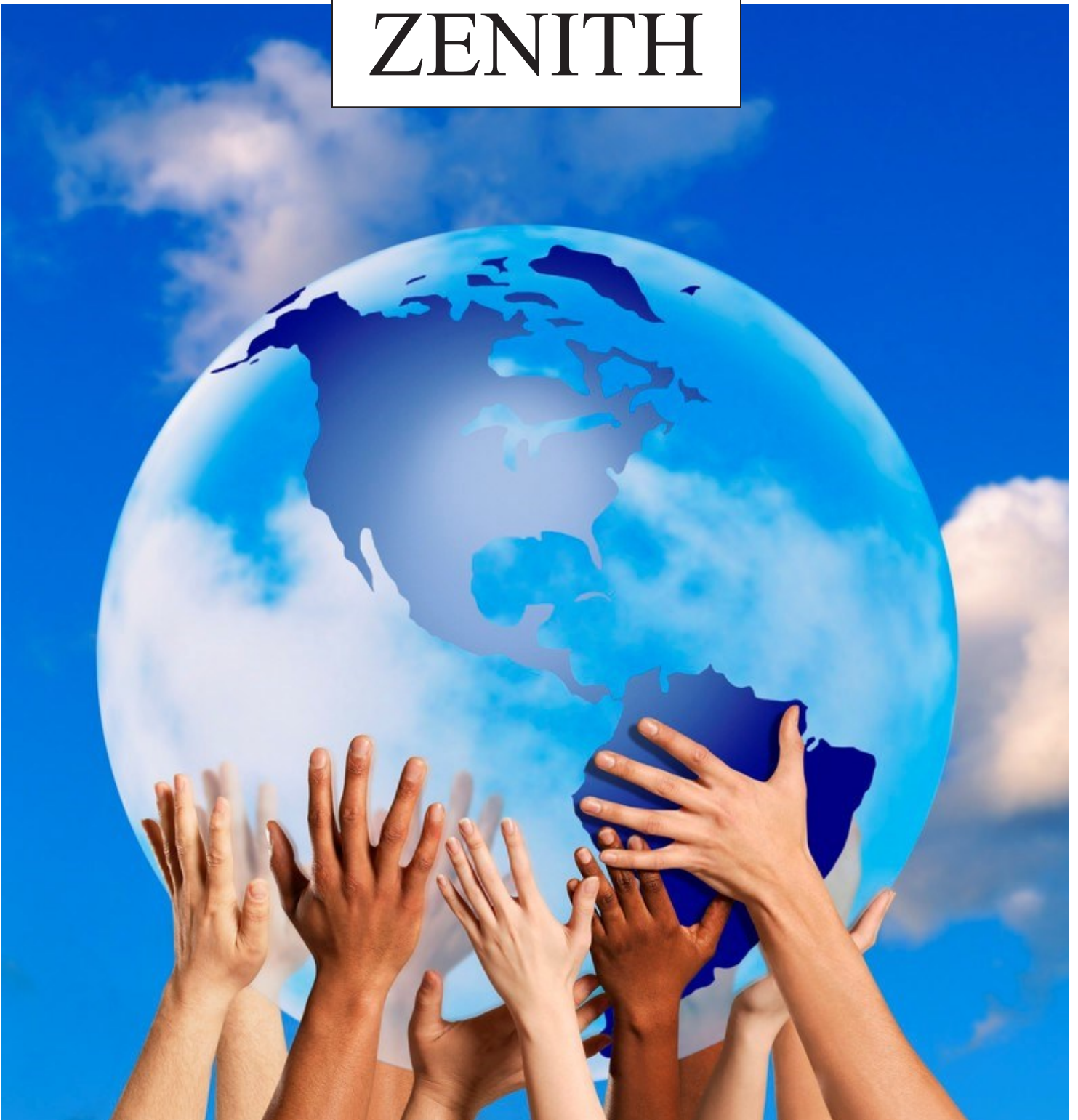




ZENITH



2016

Department of Geography



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A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

Dear alumni and friends of Geography,

Another year has passed and another *Zenith* has arrived, offering another opportunity to keep tabs on your Department of Geography and to hear news from our faculty, staff, students, friends and alumni.

Several new faculty and staff members joined our department prior to the 2016-2017 school year. Assistant Professor Peter Kedron (page 8) moved from Ryerson University (Toronto, Ontario) and joined us in August. Peter occupies a new faculty line in Geography and we now have 17 faculty members. Two Research Assistant Professors—Nicki Wu and Stella Liu—moved to tenure-track positions in other universities and we welcomed new Research Assistant Professor Fatemeh (Tannaz) Soltani (page 9) and GIS Specialist Chang-Heng (Hank) Yang (page 11) to the department. Both work on grants that support Oklahoma State Parks and Tannaz has secured additional funding from the Grand River Dam Authority.

Many accomplishments are reflected in the pages of this magazine, and a few of these really stand out. The Department was very proud to roll out our newest degree program—the B.S. in Geospatial Information Science—and we have several new majors in this program who started in the fall. We were very pleased to select Jaryd Hinch to work on a wind power assessment project with Dr. Stadler as our newest participant in the Geography Mentors Program. Jaryd was also the Rooney Scholarship recipient and Outstanding Junior in spring 2016. Brooke Bastie, a triple major in English, Spanish, and Geography was recognized by Mortar Board as a Top Freshman for 2015-2016. Geography doctoral student Stephanie Heald was awarded an Oklahoma South Central Arc User Group scholarship in 2016 and masters student Lauren Wood won Best Poster at the annual OK SCAUG competition. Doctoral student Colton Flynn was the winner of the Gail Hobbs Student Paper Competition sponsored by the AAG Geography Education Specialty Group. Doctoral student Thomas Craig was awarded the 2016 E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Geography Education Research Grant from the NCGE. Dale Lightfoot and Tom Wikle appeared on the cover of the 2015 Arts & Sciences magazine to headline a story about their Study Abroad trip to Cuba. This is the second year in a row that Geographers have been selected for the cover of this annual publication (Carlos Cordova and Tom Cox graced the cover last year). Dale Lightfoot was selected as the recipient of the 2015-2016 Outstanding Faculty Study Abroad Leader Award during the President's Leadership Recognition Ceremony and Dale was also recognized as the Outstanding Faculty Member by the OSU School of International Studies in Spring 2016. We were very proud to see Amy Frazier awarded with the 2016 Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence during the Arts & Sciences Convocation in late August.

Enjoy your new *Zenith*. We hope to hear from you before the next edition and we look forward to seeing some of you over the next year when your travels bring you back to Oklahoma State.



Dale Lightfoot
Professor and Head

Check us out! We are now on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Icons to these sites are linked from the front page of our website.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Founding Geography faculty members at Oklahoma A&M in 1948, (L to R) George Stevens, Edward Keso, Robert Fite, David Winslow, George Corfield, and Ralph Birchard.



Honduras study abroad participants at Palenque, Mexico, 1995 (L to R lower steps) Mike Owens, Tadashi Kyuno, Duncan Maer, Dean Lambert, Dale Lightfoot; (upper steps) Scott Nicholson, Luke Marzen, Amy Weeks, Matt Bell.



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AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Geography Scholarship Priorities 2017

THANK YOU to the many donors who contributed to our Excellence and Scholarship funds over the past year. Your contribution is helpful, needed, and has a direct impact on the faculty and students in our Department of Geography.

Geography Scholarship Priorities in 2017

Past alumni support has been a key to the progress of our department. With growth in the number of faculty and new program developments, it's an exciting time for the Department. I hope you can help us maintain this momentum by making a generous contribution to our programs. Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$1,000 will assist us in making improvements that will benefit current students and enhance the department and your degree in geography. Please make checks payable to the OSU Foundation and designate the fund to which you are donating on the memo line. Every dollar sent to one of these Geography funds goes directly to the Geography Department. Your support will help the Department achieve its goals of enriching the academic experience of current and future students.

We hope to receive funding in the future to:

- Establish an annual scholarship for the Outstanding Senior in Geography
- Establish an Endowed Professorship in the Department of Geography
- Establish an annual scholarship for Geography Study Abroad
- Enhance the Geography Lectureship Fund (complete the endowment) to support an annual Lecture
- Enhance the Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship
- Finish Endowing the Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Scholarship
- Support the Geography Excellence Fund which provides many activities for students and faculty

2015-16 Academic Year Awardees:

Norris Conference Travel Award (1 @ \$350)
Matthew Haffner

Norris Field Research Award (0 @ \$1,500)
None this year

Tweedie Travel Scholarship (1 @ \$350)
Jordan McAlister

Greiner Travel Scholarship (0 @ \$250)
None this year

2016-17 Academic Year Awardees:

Rooney Scholarship for Outstanding Junior (\$2,500)
Jaryd Hinch

A&S Outstanding Senior
Catherine Shropshire

Norris Scholarship for 1st Year Master's Student (\$2,500)
Emily Ellis

Fite Scholarship for 1st Year Ph.D. Student (\$3,000)
Colton Flynn

Shaull Medal for Teaching Excellence (\$2,000)
Yun Zhao

Croft Family Award in Geographic Education (\$1,400)
Thomas Craig



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AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Geography Mentors Program

This program, in its third year, allows undergraduate students to work closely with a selected faculty mentor on research. Students are selected through a competitive process and work with a faculty member on a specific research project. The students enroll for 3 credit hours in an independent study course in the fall semester, and the mentor and student then co-present the research at a nearby conference. The student performs the bulk of the presentation. The department covers the student's registration fee, transportation (via OSU van), and hotel costs. This year one undergraduate geographer is involved:



Jaryd Hinch is being mentored by Dr. Stadler, and he presented "Pushback from Oklahoma Wind Farms: Socioeconomic Factors for Negative Response to Wind Turbines" at the Southwestern American Association of Geographers meeting in Denton, Texas.

