



Geography

# Geography Newsletter

September 2019

## INSIDE:

Welcome.....1

Departmental  
News.....2

New Faculty.....4

New Graduate  
Students.....7

OKSCAUG 2019.....8

## Hello Fall!

With the arrival of the autumnal equinox on September 23, it is officially (astronomically) fall – too bad the weather still thinks it is summer.

### Upcoming October events:

Physical Geography (GEOG 1114) field trips will be taking place the week of October 7.

That same week, our regional professional meeting ([SWAAG](#)) is taking place October 10-12 in Fort Worth. Many OSU geographers will be in attendance. This newsletter will hopefully have photos in October.

Homecoming Walkaround is Friday, October 18 and the big game itself is Saturday, October 19 against Big XII foe Baylor University. Kickoff time is still TBD.

Friday, October 25 is the university Fall Break – offices are open, but there are no classes.

Some OSU geographers will be attending the [Applied Geography Conference](#) in Charlotte, NC October 23-25.

Finally, October ends with Halloween, and we are hoping to revive our departmental costume party – **but we are in need of a host!** Any volunteer?



## News from Around the Department

On Friday, September 20, OSU Visiting Scholar **Demis Wudeneh** gave a colloquium titled "Implications of Large-Scale Agricultural Investment for Livelihood Security and Regional Development: The case of the Gambella Region, Southwest Ethiopia."



**Dr. Jon Comer** and recent PhD graduate **Dr. Matt Haffner** (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire) recently published an article in [\*The Journal of Geography in Higher Education\*](#). The article describes a point pattern learning game that Jon uses in GEOG 3333 and 5303 (and which originated in Peter Rogerson's textbook, *Statistical Methods for Geography*) which they turned into a web app to aid in student learning.

### An interactive point pattern analysis web application and teaching exercise

Matthew Haffner & Jonathan C. Comer

To cite this article: Matthew Haffner & Jonathan C. Comer (2019) An interactive point pattern analysis web application and teaching exercise, *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 43:4, 568-581, DOI: [10.1080/03098265.2019.1660866](https://doi.org/10.1080/03098265.2019.1660866)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03098265.2019.1660866>

PhD student **Amanda Weber's** article, "A Forgotten Quarantine Landscape: The Staten Island Marine Hospital Quarantine 1799-1858," has been accepted for Fall publication in *Material Culture*.

## News from Around the Department (cont.)

On Friday, September 27, OSU Geography Distinguished Alumnus **Val Castor**, a long-time storm-chaser and the Senior StormTracker for Oklahoma City's News 9 (KWTV) visited the department to answer questions and show off his storm-chasing monster truck.

He was also featured on a [Pokes PodCAS](#) and recognized at the CAS Distinguished Alumni Banquet.





## New Faculty

**Hamed Gholizadeh** is a remote sensing scientist working at the interface of remote sensing and ecology, and remote sensing and agriculture. His research focuses on combining remote sensing (spaceborne, airborne, and proximal), machine learning, and spatial statistics in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and includes both data analysis and fieldwork.

