



Geography

Geography Newsletter

November 2017

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November Happenings

November is here and that means the times, like the weather, they are a-changing (literally). As usual there is a lot going on this month:

First, the travesty that is “daylight savings time” finally ends on Sunday, November 5. We finally get that hour back! Here’s why this should never have happened in the first place:

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/11/131101-when-does-daylight-savings-time-end-november-3-science/>

Second, there are two colloquia remaining in the semester, both at 3:30 PM on Fridays in NRC 207:

- November 10: Jordan McAlister, PhD student, “Exploring the Diverse Cultures and Landscapes of Mainland Southeast Asia: A Geographer’s Account of Four Countries.”
- December 1: Robert Garrett, PhD Student, “Western Self-Initiated Expatriates in Bangkok, Thailand.”

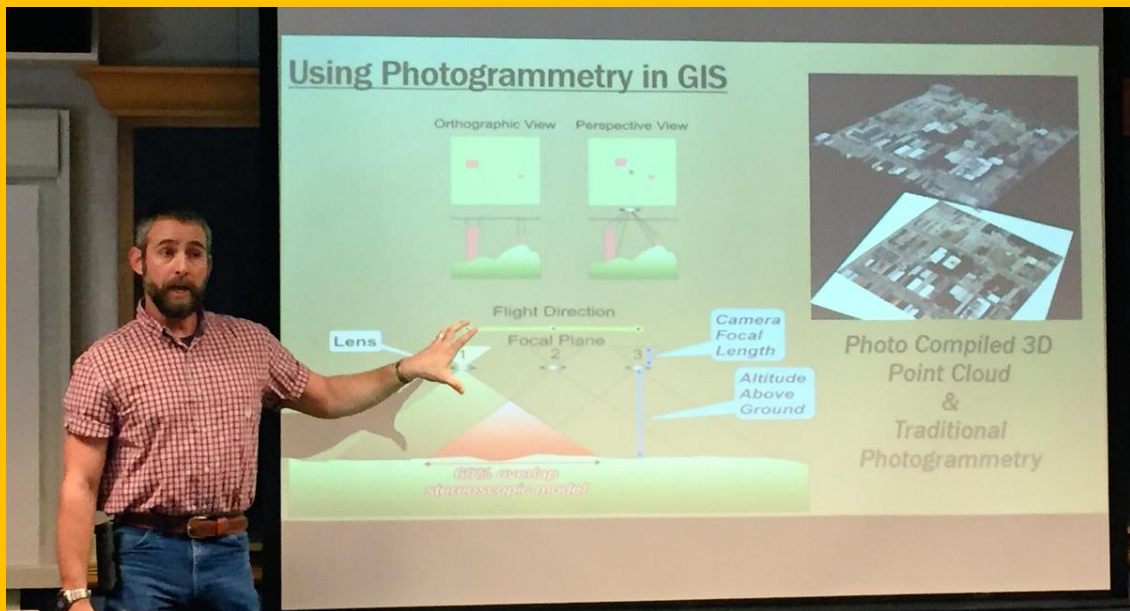
Third, November 13-17 is Geography Awareness Week, and the undergraduate Geography Club is hosting a Trivia Night on Monday, November 13 at 6:30 PM in Murray Hall 035 (lecture hall in the basement). Form your teams and come ready to compete!

Finally as a reminder, Wednesday, November 22 is a student holiday (no classes) but the university is still open for business. Thursday and Friday are university holidays and everything is shut down for the 4-day weekend (including heat!). If you plan on getting some work done, bring your heaters and blankets.



Departmental News

PhD student **Kimberly Johnson** attended the Great Plains/Rocky Mountains regional meetings of AAG in Grand Forks, North Dakota October 13-14. Kim won Best Graduate Student Paper for her presentation “Perceptions and performances of Wilder-scapes: Shaping contemporary memories of the American West at Little House tourist sites.” This prize includes a \$1,000 cash prize if she attends AAG in New Orleans in 2018.



Charles Brady III gave a talk titled “The Continual Integration of GIS into Municipalities” as part of a new series *Geography Career Spotlight* on October 18. Charles has been involved with SCAUG for over 15 years. He graduated from East Central University with a bachelors degree in cartography in 1999 and has been working for the city of Ardmore since 2000 as a GIS coordinator. Throughout his career, he has served in several regional GIS organizations and has dedicated much of his career to every aspect of GIS.