Faculty Awards

Amy Frazier was honored as the recipient of the 2016 Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence (social and behavioral) Sciences. This award was bestowed by the A&S Faculty Council during the A&S Awards convocation in late August.



Dale Lightfoot was selected by International Studies and Outreach for the 2015-2016 Outstanding Faculty Study Abroad Leader Award, presented at the President's Leadership Recognition Ceremony in April 2016. The award recognizes faculty who are dedicated to furthering the internationalization of OSU by providing excellent faculty-led study abroad programs. Dr. Lightfoot has led study abroad programs since 1995 in Mexico-Guatemala-Honduras, Morocco (multiple trips), and has twice traveled with students in Cuba. He recently created and led a workshop for Planning Study Abroad Courses that was offered to OSU educators. He has planned another study abroad course to Cuba, with Tom Wikle as co-instructor, during spring break 2017.



STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS



Standing (L-R): Michael Larson, Jing Wang, Clay Barrett, Rebecca Sheehan, Alyson Greiner, Amy Frazier, Ann Adkins, Jacqueline Vadjunec, Adam Mathews, Carlos Cordova, Emily Williams, Reuel Hanks, Tannaz Soltani, Peter Kedron, and Emily Fekete

Seated (L-R): Brad Bays, Allen Finchum, Dale Lightfoot, Jon Comer, and Stephen Stadler

ANN ADKINS just completed her sixth year in the department, and she is planning to retire at the beginning of April next year. Her retirement plans revolve around travel, Scrabble tournaments, hiking in the mountains, and photographing anything and everything that strikes her fancy.

CLAY BARRETT is an OSU alum with a MS in Geography and a BS in Environmental Sciences, both from Oklahoma State University. He has been in OSU Cartography Services as the GIS Specialist overseeing the American Association of Petroleum Geologists projects for the past year. His professional interests are in scripting with Python to automate repetitive tasks in ArcMap and finding other ways to work smarter. Clay lives on a small acreage in the country with his wife and son, Marga and Xavier. In his free time he enjoys gaming with his son and chopping wood.

DR. BRAD BAYS continues work in the area of historic preservation with two contracts funded by the National Park Service. He and colleague Tom Wikle (who is very much the aviation historian) are conducting a thematic survey of World War II-Era U.S. Army Air Forces training airfields in Oklahoma. Brad is also conducting a survey of Midcentury Modern (1946-1976) houses in Payne County. Graduate student Catherine Shropshire is serving as the Research Assistant on both projects. Brad's research interests involve reconstructing historical agricultural patterns in Oklahoma and understanding how these changes affected landscapes and settlement patterns. Brad teaches cultural geography, historical geography, the geography of federal Indian policy, and Current Geographic Research. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture and is active in OSU's Center for Sovereign Nations.

DR. NICOLE COLSTON is currently in the 3rd year of an NSF Science, Education, and Engineering for Sustainability (SEES) Fellowship. Informed by intensive field research experience (in coordination with Geography Professor Jacqueline Vadjunec) about the widespread impacts of severe drought, her work aims to meet the need for educational resources which support drought monitoring and community management. The *SpottyRain* campaign project aims to engage citizens from the socio-economically connected community known as the '5-states area' (i.e. Oklahoma Panhandle, Texas Panhandle, northeast New Mexico, southwest Kansas, and southeast Colorado) in weather monitoring via the CoCoRaHS network (Community Collaborative for Rain, Hail, And Snow). Project goals this year include the design of a website (www.spottyrain.com) to centralize the numerous resources related to drought risk and recovery for rural, agricultural communities. Additionally, key informant interviews with drought scientists will reveal the opportunities and challenges to scientist communication with the public. Finally, educational materials will assist in the recruitment of citizen scientists to participate as local drought monitors.



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STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

DR. JON COMER completed year 22 in the department in 2015-16, making him realize he probably has way fewer years ahead of him than behind! But despite this sobering realization, he carried on as always with work and play. He went to the combined SWAAG/Applied Geography Conference in October 2015, co-driving a university van with Adam Mathews that was full of OSU Geographers traveling to San Antonio for the meetings and an obligatory stop at Buc-ee's truck stop en route. April 2016 found him back in San Francisco for another enjoyable AAG, highlighted by a day+ trip to Napa Valley and touring some vineyards with Tom Wikle. Jon took a break from Europe study abroad trips in 2016 because he co-led, with Dale Lightfoot, a contingent of OSU students and faculty to Cuba in March 2016, the department's second such excursion. In July 2016, he and Shannon celebrated their 50th birthdays by spending two weeks in France and Switzerland. Based in Paris for the first week, they were also able to take day trips to the Champagne region, touring Mœt & Chandon (maker of Dom Pérignon) and to Normandy to visit the D-Day beaches. The second half of their trip was split between Geneva and Lucerne, with a day trip to Chamonix France and Mont Blanc, before flying home via Zurich. 2017 will get him back to Europe some more, as he and Tom Wikle travel to Iceland in January and plan a study abroad trip to Spain and Portugal in May.

DR. CARLOS CORDOVA taught his usual Spring semester classes, Intro to Physical Geography (honors section) and Geography of Arid Lands. As usual, he went on the all-day fieldtrip to western Oklahoma. In the summer he traveled to Russia on another literary trip, this time to visit the home village of the Russian poet Sergey Yesenin, and some locations in Moscow of Mikhail Bulgakov's novel Master and Margarita. He also visited the Monino Aviation Museum in the outskirts of Moscow. In July he and his PhD advisee, Tom Cox, attended the AMQUA (American Quaternary Association) meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In August, right before classes started, he taught a 2-week course (Geography of Africa). That same month Carlos signed a book contract with a British publisher for his next book, *Geoarchaeology: The human-environmental perspective*. In September Carlos attended the International Meeting on Phytolith Research in Aix-en-Provence, France, where he presented data on grass phytoliths from South Africa. While there, he visited the archaeological park in the Verdon Canyon, an area rich in remains of Europe's Middle and Upper Paleolithic occupations. This half year Carlos published a co-authored paper in *Journal of Archaeological Science*. The paper had been noted in the news as a discovery. The research, in which Carlos participated, recovered blood protein from stone tools about 250,000 years old recovered from a Middle Pleistocene Paleolithic site in the Jordanian Desert. The study revealed that the tools were used for butchering rhinos, horses, elephants, and duck, among other species. The novel parts are the technology used to recover and identify the blood residue and to show its preservation over a long period of time. The study showed the diversity of diet of the *Homo heidelbergensis* (?) who probably used the environment in that area. Carlos contributed with pollen and phytolith research, which provided the environmental and climatic context to the finding. This fall, Carlos is teaching his Biogeography course and a brand new course on the geography of grasses and grass-dominated ecosystems. Finally, on October 11, Carlos gave a town hall talk to enrolled students in the OLLI-OSU program. The presentation was titled "The Climatic Odyssey: Humankind through cold and warm climates."



STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

DR. EMILY FEKETE: This year has been a busy one settling in to life in Stillwater and at OSU. In the spring I was invited to write two chapters for the Encyclopedia of the Internet, one on Twitter and one on E-tailing. I was also asked to serve on a panel at the American Association of Geographers annual meeting in San Francisco on undergraduate advising in geography departments where I got some great ideas for OSU's geography programs that I am working to implement this fall. While at the AAG meeting I also presented on a previous publication on the Geographies of Cyberwar and Cyberterrorism. At the meeting I was also elected to serve a three year term as the Chair of the Media and Communication Geography Specialty Group. Over the summer I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Morocco for two weeks with Dr. Lightfoot's study abroad course. Sleeping under the stars in the Sahara was an incredibly profound experience. In June, I completed my 4th year as a grader of AP Human Geography exams in Cincinnati, OH. Much work, but a rewarding experience with geography colleagues. This fall, I have been busy collaborating with Dr. Greiner as we work on a special issue of the *Journal of Cultural Geography* that focuses on Deaf Geographies, the first publication in this subfield! I also had the opportunity to attend and present at the Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference at my MA alma mater, Kent State University in September. Seeing how much the town of Kent, OH has changed in the past 6 years was quite the experience! I continue to work with the undergraduates at OSU as the geography and geospatial information sciences advisor and on increasing the visibility of geography at OSU and through other geography organizations nationwide.

DR. ALLEN FINCHUM: During 2015-16 Allen Finchum continued his longstanding work with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office as well as working on some other small research project of personal interest. Allen is still grateful for the support that Mike Larson gives to the SHPO project and its' ongoing success. One of the more personal projects is an analysis of cell phone usage by operating system for select US cities in relation to other demographic patterns. He presented a poster on the cell phone analysis at the AAG Meeting in San Francisco with Matt Haffner. During the Summer of 2016 Allen revisited San Francisco and the Bay Area for a vacation. The largest event of the past year for Allen and his family is the arrival of a new grandson in February – Harper – who lives in Edmond with Curtis and Olivia.

DR. AMY FRAZIER and Ph.D. Student Ben Hemingway joined nearly 100 researchers from four universities in Stillwater over the summer to take part in the world's largest unmanned aerial systems (UAS, or drones) flight campaign (to date) investigating the use of UAS for atmospheric research. In the photograph below, Frazier (center) and Hemingway (right) are collecting reflectance and location data from ground targets that are used to calibrate multispectral sensors mounted on the UAS. They were assisted by Dr. Adam Mathews (left, logging data). During the field campaign, the team of researchers collaborated on more than 250 test flights. Ultimately, the four-year project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and titled *Colaborative Leading Operational UAS Development for Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics (CLOUD MAP)*, aims to improve prediction and forecasting for severe weather.