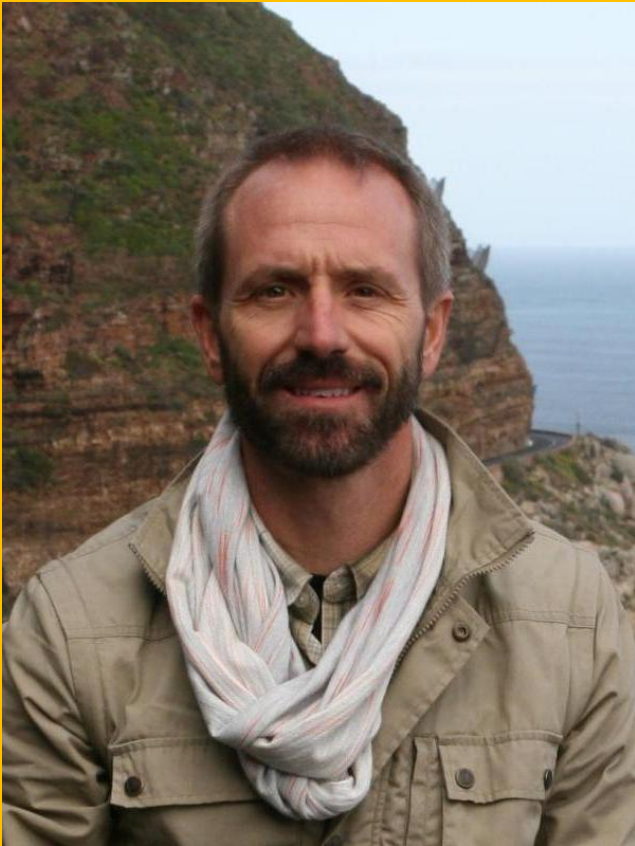


He received his undergraduate degree in Geomatics Engineering in 2009. In 2012, he completed his master's degree in Geomatics Engineering-Remote Sensing in the Department of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing at K.N. Toosi University of Technology in Tehran. Most of his research during his masters focused on high dimensional hyperspectral data and artificial intelligence. Hamed got his Ph.D. from Indiana University (whoop whoop!) in 2016. During his Ph.D., he leveraged his knowledge in remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and spatial statistics to integrate spectral data (site level and spaceborne) and field-based ecosystem measurements to study terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

In 2016, Hamed started to work in the Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies at University of Nebraska Lincoln as a post-doctoral fellow under Dr. John Gamon's advisory. During his post-doc, Hamed worked on a variety of projects on plant phenotyping and linking multiscale (proximal, airborne, and spaceborne) hyperspectral and multispectral data to biological diversity.

Hamed is very interested in interdisciplinary research to explore the applications of remote sensing to address environmental issues in different ecosystems at multiple scales. Hamed enjoys playing racquetball, running, and listening to jazz. He is also a fan of Bayern Munich soccer team.

## New Faculty (cont.)



**Thomas LaVanchy** is a human-environment interaction scientist and Assistant Professor at OSU. His research interests are in hydrology and social vulnerability and adaptation to water insecurity. He uses geographic information systems, qualitative, participatory and quantitative methods in his research to integrate perspectives of hydrology, political ecology, and human ecology across spatial, ecosystem, and temporal scales.

Thomas completed a PhD in 2015 in the Department of Geography & the Environment at the University of Denver as an Environmental Protection Agency STAR Fellow. His dissertation research involved groundwater monitoring of 72 wells, geological mapping, qualitative interviews with local well owners and tourism developers, and establishing a meteorological monitoring network to improve data supported groundwater decisions in rural Nicaragua. Those efforts were aimed at supporting equity of water access for communities and promoting sustainability within the tourism industry.

He previously served as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Gustavus Adolphus College (2015-16) and a Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor at the University of Denver (2016-19). He conducts research and writes on water issues in Cape Town, South Africa, the Sahel of West Africa, and along the southwest coast of Nicaragua. He is also an Associate Editor for *Hydrogeology Journal*.

## **New Faculty (cont.)**

**Yuting Zhou** is an Assistant Professor and Co-Director of Center for Applications of Remote Sensing in the department. He is also the lead PI for the OklahomaView, which is the StateView program of the AmericaView for Oklahoma. He got his Master's degree from the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research in 2013. He obtained a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Oklahoma in 2017.



He worked as a postdoc fellow in USDA-ARS Grazinglands Research Laboratory before coming to the department.

Dr. Zhou's research quantifies the impacts of climate and human activities on ecosystem structure, processes, and dynamics. Dr. Zhou's research aims to advance understanding of Earth systems by using GIS, remote sensing (satellite remote sensing and unmanned aerial systems), eddy covariance, computer science (machine learning), and modeling in an integrated manner. Specific research interests include land use and land cover change (e.g., paddy rice mapping and hay harvest monitoring), agricultural drought, food-water-energy nexus, sustainability of coupled human and natural systems, and ecohydrological modeling.

## New Graduate Students



**Matthew Dupont** completed his BS in Geography at Southern Connecticut State University in 2019 and is pursuing an MS in Geography with an emphasis on GIS mapping.

**Jaryd Hinch** is an MS student examining the carbon emissions produced by aviation traffic, focusing on the effects of the industry converting to algae-based biofuel. He received his BS from OSU in 2017.



**Mark Mahar** completed his BS in Geography at the University of Central Arkansas in 2018. His research interests include Human Geography, Historical and Cultural Geography, Perception of Place, and Gentrification. He is pursuing an MS degree.