Faculty/Student Conference Travel

OSU was very well-represented in Huntsville, Texas on October 26th and 27th at the SWAAG Geography Conference with 15 people attending. In addition to being a conference sponsor and having a table to promote our program (see photo on next page), those giving presentations were:

Undergraduate presentations for Geography Undergraduate Mentors Program (GUMP):

- **Hayden Harrison:** “An object-based image analysis of land cover change in Stillwater, Oklahoma from 2003 to 2015.” Mentor: Adam Mathews
- **Kayla King:** “Short-term geomorphologic change in the dunes of the Little Sahara State Park, Oklahoma.” Mentor: Carlos Cordova
- **Giovanni Penna:** “Patterns of Islamic religiosity in Kazakhstan: Implications of new data from the north and east Regions.” Mentor: Reuel Hanks
- **Chi Cheng (Finn) Yip:** “The impact of scale on relationships between social vulnerability and the physical environment.” Mentor: Peter Kedron

Graduate Students:

- **Matt Haffner:** “Location-based social media behavior and perception: Views of university students.”
- **Kianoosh Hassani:** “Mapping Quaternary sediments in Tule and Snake Valleys, Lake Bonneville, Utah using Hyperion and Landsat data.”
- **Ben Hemingway:** “Vertical sampling scales for atmospheric boundary layer measurements from small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS).”
- **Avonlea Keenen:** “Patterns in the locations of U.S. mass shootings.”
- **Yun Zhao:** “Measuring urban patterns and identifying their relationships with changes in land use intensity.”

Faculty (and non-attending co-authors):

- **Jon Comer** (and Tom Wikle): “Recreational drone ownership patterns and demographics”
- **Amy Frazier, Peter Kedron** (and Tom Wikle): “Exploring the anatomy of Geographic Information Systems and Technology (GIS&T) textbooks.”
- **Peter Kedron:** “Assessing general indices of social vulnerability in their local context.”
- **Adam Mathews** (and Tom Wikle): “Assessing professional benefits of GIS certification.”
- **Steve Stadler** (and Lauren Wood): “Oklahoma wind pushes through opposition.”

Scenes from Huntsville



OSU was a major sponsor of the conference and had an information table to hand out SWAAG “swag” and tell people about our programs. Everyone took a turn spending time at the table and many new contacts were made.

Eager students and one curmudgeon loaded on Wednesday (10/25) for the trip down to Huntsville. Adam Mathews' and Jon Comer's professional driving skills got the group safe and sound down to Huntsville and back, with the obligatory stop at a Buc-ee's.



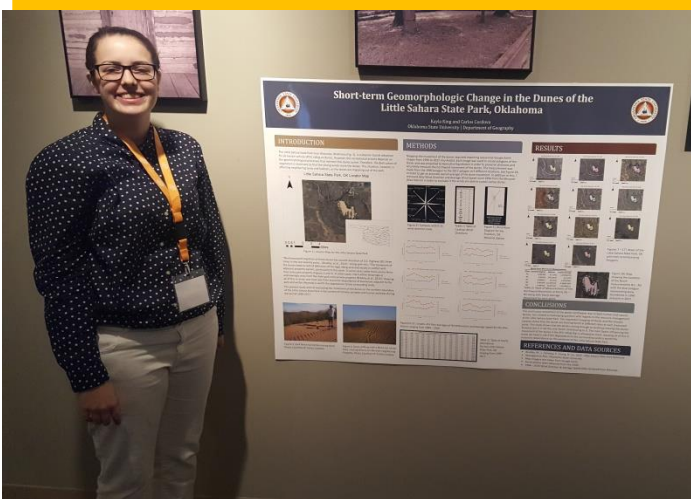
Lunch was provided both days of the conference. Thursday we gathered almost all of the students (L-R): Giovanni Penna, Matt Haffner, Tessa Cook, Kianoosh Hassani, Hayden Harrison, Ava Keenen, Kayla King, and Finn Yip.

Scenes from Huntsville



Giovanni Penna

Hayden Harrison



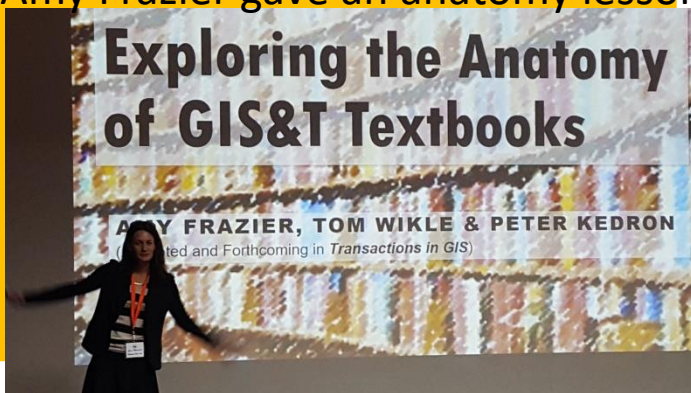
Kayla King

Chi Cheng Yip



Gateway to Sam Houston State University

Amy Frazier gave an anatomy lesson



Physical Geography Field Trip

The GEOG 1114 (Physical Geography) Field Trip enjoyed great October weather. Over two days, 250 students participated. In one photo below, a group checks out fluvial processes in the bed of the Cimarron River and, in the other photo (bottom), students write a short essay about the four spheres of the environment while overlooking Cedar Canyon next to Alabaster Caverns. Bus leaders were Puja Jana, Thomas Cox, Tom Wikle, and Steve Stadler. This field trip has been run for over 40 years.