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STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

DR. ALYSON GREINER: This year Alyson and life partner, Luis, marked-20 years in Stillwater. “Holy cow!” they exclaimed, and then duly commemorated the anniversary by making a jaunt to Braum’s. Earlier in the year they enjoyed a trip to San Diego, where Alyson was invited to lead some professional development training on visual literacy for high school instructors of World Geography. This led to an unexpected and surprisingly radical culinary adventure. Let’s just say that at lunch they became well acquainted with *lengua* (beef tongue), *sesos* (brains), and *cabeza* (beef cheeks). All without *cerveza*! Alyson was subsequently invited by the National Research Council to serve as a reviewer on the report, “Fostering Transformative Research in the Geographical Sciences,” which has since been published. Together with Professor Bill Bryans (History) and David Peters (University Archives), she helped facilitate the visit to OSU of students enrolled in an OU Presidential Dream Course, “Making Modern America: In Search of the Great Depression & New Deal.” This afforded another opportunity to present on and engage in a discussion about Depression-era murals. This year Alyson also received the exciting news that her textbook, *Visualizing Human Geography* would go into a third edition. In a neat development, the Funerary Service Student Organization at UCO invited her to give a presentation about necrogeography. She was also introduced to some of their embalming artifacts from days gone by, and all seemed to enjoy this sharing of morbid delights. Speaking of UCO, things continue to go swimmingly in the Chemistry Department there, where Luis was elected to another 4-year term as department chair.

DR. REUEL HANKS: 2016 has been a year of big changes for me. Several book chapters and articles are in the works, as well as a couple of manuscripts. I have become quite active in the new program in Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies, as well as continuing to serve in the Humphreys Chair for the College of Arts and Sciences. During the past year I was able to support six OSU students in study abroad programs, and hopefully that number will expand this year. My most important activity is spending as much time with my little girl, Kami, as I can, and showing her the world! She started first grade in August, and already is showing signs of being an ace in geography.



DR. PETER KEDRON joined the department as part of the Oklahoma NSF EPSCoR (OIA-1301789), a multi-institution collaborative research team studying how socio-ecological systems adapt to climate variability. Dr. Kedron is also Co-PI on two NSF project grants examining (i) the regional evolution of innovation and production in the US biofuel sector (BCS-1338970), and (ii) the effect of data composition and configuration on the statistical biases associated with changes in spatial resolution (BCS-1561021). His ongoing research in the fields of economic geography and innovation studies examines the regional diffusion and impact of technology development. As the department’s newest faculty member, Peter also spends a good portion of his time figuring out how things work at OSU.

MICHAEL LARSON: November 2016 will start Michael’s twenty-first year as Coordinator of Cartography Services. While Michael performs extraordinary work for the faculty members and students of the Department of Geography, he also continues to support faculty, staff and students from other departments on campus as well as work for various entities, large and small, public and private, off campus. Michael’s focus continues to be on two major project areas, his work for the Association of American Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), and his role directing the data collection field work for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Oklahoma Landmark Inventory (OLI) database update. Continuing his role as an educator, Spring 2016, was Michael’s Fourteenth year teaching the Computer Cartography course. In addition to teaching, he continues to be involved with assisting a number of the Geography faculty with their field courses. When he is not involved in Departmental business, Michael enjoys spending time with his two granddaughters and puttering in his garden.

DR. DALE LIGHTFOOT had a satisfying year filled with enough professional and personal accomplishment to pass muster. His classes included the Geography of the Middle East and two study abroad courses to Cuba (spring break) and Morocco (summer). In the spring he was honored with an award from the School of International Studies for Outstanding Faculty Member and later that semester was recognized at the President’s Leadership Ceremony with the Outstanding Faculty Study Abroad Leader Award.

Continued on next page...

STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

Prevailing against the headwinds he maintains an active research agenda, and though the demands of being Department Head delayed some projects, he completed two new journal manuscripts, had one article appear in the *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, another in press with *Water History*, and a book chapter in press with a UNESCO volume. Most significantly, he completed a book proposal and placed this book under contract with I.B. Tauris (London) and is (slowly) making progress on this solo-authored work on the history, ecology, and use of qanats—a global story of water that ties together much of the research and field survey work he has carried out over the past 25 years. Travel in 2016 included an anniversary trip to the Bahamas with Tory and (after the Morocco field course) some adventuring in Chad (solo) and in central Africa with Tom Wikle (Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé). He also made a few trips to Missouri to work alongside aircraft designer/builder R. Baslee at critical stages in the completion of his replica WWI Sopwith Camel aircraft. Most of the work on this daunting but fun two-year project is carried out at home and the Camel now looks like an airplane. It should fly like one, too, sometime next year. On the family front, Tory enjoys her work as Manager of Research Support Services in Arts and Sciences and son Adam is finishing his penultimate year at OSU, double majoring in accounting and finance.

DR. ADAM MATHEWS: The past year was a busy one, especially in regards to research. I co-authored articles published in the following journals: *Remote Sensing*, *Applied Geography*, the *Journal of Cultural Geography*, and the *International Journal of Biometeorology*. These papers covered a range of topics including unmanned aerial system (UAS)-based terrain modeling, tornado siren spatial extent and coverage modeling, microbrewery place marketing, and viticultural suitability in future climate scenarios in Australia. I had another exciting year of travel. This January I took another trip to Stellenbosch, South Africa to collaborate with researchers at Stellenbosch University. We captured UAS imagery of vineyards as well as other data, which we are currently analyzing. This year's AAG Annual Meeting was in San Francisco and I co-organized and presented a paper in a session entitled 'Applications of high-resolution spatial data in geomorphology and biogeography'. I also co-presented a paper at the UCGIS Symposium in Scottsdale, Arizona in May on UAS and GIScience. I visited the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California with Dr. Frazier, Emily Ellis, and Colton Flynn to visit collaborators on our Oklahoma NASA Space Grant Consortium/NASA EPSCoR project entitled 'Identifying and Quantifying Urban Change with Remote Sensing and GIS'. Back in Oklahoma, the Resource Management Plan-Geographic Information System (RMP-GIS) project was extended another year with myself, Dr. Soltani (newly appointed Research Assistant Professor), and Dr. Wikle leading the effort. The RMP-GIS and associated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) projects are collaborative efforts with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, specifically Oklahoma State Parks. We continue to conduct research and provide GIS support to OTRD. We welcomed new team members this year: Hank Yang (our new GIS Specialist), Kathryn Wenger (GRA), and Nick Rose (GRA). Dr. Lowell Caneday and Jake Holliday (GRA) continue to contribute to the project.

DR. REBECCA SHEEHAN: Over the last year, I have continued research with all-female marching krewes in New Orleans. I have also begun research on confederate monuments in New Orleans with Jennifer Speights-Binet, a colleague at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. For more information on my research, see my entry in the Geographers in the Field section.



DR. FATEMEH (TANNAZ) SOLTANI is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography. She has conducted several externally funded research projects with various agencies in Oklahoma in the previous year (e.g. Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Will Rogers Memorial Museum, and Grand River Dam Authority). This year, she is working on the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and RMP-GIS project with Drs. Mathews and Wikle. She also has two other active grants with the Grand River Dam Authority related to the resource management of Rock-Crawling at GRDA properties and the Carrying Capacity study for the Illinois River. Her research interests center on linkages between tourism, leisure behavior, and management of tourist destinations. She is interested in sustainable tourism management as a powerful source of economic and social development.



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STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

DR. STEVE STADLER is in his 37th year with OSU. All is much the same in the Department yet is evolving as new colleagues brighten the faculty. He is still enjoying his job responsibilities and is happy to have made it this far. Instructional duties remain the same with Climatology, Meteorology, Physical Geography, and coordination of Physical Geography labs on his plate. Steve continues to write and present on aspects of the implementation of wind power in Oklahoma. He remains on the boards of the Oklahoma Renewable Energy Council and the Oklahoma Mesonet, and is current president of Oklahoma's K-12 geographic alliance. Steve's wife, Barb, continues teaching math in the Northern Oklahoma College Gateway program in Stillwater. Steve and Barb are talking about retirement but it is not immediately at hand for either. The greatest blessing of the year was the birth of grandson Jacob Cole Stadler in May. Steve certifies him to be the world's smartest, handsomest grandson in the world. Summer vacation consisted of a week driving around Normandy and then a week's cruise from Amsterdam to Norway. Life is good when part of the Oklahoma summer can be avoided.



Jacob at 5 months



Barb at Geiranger Fjord

DR. JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: I continue to work on a variety of human-environment issues in the Americas. I spent 6 weeks this summer in the grasslands of New Mexico and the Oklahoma Panhandle completing oral histories for my NSF-funded research on issues related to land-use, vulnerability, and resilience, especially under drought conditions. Additionally, team members Todd Fagin (OU), Nicole Colston, Amy Graham, Kathryn Wenger, and Brian Birchler joined me for a week's worth of community engagement meetings. The field trips with students continue. Last Fall, the students of my Field Techniques and Mixed Methods classes explored Cimarron County, OK and Union County, NM. We worked on various mapping and tourism-related research projects for the local museums and downtown Clayton, NM.

