the \$3,000 award with another recipient.

PhD student **Colton Flynn** was recently selected to serve as a Fulbright Ambassador and has started fulfilling his duties in said position. This month he was chosen to attend the Philadelphia Fulbright March where 127 Fulbrighters from over 70 different countries came to Philadelphia to share their various experiences and develop further understanding of the use of Big Data in social (and spatial!!) context. Colton's next stop, in mid-May, will be in Washington D.C. where he will be meeting with congress/senators and other political figures to aid the Fulbright program in obtaining funding for future Fulbrighters. CAS recently featured Colton and his Fulbright Ambassadorial duties here: <a href="https://cas.okstate.edu/news/student-spotlight/1715-flynn-travels-to-ethiopia-for-research-opportunities">https://cas.okstate.edu/news/student-spotlight/1715-flynn-travels-to-ethiopia-for-research-opportunities</a>

In other **Colton**-related news, he recently published his ninth article overall, and first from his dissertation, in *Computers and Electronics in Agriculture*. The article was titled "Site suitability analysis for tef (*Eragrostis tef*) within the Contiguous United States." On that note, Colton successfully defended his dissertation on February 19 under Dr. Carlos Cordova (committee chair).

Faculty members **Don Colley, Jon Comer, Allen Finchum,** and **Steve Stadler** were in Norman on the OU campus on March 29 to participate in the Oklahoma State Geographic Bee finals, determining the state champion who will represent the state in Washington, D.C. later this spring in the national championship. This was Don Colley's first time, but the others have been doing it for a long time and the editor found out that Jon Comer's first bee was in 1998, and he has since participated in 17 of the past 22 Bees.

## **GIS Day at the Capitol**

The OSU Department of Geography was extremely well-represented at the 2019 GIS Day at the Capitol, the 25<sup>th</sup> year for the event, on March 5. A large number of OSU staff and students was on hand to answer questions about the department's degree programs, the GIS certificate program, and information about our student organizations.



Pictured above (L-R) — Back: Michael Larson, Lauren Wood, Giovanni Penna, Sam Brander, Amanda Lind, Clay Barrett, Matthew Burton, and Parker J. Smith. Front: Diane Johnson, Jing Wang, Katie Shropshire, and Haley Best. Not pictured is Changheng (Hank) Yang.

For more information, photos and information about past events, and other matters relating to the Oklahoma Geographic Information Council (which puts on the event), visit their website:

http://okmaps.onenet.net/GIS day.htm

#### **2018-19 Awards Gathering**

On May 3, the annual Geography Awards Gathering will take place in the Murray Hall Parlor. Light refreshments will be served starting at 5:00 PM, with the Awards Ceremony starting at 5:30 and Gamma Theta Upsilon inductions immediately thereafter. Nearly \$10,000 of awards and scholarships will be distributed:

#### 2018-19 Recognition Awards:

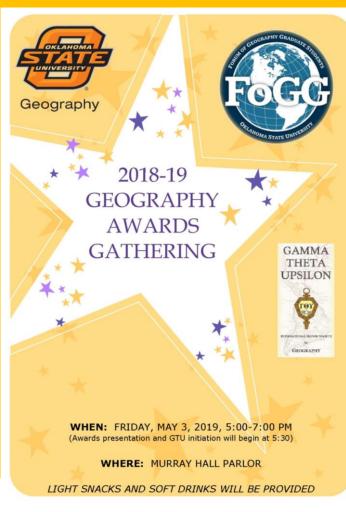
- John F. Rooney, Jr., Scholarship for Outstanding Junior
- A&S Outstanding Senior
- Robert E. Norris Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> Year MS Student
- Jerry Croft and Family Award in Geographic Education
- ConocoPhillips GIS Certificate Enhancement Scholarship (NEW)
- Susan Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching

#### 2019-20 Travel Awards:

- Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship
- Norris Conference Travel Award

Other awards and honors earned by students, staff, or faculty (on campus or off) will be recognized, so if you received some type of award or scholarship in the past year, please let <u>Jon Comer</u> know so he can add it to the list to be announced at the Gathering.



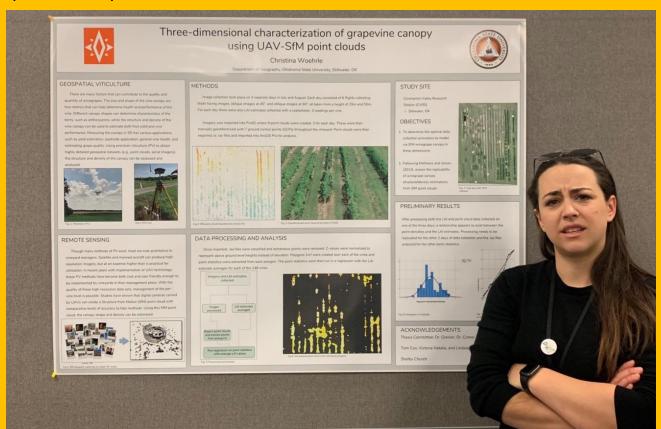


#### **AAG 2019 Happenings**

**Dr. Carlos Cordova** was recognized as the winner of the Ellen Mosley Thompson Award for the best publication on paleoenvironments as a result of his recent book, Geoarchaeology: A Human-Environmental Approach. The award was given at the Paleoenvironmental Change Specialty Group Business Meeting at the AAG meetings in Washington, D.C. on April 5.

PhD student **Jesse Andrews** was named the Most Valuable Player in the World Geography Bowl competition that took place at the AAG meetings on April 4.

MS student **Christina Woehrle** tied for third place in the Pix4D student poster competition. She looks thrilled...



A full list of OSU participants at AAG begins on page 8. Thanks to Dr. Alyson Greiner for compiling the list!

## AAG 2019 Images