## OK-SCAUG 2019

On Tuesday, September 17, at least 30 current OSU Geography people and alumni were present at the [22<sup>nd</sup> Annual OKSCAUG Conference 2019](#). **Michael Larson** taught a half-day workshop titled “Introduction to Projections: The Art and Science of Making a Round Earth Flat” and gave a presentation “Fun with Projections: When the Misuse of a Projection Causes a Kerfuffle or a Brouhaha.”



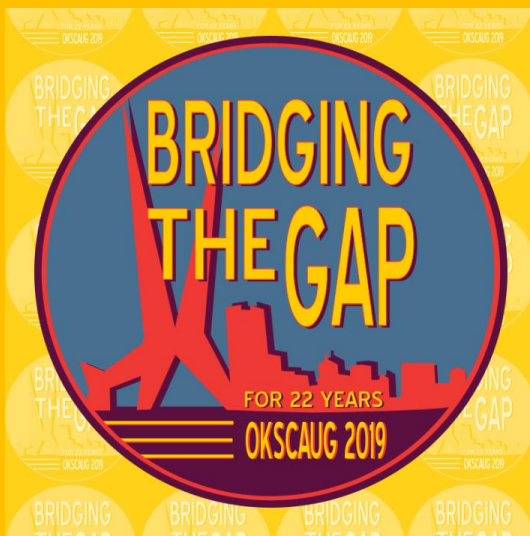
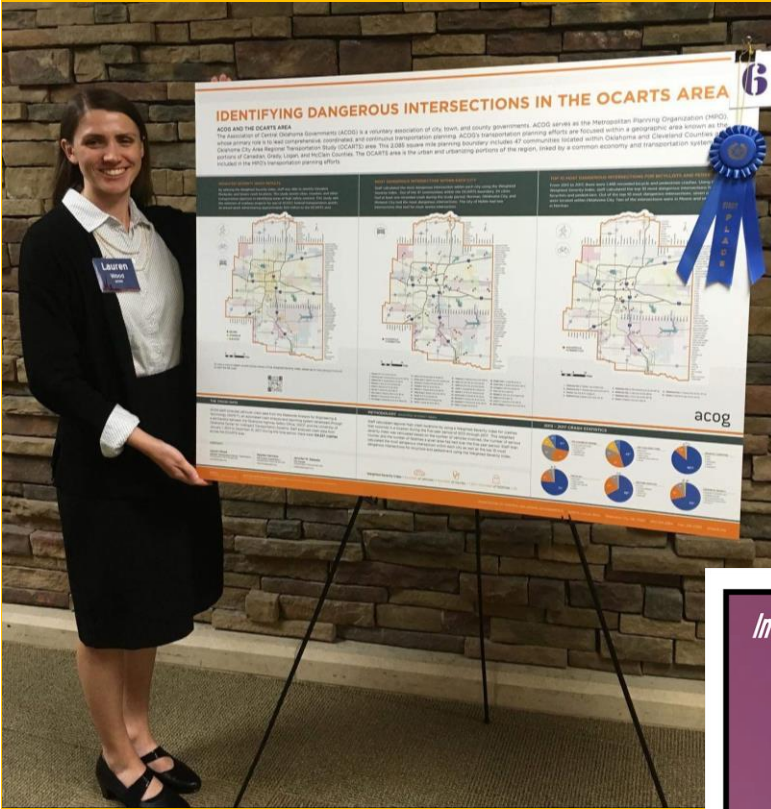
Front row: David Murray\*, Hayden Harrison\*, Lauren Wood\*, Kellen Bullock, Matthew Burton, Connor McKeaigg, and Michael Larson. Back row: Greg Hackman\*, Clay Barrett\*, Parker Smith, and John Hall\*. Not pictured: Fernanda Ramirez Sáenz and Hank Yang. (note: \* indicates alumni).

Lauren Wood, Hayden Harrison, and Jennifer Sebesta from ACOG won first place in the poster competition.



# OK-SCAUG 2019 (cont.)

MS alumna **Lauren Wood** with her poster.



*In Oklahoma City, we're*

# BRIDGING THE GAP

Between humans and data.  
Between knowledge and action.  
Between GIS and you.

@ The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual OKSCAUG Conference  
Moore Norman Technology Center - South Penn Campus  
September 17, 2019

Pictured: Oklahoma City Skydance Bridge, designed by SXL  
Photo by Timothy Hursley