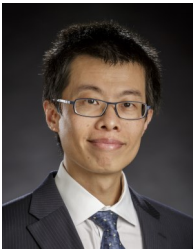
JING WANG started her third year working at OSU. She has finished OK-FIRE projects in collaboration with the Department of Biosystems Engineering and Agriculture. The final results and digital maps have been delivered and presented to the Mesonet team for web development. Jean is working with the team on compatibility issues to update the online fuel model maps and historical vegetation index map. Jean also began two research projects on LiDAR image processing and spatial scaling. Besides research, she continues to oversee the Geography Labs, manage computers and GIS/Remote Sensing related equipment, as well as take care of technical issues for the department. Last year she represented CARS at the GIS day at the Capitol. She also presented the programming section of the OK-FIRE research at the SCAUG conference.

DR. TOM WIKLE This past July Tom took on a new assignment as Interim Head of the Department of Plant Biology, Ecology, and Evolution (in addition to his ongoing work as Associate Dean). Tom maintained a busy travel schedule with a summer 2016 research trip to West Africa with Dale Lightfoot that included rain forest treks in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé. Other travel included a week in Ireland with his wife Missy and a family tour of Germany, Switzerland, Lichtenstein and Austria. Over the last year Tom published papers in *Professional Geographer* (with Amy Frazier), two papers in *Transactions in GIS* (one with Thomas Craig and the other with Todd Fagin), and papers in *Cartography and Geographic Information Science* (with Adam Mathews) and *URISA Journal*. With support from the Oklahoma Historical Society, Tom and Brad Bays began fieldwork to survey Oklahoma's WWII airfields. Geography graduate student Catherine Shropshire serves as the research assistant for this project. Tom also collaborated on a chapter on mobile telephone technology with Jon Comer that will soon appear in a book edited by Barney Warf (KU geographer). Missy serves as Director of New Student Orientation and the First Year Experience at OSU. Their daughter Paige works at Watermark Church in Dallas and son Garrett is an OSU senior majoring in political science.



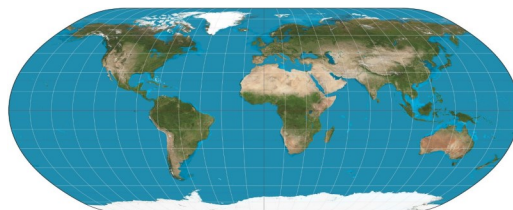
STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

EMILY WILLIAMS: 2016 has been a “Glad” year for me and my family. For Christmas I got some surgery that corrected a pinched and irritated nerve that had caused a lot of pain for 7-8 years. Now there’s no pain, and my husband tells me I’m a different person. I’m glad there’s no pain; he’s glad I don’t complain anymore! In late July Tom and I made a flying trip to Baja California. Since Tom drives buses he really likes to drive. But we actually flew to Baja! We had a terrific week of listening to the waves lapping the shore, which, gladly, were just outside our windows. We stayed in San Jose de los Cabos, but also toured Cabo San Lucas; on another day we drove up the west coast a ways to Todos Santos and had lunch at the Hotel California. It was pretty neat—I was glad we didn’t see any ghosts. We went to a fiesta at our resort where I was glad I wore my Mexican wedding dress, went on a dinner cruise in Cabo, and met so many wonderful, friendly people. We were very relieved and glad to hear that Hurricane Newton did minimal damage to our resort and the surrounding area. And suddenly it’s October! Our son moved out on the 2nd to live in Edmond and start a new job in OKC. We’re beginning the Empty Nest part of our lives and finding we really kind of enjoy it. And it will soon be the end of the year again. I’m glad to prepare for *Operation Christmas Child* Collection Week in November and to participate in Christmas music at church. I’m glad it’s getting to be the time of year when I can pull out my Celtic Christmas music; it soothes my soul at a hectic time of year. Hope everyone has a glad year in 2017!



CHANG-HENG (HANK) YANG: I am a new GIS Specialist graduated from North Carolina State University. I am originally from Tainan, Taiwan and came to North Carolina State University for the Master degree in Geography Information Systems in 2011. Previously, I had an internship with the Colas USA (a transportation infrastructure construction and maintenance company) making informative business maps for executive management to make operational strategies from June 2011 to January 2013. In my Master project, I created the web mapping application (ArcGIS for JavaScript) for the North Carolina Pediatric Society, showing the demographic characteristics of children in foster care by county. After graduation from North Carolina State University, I had worked in the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources as a GIS Analyst from June 2013 to August 2016. I had been involved in the San Juan Basin Water Resources project, evaluating the water volumes of aquifers potentially impacted by hydrofracking technology. In addition, I also designed the database-driven interactive web mapping application (ArcGIS for JavaScript), displaying geological, water, mineral and energy resources. Currently, I am involved in the Recreation Management Project, working with Dr. Adams and Oklahoma State Parks. I usually spend my spare time with my two daughters and wife either in ice skating or partaking of different cuisines.

DR. HONGBO YU enjoyed another year in the OSU geography family. He continued to work on GIS, time-geography, and transportation-related research projects and serve as the Coordinator of the GIS Certificate program in the department. Early this year, he teamed up with scholars from the US, Sweden, and the Netherlands to organize three time-geography sessions at the 2016 Annual AAG Meeting in San Francisco. He was happy to meet with many fellow time-geography researchers around the world via these special sessions. In the summer, he attended the 17th International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling in Beijing and presented a paper, *A Space-Time GIS for Visualizing and Analyzing Clusters in Large Tracking Datasets*. His paper has been selected as one of the 11 papers to be included in Springer published proceedings based on the peer-review results. Hongbo is taking a sabbatical leave in China in the fall semester. He plans to meet with scholars from several research institutes in China and hopes to seek more collaboration opportunities to apply the time-geographic framework to individual-based travel behavior and pattern studies in an urbanized environment.



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FORMER STAFF/FACULTY NEWS

DR. JOHN ROONEY (Professor Emeritus): 2016 has been a bucket list year for John and Sandy. It was all wrapped up with a Cubs victory in the World Series. We attended one Game at Wrigley Field with Dan and his family. It was a precursor of what was to come. We all watched the final game at Dan's home in Owasso, Oklahoma. Needless to say the celebration continued well into the next morning. 108 years is a very long time. I attended my first Cubs game at Wrigley Field at the age of nine. Even then I was amazed at the place. The lovable losers lost to the Brooklyn Dodgers that day and as I recall Jackie Robinson had the winning hit. Perhaps that was the moment that I became hooked on sports, particularly the game of baseball. I have always wanted to play Augusta National the home of the Masters golf tournament. As it turned out this was the magical year. I was invited by a group of Notre Dame friends including legendary coach Lou Holtz to accompany them to Augusta National. It was a great three days. Preceding the Masters by about three weeks, I got to see all the prep work for that amazing tournament. I also played "Amen Corner" in one under par. As it turned out that's where the Masters leader, Jordan Spieth, lost the tournament with a seven on the 12th hole. I birdied number 12 three consecutive days. The Folds of Honor Foundation continues to take up much of our time and emotions. New partners have been added and many new dollars have come in to support the scholarship programs. We should be able to surpass 16,000 scholarships during 2017. We are supporting kids from every state in the union including many here in Oklahoma. It is indeed a great cause. Another highlight of our year was getting together with Dick and Georgia Hecock. They drove from their place in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We met them in the town of Newberry. And from there with both our dogs in tow we toured the Upper Peninsula including the Tahquamenon Falls. It was a great reunion. Also hooked up with Mark Rupert after many years. It is great to be a geographer. Not that I care much about what appears in The Annals these days, but eventually they will return to the real world. All the best for a wonderful 2017 as we proceed into the great unknown!!



Sandy with our dog at Tahquamenon Falls.



FORMER STAFF/FACULTY NEWS

DR. STEPHEN TWEEDIE (Associate Professor Emeritus): Tweedies are finishing our 4th year in Oakcreek Cohousing. All's well except for having too many meetings. Since all decisions are by consensus, we had to convene a meeting to consider having fewer meetings. The effort failed.

We continue to make the long treks to Ocracoke , NC and Edinburgh to keep up with family. For photos and video of Hurricane Matthew's recent visit, and other Island events go to: <http://www.ocracokealive.org/blog.html>

To see Fiddler Dave in action, go to: <http://www.molassescreek.com>

We finally got to visit several of Ann's projects in Wexford, Waterford, and Kilkenny Ireland. Google Johnstown Castle Gardens Wexford Ireland where she is working on walking routes and signage for the estate and castle. Her group is working on a visitor's center and reconstruction of St Mary's Church in the center of Kilkenny. Google Kilkenny Ireland for great photos of the Castle, Cathedral, and street scenes of what Rick Steves calls the finest Medieval town in Ireland. Google Viking Triangle Waterford to see a map and views of its historic center where Ann's group designed a walking tour and signage.

And once again Will Rogers had it right when he said "A fool and his money are soon elected."

2016 VISITORS

Several former students and friends of the department visited us in Stillwater since we last published the Zenith. It is always great to see you and we welcome your visit!

John Cunavelis (B.S. 1983), from Tampa, Florida, stopped by in December 2015 and enjoyed a nice visit with us during a tour of our building. He thinks that our space in Murray Hall is much better than what he remembers from Geography's old home in Home Economics East.

Hawta Khayyat (Ph.D. 2012) traveled from Erbil, Iraq to the U.S. on business and detoured—along with his wife, Sarwa and kids—to visit his friends at OSU in mid-July. Hawta and family returned to Stillwater in late-July for another visit before he returned to Iraq.

