



DEPARTMENT OF  
**GEOGRAPHY**

College of Arts and Sciences

# Geography Newsletter

September 2021

## INSIDE:

Upcoming Events .....1

Club News.....2

New Faculty.....4



Hello Fall!

We are just over a week into (astronomical) fall, and it looks like the weather is just about to catch up with the calendar.

### Upcoming October events:

GTU Bake Sale – Monday, October 4 – Greek Walk near Theta Pond, 9 AM to 4 PM.

Our regional professional meeting ([SWAAG](#)) is taking place October 14-16 in Oklahoma City and virtually. OSU and OU are co-hosting the event.

Some OSU geographers will be attending the [Applied Geography Conference](#) which is completely online but is being held in conjunction with SWAAG and several other regions October 14-16.

Homecoming Walkaround is Friday, October 29 and the big game itself is Saturday, October 30 against Big XII foe Kansas. Kickoff time is still TBD.

FoGG will have its first meeting October 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 pm over Zoom. Dr. Comer and Dr. Sheehan are this year’s co-advisors.

The deadline for graduate student travel scholarships available on the GPSA Canvas Page is October 20.

## Club News

### Geography Club

The Geography Club had its opening social to elect officers on Tuesday September 7th. The student officers elected were Gabby Boyd (President), Elise Neighbors (VP), and Jacob Shepherd. Free pizza was provided.

### Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)

As noted in the upcoming events on Page 1, GTU is holding a bake sale on Monday, October 4 near Theta Pond.

### FOGG

FOGG is still looking for someone to fill the position of alternate delegate to GPSGA meetings and would be very grateful if a graduate student could take on that responsibility.

For events this semester, FOGG plans to organize a group for Into the Streets, have activities for geography awareness week, and activities for homecoming. More details will be provided closer to the date of the events.

Be on the lookout for a poll to schedule more regular meetings.

OSU DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY College of Arts and Sciences

TOY

FOGG

OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES CLUB

WE ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO THE

*Bake sale*

*Come and enjoy fresh baked goodies while supporting our honor society!*

GREEK WALK NEAR THETA POND  
OCTOBER 4, 2021, 9 AM TO 4 PM

## Club News (cont.)

The Geography Club sponsored an open house of the department on Thursday, September 30. Free pizza and drinks were on hand, and participants received tours of various locales including Cartography services, our drone collection, and labs and other spaces. Thanks to all who supported this event!



## New Faculty

**Dr. Jose Torres** is originally from Puerto Rico, and before joining the Department at OSU he was an instructor at Weber State University in Utah. He earned his master's degree in Geography from the University of Florida and his doctorate in Geography from the University of Connecticut.



His master's specializations include tourism, urban and regional development, and Latin America, and his minor field is Latin American studies. His doctoral specializations include tourism, urban and regional development, sustainability, and Europe, and his minor field is Human Rights. His single author research focuses on sustainable urban tourism and urban redevelopment, focusing on Lisbon, Portugal. His collaborative research work focuses on the interaction between the Blue Economy, environmental justice, and tourism in the Caribbean. Activities that Dr. Torres enjoys include traveling and fine dining in cheap restaurants.



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



**Dr. Tao Hu** received his PhD in Cartography and Geographic Information System at Wuhan University, China. He worked as a postdoc research fellow in the Center for Geographic Analysis at Harvard University and the Department of Geography at Kent State University before joining our department. Tao Hu received his PhD in Cartography and Geographic Information System at Wuhan University, China.

He worked as a postdoc research fellow in the Center for Geographic Analysis at Harvard University and the Department of Geography at Kent State University before joining our department. His research interests include geospatial big data analysis (i.e., social media), health geography, human mobility, and crime geography. Dr. Hu's current research aims to build an open data repository for sharing public health-related data, to facilitate interdisciplinary research, education, and training. In addition, his research applies GeoAI (Geospatial Artificial Intelligence) analytics to study the post-pandemic human mobility, environmental, and mental health topics. Dr. Hu has published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles with 2 ESI Highly Cited papers (top 1%) in geoscience. He is also invited to be a reviewer for over 20 journals.

## New Faculty (cont.)

**Dr. Rafiq Islam** obtained his PhD in Geography from Kent State University in 2020. His undergraduate and master's degrees are from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Before coming to OSU, Dr. Islam worked as an Associate Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Earth Science at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. Dr. Islam's research focuses on the South Asian monsoon using a synoptic climatological approach to this important climate system.



He specifically incorporates the self-organizing maps (SOMs) technique, which utilizes unsupervised neural network algorithms to determine and display the distribution of a multidimensional dataset along a two-dimensional array. His research contributes to an understanding of the evolution of the monsoon system. Future research will apply this approach to get a better understanding of the genesis of tropical cyclones, monsoon depressions and local storms in Bangladesh. Dr. Islam is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Physical Geography.