Jerry Overton (B.S. 1970; M.S. 1972), from Hot Springs, Arkansas, visited the department with his wife, Tina, in September during his visit to campus to attend the Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame ceremony where he received the 2016 Outstanding Alumnus in Geography award.

Bill Richardson (M.S. 2000) enjoyed lunch with several faculty members in September and visited campus to deliver a presentation as part of the department colloquium series.

Siewe Siewe (Ph.D. 2014) greeted friends in the department in October during a visit to OSU.

Aaron Gardner (B.S. 1999) and family, **Nathan Smith** (B.S. 2015), and **William Van Ness** (B.S. 2011; M.S. 2015) and girlfriend all stopped by during Homecoming in October to visit with Geographers at our tailgating tent.



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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

MASTER'S STUDENTS:

Brian Birchler
Emily Ellis
Stephanie Koehn
Christopher Krieger
Anthony Pentimonti
Catherine Shropshire
Lauren Wood

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Samayita Bandyopadhyay
Thomas Cox
Thomas Craig
Colton Flynn
Robert Garrett
Brian Gilson
Matt Haffner
Stephanie Heald
Keeley Heise
Ben Hemingway
Puja Jana
Kimberly Johnson
Jordan McAlister
Stuart McAllister
William McBrayer
Gustavo Ovando
Qinyue Pan
Fernanda Ramirez
Nick Rose
Aswin Subanthore
Amanda Weber
Kathryn Wenger
Yanxia Wu
Yun Zhao

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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

SAMAYITA BANDYOPADHYAY: I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student in this department. I am originally from Kolkata, a megacity in the State of West Bengal in India. I am fascinated with most of the subfields of Geography. My research interests also span a variety of different yet interconnected subfields focusing on human-environment interactions, such as Human Dimensions of Global Change, Cultural and Political Ecology, and Risk/Hazards research, with applications of GIS and Remote Sensing as vital tools for research. I work under the supervision of Dr. Vadjunec. I spent a month in my study area (eastern Himalayas, India) during last summer and am excited to go back to complete my fieldwork with the amazing local people, as soon as possible. I thank this department for the wonderful faculty, staff and student team who have together created a friendly and helpful environment to pursue higher studies and advance the subject of Geography.

THOMAS COX: I am a third-year PhD student from Claremore Oklahoma. My research interests lie in geoarchaeology, specifically focusing on mammoth sites in Oklahoma. In particular I am to determine those areas that are more likely to be archaeological and associated with early man and the Pre-Clovis culture, and those sites that are strictly paleontological. I have a love for field work and look forward to people calling me and asking me to come out and look at what they have found. I am currently working on four mammoth localities for my dissertation, Buffalo, Eagle City, Grandfield, and Helena. I have recently employed 3D imaging into my analysis of mammoth sites. It is an exciting new approach that allows me to recreate and protect the integrity of the sites for future analysis. This last summer I presented a poster on 3D imaging at the American Quaternary Associations Bi-Annual Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. While attending the conference I got to meet and talk with Dr. Meltzer, one of my heroes in the field. My goals for this year are to complete my comps and proposal; and of course dig up some more mammoths. My motto for this year: "life is always more fun if you stay young at heart, and one way to stay young at heart is to keep playing in the dirt."

THOMAS CRAIG: I am a fourth-year PhD student, with interests in cultural/historical geography, popular culture, and geographic education. I am in the midst of dissertation research and writing, with aims of defending Summer 2017. My research examines how U.S. undergraduates construct, practice, maintain, and challenge knowledge about a specific distant place and imagined geography, India, through a relatively new qualitative method, Photovoice. This past summer, and in support of my research, I was awarded the E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Geography Education Research Grant Award from the National Council on Geographic Education. Also, I have accepted an invitation by the Geography Education Specialty Group to participate at the upcoming AAG meeting in Boston as a panelist on project-based and alternative pedagogies. In addition to my dissertation work, I published an article with Dr. Tom Wikle in *Transactions in GIS* on perceptions and practices of GIS internships within the United States. I am currently working on two other projects, one exploring all-female marching krewes in New Orleans with Dr. Rebecca Sheehan, and another using TripAdvisor reviews, examining Brazilians' perceptions of sacred space, identity, and the 'Lost Cause' of the *Confederados* – the descendants of Confederate immigrants to Brazil following the end of the American Civil War, with fellow PhD students Jordan Brasher (University of Tennessee) and Gustavo Ovando (Oklahoma State). My wife Keira and I, along with our children, Jackson (7) and Madison (4), continue to enjoy living in Stillwater.

EMILY ELLIS is a second year Masters student working under Dr. Adam Mathews. She completed her B.S. in Geography, Minor in Soil Science, and GIS Certificate from Oklahoma State in December of 2015 and began working on her M.S. the following semester. Her research interests include GIS and remote sensing applications, natural resource management, land cover/land use change, and precision agriculture. Her thesis focuses on the use of object based image analysis (OBIA) with aerial imagery fused with lidar to detect urban vegetation change. Emily loves nature and being outside, watching OSU sports, and (like any geographer) maps!



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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

K. COLTON FLYNN was born and raised in Arkansas. He earned his B.S. (Earth Science) and M.A. (Geography) from the University of Arkansas where he developed an interest in agriculture and food geography. Since then, he has taught at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith and in the fall of 2015 he started his pursuit of a PhD in Geography at Oklahoma State University. He is currently conducting research under the supervision of Dr. Amy Fraizer to develop hyperspectral remote sensing techniques in order to predict in-field nutrition levels of agricultural grains and grasses. In his free time he enjoys swimming, biking, and running in preparation for collegiate-level triathlons.



BRIAN GILSON: I am a first-year Ph.D. student. My research interests broadly lie within geopolitics, the geography of religion, and historical geography of the Middle East and the South Caucasus. More specifically, I am currently working on an article about government representations of national identity in contemporary Azerbaijan while conducting preliminary research in support of upcoming fieldwork. Additionally, I spent this past summer at Indiana University in beautiful Bloomington, IN learning Azerbaijani Turkish. Recently, I was invited to deliver a talk as part of a lecture series hosted by the new “Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies” program. I teach GEOG 1113: Intro Cultural Geography, which I enjoy very much. Outside of school/work, my wife and I have three teenagers who are keeping us *very* busy with marching band, swim team, choir, and Church activities.

MATTHEW HAFFNER: I am a third-year Ph.D. student, and my research interests include urban geography, volunteered geographic information, and GIScience. I completed a M.S. in Geography at Oklahoma State in the summer of 2014, and I completed a B.S.Ed. with majors in Geography and Mathematics at Pittsburg State University in 2012. I am originally from Pleasant Hill, Missouri.

KEELEY HEISE: I am in the 4th year of my Ph.D. here at OSU (and my 6th year overall since I got my Masters here as well). I passed my comps last fall, and I officially became ABD in March of 2016. My dissertation is looking into the risk, perception, preparedness, and vulnerability of the Northern Plains states to blizzards. Things are looking good, and I should be graduating in May (“knock on wood”). I traveled to San Francisco for the annual AAG meeting in the spring and presented on the preliminary work for the vulnerability portion of my research, and I will be going to Boston in April for the next AAG meeting, likely presenting on the perception and preparedness surveys. I am on the job market and already have my name out for two potential positions. I am starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it is both terrifying and exciting at the same time.

KIMBERLY JOHNSON: I am a third-year Ph.D student. My interests lie within the realm of cultural geography and landscapes of memory. I am working on my dissertation which focused on landscapes of memory associated with and influenced by Laura Ingalls Wilder’s “Little House on the Prairie” series. Additionally, my research will focus on how Laura Ingalls Wilder’s stories have shaped the ways in which society understands and remembers the homesteading era. This past summer I worked for the State Historic Preservation Office, driving rural Oklahoma backroads with Stephanie Heald, to validate locational information of historically significant sites. I teach GEOG 1713: World Regional Geography. This year I plan on completing my comprehensive exams and defending my dissertation proposal.

NICK ROSE: I am a Ph.D. student and have completed my comprehensive exams. I am currently working on my dissertation proposal. My research interests include the cultural/historical geography of Northeastern Oklahoma; more specifically, how the extraction of natural resources influenced Native American property rights and ownership.

CATHERINE SHROPSHIRE: I am a first-year Masters student currently working as a research assistant for Drs. Bays and Wikle. My interests are primarily in urban geography, specifically studying the America Rust Belt and it's current rate of growth. After graduating, I hope to get a job in the university system or with a city. As of now, I do not plan on getting my PhD, but that could change depending on what the future has in store for me. I am looking forward to spending the next two years with everyone in this department!



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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



AMANDA WEBER: I am a third-year Ph.D student from Staten Island, New York. My focus is historic medical geography, specifically how quarantine and isolation practices and policy have changed with attention to former and future uses of islands. In the spring of 2016, I presented at AAG San Francisco on quarantine and isolation practices during the Black Death in England and Italy. I also co-organized a panel on Historic Spatial Epidemiology. This spring (2017), I am co-organizing a Historic Medical/Health Geography session at AAG Boston. Currently, I am working on my dissertation proposal, as I have successfully passed my comprehensive exams.

YANXIA WU: I gave birth to my daughter, and she gave me a new life refilled with energy as well. Being a Mom is never the end of a woman's own career. On the contrary, it opens the door of a whole new world.

YUN ZHAO: This is my 5th year as a Ph.D. student in the department. I find myself busy yet excited as I am getting closer to finishing. My wife Er (who also earned her Master's in the department) and I are also excited to announce that we are expecting our first baby this coming Thanksgiving. Another member to the Geo-Baby family!

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS & THEIR HOMETOWNS

Lauren Anderson, Sapulpa, OK
Brooke Bastie, Dallas, TX
Haley Best, Mustang, OK
Joel Bjornen, Bartlesville, OK
Austin Boardman, Tulsa, OK
Sam Brander, Tulsa, OK
Emily Clause, Newport News, VA
Austin Cory, Rockwall, TX
Matthew Cox, Broken Arrow, OK
Michael Custer, Edmond, OK
Matt Dunn, Stillwater, OK
Austin Fessler, Broken Arrow, OK
Jorge Gamboa, Stillwater, OK
Joshua Grundy, Afton, OK
John Hall, Drumright, OK
Hayden Harrison, Stroud, OK
Jaryd Hinch, Ponca City, OK
Frank Jensik, Fredonia, KS
Steven Johnson, Amarillo, TX
Morgan Johnson, Tulsa, OK

Kayla King, Cyril, OK
Amanda Lahue, Stillwater, OK
Broderick Malloy, Arcadia, OK
Nolan Malloy, Arcadia, OK
Aaron Matheson, Glencoe, OK
Gabe McCarty, Norman, OK
Jackson Nail, Broken Arrow, OK
Maria McKeaigg, Sand Springs, OK
Giovanni Penna, Cleveland, OK
Anthony Pennington, Edmond, OK
Andrew Price, Edmond, OK
Curtis Rich, Edmond, OK
Zachary Robinson, Monticello, AR
Carson Scott, Austin, TX
Richard Surratt, Pond Creek, OK
Alexandra Thomas, Stillwater, OK
Sierra Travis, Edmond, OK
Hunter Tuck, Ringold, OK
Cale Williams, Coyle, OK

CENTER FOR APPLICATIONS OF REMOTE SENSING

CARS continues to serve the department in three main areas: (1) assisting and advising on GIS and remote sensing research projects within the department and in collaboration with other departments, providing technical support for faculty, staff and students, and (3) updating the departmental website. Specifically, CARS has continued to work with Dr. J.D. Carlson from Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering to update several input variables for the OK-Fire project, which is a component of the OK Mesonet. OK-Fire is an online decision supporting system that helps government agencies and individuals to monitor and evaluate environment factors and risks associated with wild fire. CARS has completed the integration of 10 years of MODIS data with the National Land Cover Database for Oklahoma. The final maps, including fuel model maps of two resolutions and historical maximum and minimum vegetation index have been delivered to the Mesonet team to update the OK-Fire online system, and the maps and scripts were presented at the SCAUG conference in September. Beginning this year, CARS is also involved in an NSF-funded project on data complexity and spatial scaling, as well as a NASA/Oklahoma EPSCoR project focused on identifying and quantifying urban change. In outreach activities, CARS director Jean Wang and faculty director Amy Frazier joined other Geography department faculty and staff to participate in the GIS day at the Capitol where they showcased the department's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

CARTOGRAPHY SERVICES

This past year has once again been very busy for all of us at Cartography Services. As usual, we have spent most of our time split between several key working areas; the major cartographic projects, map design and compilation work (for both departmental and non departmental clients), large format printing, and education and outreach.

Cartography Services is in its seventh year working with Dr. Allen Finchum on the SHPO/OLI project. This project funded by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office consists of sending teams of student employees to the field (mostly small rural Oklahoma towns) locating properties and updating the Oklahoma Landmark Inventory (OLI) database. This past summer found Michael Larson and two graduate students, Stephanie Heald and Kim Johnson, roaming northwest Oklahoma, as well as the west-central counties of the state.

It's been a productive year for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation-OSU GIS consortium at OSU Cartography Services, the first under Cartographic Specialist Clay Barrett. There were two completed projects over the course of the past year, the Geological Atlas of the Rocky Mountain Region and the Geological Highway Map: Texas Region. The Texas GHM map is the first of many under agreement with the AAPG, and is available for sale in their bookshop (<http://store.aapg.org/detail.aspx?id=666>). During this time two additional projects were brought to the final review stage and are expected to be completed this fall: the Geological Highway Map: Mid-Continent Region and the Tectonic Map of North America. The next couple of years will be focused on digitization of the rest in the series of regional highway maps printed by the AAPG.

OSU Cartography Services supports one Graduate Assistantship position, which was filled by Lauren Wood. We said goodbye to student employees who graduated, Danielle Dear and Kirsten Kuhn. Brooke Bastie continued working with us from last year while new hires Teddy Breig and Hayden Harrison (both BS Geography students) were hired to help maintain production on the Geological Highway maps.



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CARTOGRAPHY SERVICES (CONT'D)



Last spring, Cartography Services once again took the lead and with the help of a number of students, staff and faculty sponsored an exhibit at the 2016 GIS Day at the Capitol. Participating in this event were:

Front: Teddy Brieg, Michael Larson, Dr. Amy Frazier, Avonlea Keenen, Jean Wang.

Back: Matt Haffner, Dr. Adam Mathews, Rachel Oestmann, Ben Hemingway, Clay Barrett, Maria McKeaigg, and Lauren Wood.

Cartography Services would like to acknowledge and thank the following students for their hard work and service as employees of Cartography Services:

Lauren Wood

Danielle Dear

Kirsten Kuhn

Brooke Atherton

Brooke Bastie

Teddy Breig

Stephanie Heald

Kim Johnson



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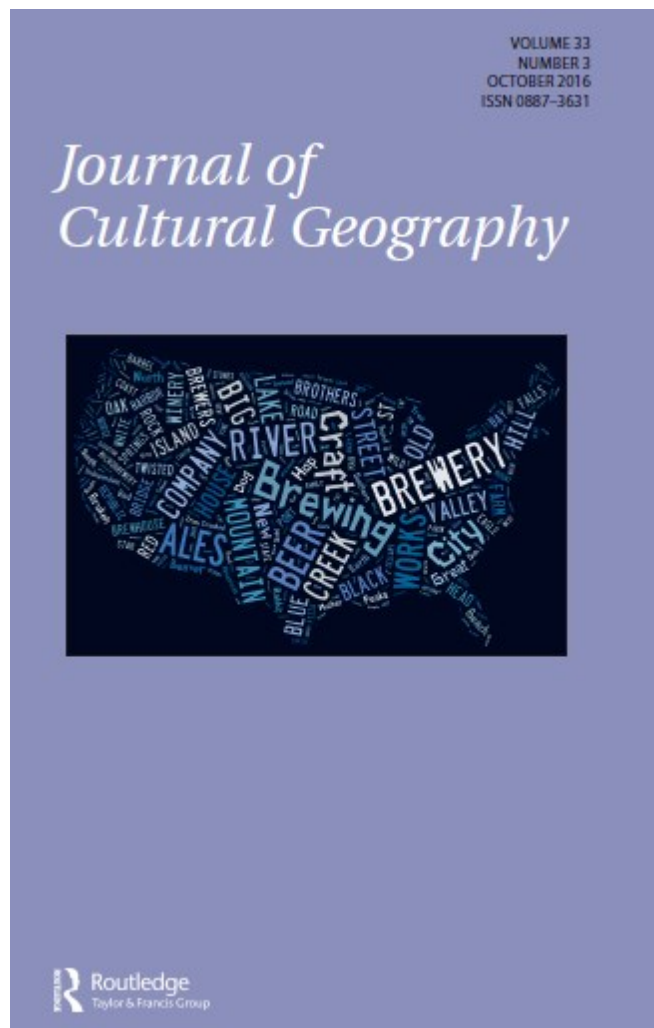


JOURNAL OF CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

Editor Alyson and her team of board members have enjoyed another year of diverse projects associated with the production of the *Journal of Cultural Geography*. She is happy to report that subscriptions have continued to grow, as have the numbers of full-text downloads of published articles. For the past two years *Journal* production efforts were also greatly helped by the work of our then-Master's student, Jordan Brasher, who served as Editorial Assistant in the busy summer months.

This year the *Journal* featured a themed section in the February 2016 issue (v. 33 #1) on “Time and the Other: Politics of Cultural Others, Study Abroad/Away, and Going Home (Eventually).” Our department's very own Adam Mathews and his Nebraska-based colleague, Matthew Patton, also published their article, “Exploring Place Marketing by American Microbreweries: Neolocal Expressions of Ethnicity and Race.” One of the maps from their article graced the cover of the journal (see photo).

We also rolled out a fully redesigned website, which includes an expanded selection of freely-available articles (i.e., no subscription required). Please see, for example, the fascinating article by Derek Smith, Maureen Woodrow, and Kelly Vodden titled, “A Boat Perspective: Local Geographic Knowledge of Fish Harvesters in Change Islands, Newfoundland” (in v. 33 #1). Another article that is likely to be of interest to many is the debate between Reuben Rose-Redwood and Jonathan Smith on the place of different political perspectives in cultural geography. See “Strange Encounters: A Dialogue on Cultural Geography across the Political Divide” (in v. 33 #3). As a reminder, OSU alums, students, and faculty, can view or download journal articles via the library website.



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GAMMA THETA UPSILON

The Oklahoma State Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon continued the tradition of the International Beer, Wine, and Cheese party in the spring at the home of Tom and Missy Wikle. The group also continued to sell Keurig coffee in the departmental breakroom for \$1 a cup, and the sales remained strong. At the department's annual award ceremony in the spring, we inducted eight new members into the chapter (54 were invited for membership). At the beginning of September, new officers were elected for the 2016-2017 academic year, and they have some great plans for the group in the coming year. It was also exciting that one of our new officers is a new initiate from outside the Department of Geography, showing the spread of geographic awareness into other disciplines—a branching out from recent years!

Officers 2016-2017 Academic Year

President: Brian Gilson
Vice President: Amanda Weber
Secretary: Audrey Franck
Treasurer: Tom Cox
Historian: Nick Rose

FORUM OF GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Forum of Geography Graduate Students (FoGG) exists to serve as a unified voice among the graduate students in order to promote and facilitate dialog with faculty and staff, and to facilitate academic and professional growth for graduate students in the OSU Department of Geography. Each year we organize a number of events including conference presentation practice sessions, writing accountability meetups, friendly sports competitions between faculty/staff and students, social events at local restaurants and bars, and tailgating for football games. Additionally, this year our group has the privilege of inviting two colloquium speakers to the department. Our first speaker, Dr. Jason Holcomb from Morehead State University, visited the department on October 7th and presented a talk on "Campbell Farming Corporation and the Contested Landscape of the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana"

UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY CLUB

Whether it be department-wide potlucks or striving to beat Dr. Comer at bowling nights (see photo below from this fall), the Undergraduate Geography Club is excited to foster lasting relationships between students, faculty, and staff. Undergraduates are given the opportunity to mingle with staff, faculty, and graduate students in a more relaxed setting outside the classroom, and often develop mentor-mentee connections from these events. Upcoming this semester is the Annual Halloween Party at Dr. Emily Fekete's residence in October, Homecoming Tailgating with graduate students/faculty on October 29th, Trivia Night on November 15th, and the end-of-the-semester Christmas Party in December at the Comer residence.



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CERTIFICATES IN GIS EARNED

FALL 2015:

Morgan Lee Kirsten Kuhn
Emily Ellis Brooke Atherton

SPRING 2016:

Theodore Breig Ben Hemingway George Pumphrey
Cameron Duquette Morgan Johnson Catherine Shropshire
Chike Etumudor Rachel Oestman Danielle Yaklin

BACHELOR'S DEGREES EARNED

FALL 2015:

Rachel Oestmann Maddison Mayer
Avonlea Keenen Maria McKeaigg
Lindsay Fields Ryan Smith

SPRING 2016:

Lela Berastequi Chike Etumudor Roger Nicholson
Theodore Breig Taylor Iberosi Catherine Shropshire
Nicholas Deyoe Morgan Johnson Trenton Williams

MASTER'S DEGREES EARNED

FALL 2015:

Carson Bode
Advisor: Carlos Cordova
Thesis: "Spatial Clustering
of False Ring Events in *J. virginiana*
of the Oklahoma Crosstimbers"

SPRING 2016:

Jordan Brasher
Advisor: Brad Bays
Thesis: "*The Langston City Herald: Promoting
Race and Place in an Historic Frontier Utopia*"

Brian Gilson
Advisor: Reuel Hanks
Thesis: "Ethno-Symbolism and Government
Discourse in Azerbaijan"

Ben Hemingway
Advisor: Amy Frazier
Creative Component: "Mapping Prescribed
Burns in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge with
Historical Landsat Imagery"

Sean Thomas
Advisor: Alyson Greiner
Thesis: "Monumental Discourse: The Narratives
on Display in the Museums at Stone Mountain
Park, Georgia"

SUMMER 2016:

Elizabeth Armstrong
Advisor: Rebecca Sheehan
Thesis: "Representations of
the Affordable Care Act in
Oklahoma Government Press
Releases 2010 to 2015"

PH.D. DEGREES EARNED

FALL 2014:

Adam Payne
Advisor: Alyson Greiner
Dissertation – "Business Improvement Districts in
Oklahoma City: Gentrification, Commodification,
Place Promotion, and Crime"



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COLLOQUIA

February 1, 2016

Nicky Wu (Oklahoma State University)

“Using Spatial Analysis for Managing Recreation and Tourism - An Interdisciplinary Study on Michigan Snowmobilers and Off-Road Vehicle Riders”

February 29, 2016

Lee Johnson (Earth Science Division, NASA Ames Center/California State University at Monterey Bay)

“Satellite-based Estimation of Crop Evapotranspiration in California”

April 8, 2016

Jess Porter (University of Arkansas, Little Rock)

”Collaborative Opportunities for a Stand-alone Geographer: Adding Place to the Story of Little Rock Housing and Race”

September 23, 2016

Bill Richardson (SST Software)

“An Oklahoman’s Perspective on the Republic of South Africa: A View into its People and Agriculture”

October 7, 2016

Jason Holcomb (Morehead State University)

“Campbell Farming Corporation and the Contested Landscape of the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana”

November 11, 2016

Andrew Hall (Charles Sturt University and Institute for Land, Water and Society, Australia)

“Remote Sensing Image Analysis in the Era of Very High Resolution Data: Applications in Plant Phenology”

November 18, 2016

Jordan McAlister (Oklahoma State University/Tweedie Travel Award recipient)

“Journey to the East: A Geographer’s Travels in China from Shanghai to Xinjiang”



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

THOMAS COX: Alva and Buffalo Mammoth Digs

This was another great year for Mammoth finds thanks to Oklahoma State University Alumni. The majority of the mammoths that are discovered are located in western Oklahoma, which is agricultural land, and because this is an agricultural college, many of the landowners involved in my research are Alumni of O.S.U. Therefore, this is dedicated to those that make my research possible. This last year two new mammoth finds were included in my research of the Late Quaternary and the first appearance of humans, one near Alva, Oklahoma, and another near Buffalo Oklahoma.

The first mammoth find was located about 12 miles north of Alva in Woods County. It was reported by Greg Highfill who is an Alumnus of O.S.U., and works for the Oklahoma State University Agricultural Outreach Program. The mammoth was located in an abandon paleo-channel of the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River. The Alva mammoth, as it became known, was found when county workers were excavating sand from the area for use on county roads. The skull and a few other bone fragments were all that was discovered. The skull was excavated; however, due to its poor condition it fell apart when we tried to remove and preserve it. We were able to save part of the tusks, teeth, and larger skull pieces. The landowner kept some of the bone fragments along with a tooth, but allowed us to keep a tooth and some of the larger bone fragments for research. The entire excavation took two weekends to complete.

The second mammoth was located about 12 miles north of the town of Buffalo in Harper County. Kenneth Waugh the landowner is an alumnus of the school of agriculture. This site was located on an ancient playa, and was a little more involved because there was a high possibility that it may contain human artifacts. Therefore, I spent about three weeks in July living on site in one of Mr. Waughs guest rooms. Unfortunately, the mammoth had undergone major deterioration and only a few large bone fragments were recovered. The site also did not yield any human artifacts. We as researchers tend to get very close to our hosts in this particular type of research, which leads to lifelong friends. I may not have made the next great mammoth discovery, but I did find a new friend in Harper County, Oklahoma and look forward to returning to the area for further research.



Me starting the Alva Mammoth excavation (two partial tusks showing).



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

Me with Greg Highfill (OSU Alumni) and his son Ben (skull with tusks, the skull is upside down).



Kenneth Waugh (OSU Alumni) helping with the Buffalo mammoth excavation.



Me at the Buffalo mammoth excavation, yeah it's only 110 degrees out.



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

DALE LIGHTFOOT: Morocco Study Abroad

In May 2016, Dale led a group of students from Oklahoma State University, along with non-student participants, on a two-week study abroad field course in Morocco. The course introduced participants to the culture and society of Morocco, practical resource management concerns in a developing country, and provided experience traveling abroad in a developing country. This fifth offering of The Cultural and Natural Resources of Morocco traveled from Casablanca through Rabat, the Roman city ruin of Volubilis, the artisan markets and historic sites of Fez, over the Atlas Mountains for three nights in the Sahara while exploring the traditional villages, historic sites, irrigation and agricultural practices of the Tafilalt Oasis. A return route back to Casablanca took us past the Todra Gorge, the World Heritage Site of Ait Ben Haddou and other historic kasbahs of the Ouarzazate Valley, a couple of days in amazing Marrakech, and a day of hiking through the High Atlas Mountains past traditional Berber highland villages to the shrine of the King of the Jinn. We had an amazing experience with a fun group of adventurous travelers.



Our travel group included (left to right) Chelsea Young, Dale Lightfoot, Christine Cooper, Liz Dueck, Nicholas Deyoe, Jordan Brasher, and Emily Fekete. Not pictured is Addi Ouadderrou, who took the photo.



GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD



G E O G R A P H Y



Camel caravan trip to the interior of Erg Chebbi for overnight camping and communing with the Sahara.



Enjoying the brothy, boiled snails—a local specialty—in Jmaa el Fna square, Marrakech.

GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

DALE LIGHTFOOT and JON COMER: Cuba Study Abroad

Sixteen students and other university-affiliated participants traveled with a Department of Geography study abroad course—our second to Cuba—during the 2016 spring break in March. Themes of the course centered on environment and heritage and organized visits were made to historic sites in Old Havana, a visit with an urban architect involved in the historic preservation and re-development of the city, cultural sites associated with the blended religions of Santeria and Catholicism, an organic farm cooperative, a visit with environmental planners and community organizers for the Metropolitan Park of Havana, a UNESCO Biosphere reserve and eco-community, and traditional life in the tobacco and sugar producing areas of rural, western Cuba. In addition to structured activities, there was much free time for exploration and informal education, and lots of good food, music (and dancing). Cuba is a fascinating place undergoing an experiment in hybrid communi-capitalism, where doctors drive taxis to earn a living and anyone connected to the growing tourist economy gains access to the convertible CUC currency. While the country sometimes seems frozen in time, change (privatization, entrepreneurship, links to others through tourism and business) is underway. The prevailing mood was one of optimism, especially with the visit of U.S. President Obama set to begin the day after we departed. The streets were being cleaned and destinations spruced up for the important visit.



Old American cars, Havana, Cuba



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD



Tobacco farm, Viñales Valley, western Cuba.



Study abroad student group in Cuba



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

REBECCA SHEEHAN: All Female Marching Krewes

Over the last year, I have continued research with all-female marching krewes in New Orleans. Having completed 17 interviews thus far, I have presented my preliminary research findings at the AAG annual conference in San Francisco (2015) and the Race, Ethnicity, and Place conference in Kent, OH (2016). In this study, participants show a critical understanding of their marching krewe, race, class, gender, and New Orleans's parading traditions. While krewes begin with friends, who are generally in the same socioeconomic and race demographic and same area of the city, over time the marching krewes practices are *purposely* becoming more integrated, reflecting a more progressive perspective concerning race relations, especially because of their public presence.



All-female marching krewes at the Krewe of Boo parade, New Orleans, 2015.
Photographs by Rebecca Sheehan



I have also begun research on confederate monuments in New Orleans with Jennifer Speights-Binet, a colleague at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. New Orleans's cultural landscape is littered with white, usually confederate monuments as well as park, school, and street names. However not until 2014, did a mayor of New Orleans, Mitch Landrieu, call for some of these to be removed. In this study we examine how and why Mayor Landrieu's agenda of remembrance not reverence is selective, comes under fire through conflicting criteria, and is situated in the past and present. Accordingly, we explore the significance of the politics and materiality of public space and argue that the confederate/white memorializing and monumentalizing of New Orleans's cultural landscape represents, reflects, and continually recreates white privilege, power, and dominance in the city.



GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: Land System Vulnerability

This summer flew by! I spent 6 weeks this summer in Cimarron, OK and Union, NM counties completing oral histories and archival fieldwork. Additionally, Todd Fagin (OU), Nicole Colston, Amy Graham, Kathryn Wenger, and Brian Birchler joined me for a week's worth of community engagement meetings. Furthermore, Brian Birchler spent an additional 3 weeks working on a participatory sketch-mapping exercise we developed related to environmental vulnerability issues in the region. In August, the field team spent the week at the Union County fair, talking to folks about our research project and research results. Fieldwork can be tough, but we caught some awesome sunsets, got to see the top-secret and super cool Anubis Caves, and got to hang out with some amazing people. All in all, it was a great field season!



Brian Birchler taking in the region's rich history at the Anubis Cave (undisclosed location).



Brian Birchler, Kathryn Wenger, and Amy Graham checking in guests at the community research meeting at the Herzstein Memorial Museum in Clayton, New Mexico.



Another beautiful day in Kenton, Oklahoma.



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DEPARTMENTAL GATHERINGS

2015 Christmas Party

On December 4 the department gathered for its annual holiday party and Dirty Santa Gift Exchange. Daniel Surach won the “Ugliest Christmas Sweater” contest with his awesome dino-Santa sweater.



Daniel with his “prize” for the sweater contest.



Kim and Stephanie don't understand the “ugly” part of the contest .



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DEPARTMENTAL GATHERINGS



December BS graduates Chike Etumudor, Emily Ellis, Daniel Surach, and Teddy Breig



“Onesie” Nick receives the dissertation gorilla from good old St. Steve



Recreating the famous “selfie” photo from last year’s Oscars



DEPARTMENTAL GATHERINGS

2016 Halloween Party

The Halloween party was Saturday, October 22, at the home of Dr. Emily Fekete. Many guests were ghosts and hence not seen, but we did get a few:



Best costume winners: Emily Fekete, Keeley Heise, and Catherine Shropshire.



Kimberly Johnson, Samayita Bandyopadhyay, Fernanda Ramirez, and Stephanie Heald.



Waldo was found here and there, and apparently Time Lords and Starfleet Officers get around more than mere mortals, Pokemon trainers, or even Eastern Goddesses.



DEPARTMENTAL GATHERINGS

Homecoming Tailgating 2016

On Saturday, October 29, the department hosted an alumni homecoming tailgating event outside Old Central on campus. The Cowboys upset undefeated West Virginia, and geographers old and new had a grand time.



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ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

2016 Geography Distinguished Alumnus: Jerry Overton

On September 8, 2016 we were visited by Jerry Overton and his wife, Tina, who had lunch with several Geography faculty members and toured our department and Murray Hall. Jerry was in town to receive the 2016 Geography Distinguished Alumnus award at the A&S Hall of Fame ceremony on Friday evening, September 9. Tina and Jerry Overton, with son Jason who flew in from Alameda, California, dined at the event with Dale Lightfoot and Outstanding Senior for 2015 Avonlea Keenen. Jerry was a student when John Rooney arrived at OSU. He also knew Dick Hecock, Keith Harries, and was a friend of Jerry Croft.

Jerry Overton grew up on a ranch in southwest Oklahoma and graduated from Walters High School in 1965. He attended Cameron Junior College and Oklahoma State University, where he obtained his B.S. and M.S. in Geography. After leaving OSU he attended the University of Oklahoma for his Ph.D. in Geography. After teaching for many years at Fort Hays State College, Cameron University, and the University of Central Arkansas, he returned to OSU to acquire a second M.S. in Geology with an emphasis in Hydrogeology, and then entered environmental consulting. In 1994 Dr. Overton began what is today ATOKA, Inc., an Engineering and Environmental Consulting Firm with headquarters in Hot Springs, Arkansas, where Jerry and Tina live. He has served as President and CEO of ATOKA, Inc. since 1994 and also serves on the Advisory Board for the Department of Geosciences at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Jerry says that, although he migrated to Geology, he has always remained, at his roots, a Geographer.



Dr. Jerry Overton



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ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES



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PATRICK BRILEY (B.S. 1986): US Army Colonel Patrick Briley retired after 31 years of service as an Engineer officer culminating his career with his final assignment in Washington DC. Pat moved his family, including his wife Stacy (who he met at Tumbleweeds in 1985) and two daughters to Rogers, AR where he accepted a position with the Walmart home office. Pat's new career has him serving as Director of Engineering for Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Systems for all Walmart stores worldwide, include legacy centers and new stores.

BRETT CHLOUPEK (M.S. 2007): is an Assistant Professor of Geography at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO. He serves as the director of Geotechnical Services at NWMSU and also was recently elected to the Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MOBGN). His research is focused on the politics of place naming and he has recently authored papers on historical place names in Nebraska as well as in Slovakia. When not teaching, he gives lectures to incoming international students on American culture and advises the Nepalese Student Association on campus. The Chloupek family (Sylvia, Vilhelmina (4), Antonia (1 ½)) spend summers in Slovakia to give Sylvia's folks grandchildren time while Brett drags Sylvia on "educational" trips to places like Romania (2015) and Israel and the Palestinian Territories (2016), while Sylvia reciprocates by forcing Brett to attempt relaxing on the various beaches of the Mediterranean and Adriatic.

JOE EASLEY (M.S. 1991): I am starting my 5th year at Kobie Marketing (Senior VP of Business Development), and I'm always open to looking at OSU grads with technical and analytical skills! We have a new address: P.O. Box 654
Crystal Beach, FL, 34681

Please send my regards to the old timers!

CHRIS HORACEK (M.S. 1983): Cheryl and I still live in Marietta, Georgia. We are currently semi-empty nesters with our two older daughters out in the working world and our boy and girl twins in their junior year of college. With the reduction in child rearing time Cheryl and I are active in tandem bike riding and have taken several rides around the Southeast as well as extended rides in the Midwest. Hoping to make it to Oklahoma Freewheel at some point, especially if it runs through Stillwater. Cheryl is in her 14th year in Special Education, working with high functioning young adults transitioning into the workforce. In addition to teaching Cheryl is also serving on the board of the Craddock Center, Cherry Log, GA, which helps support literacy in Southern Appalachia. I recently joined a small cap company called Space-Time Insight that provides geo-spatial visual analytics for asset intensive industries with highly distributed operations. Working on some real cool projects with companies like FedEx, Union Pacific and Canadian National in helping them correlate operating and environmental data to increase reliability and consistency. Besides working and keeping up with our kids, we are all healthy and enjoying life.

As far as Memories of OSU:

- The most awesome aromas coming up from the first floor of Home Economics East
- Frances – for more reasons than can be counted
- Dr. Rooney's Porsche – always loved that car
- Dr. Hecock's Bike – It was retro then – would be maximum retro today
- Professor Stine going to Eskimo Joe's with Michael Pooler and me – always great spending time with Professor Stine
- Gayle Maxwell's smiling face in the cartography lab
- Glen Carver – any time he was around
- Our landlords – Bert and Laura Hejduk – They fed their students well and always generous sharing some "Old Crow"
- Cheryl asking Jimmy Johnson his last name when picking up his kids from preschool ("how can you not know who I am")

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

LINDA CARTWRIGHT HUEY (B.S. 1995): I am retired from the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company, and I spend time with my three granddaughters when we're not in Mexico or traveling elsewhere.

LAUREN MONTALBANO (B.S. 2015): After graduation, I completed my first wildlife internship in Waynesboro, Virginia with the Wildlife Center of Virginia. I am currently in Delphi, Indiana finishing my second internship with the Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center. I am having a great time getting to know and work with all the education animals. I was fortunate enough to be able to witness and even be a part of some releases. In Virginia, I was able to go see a Beaver release along with numerous Cottontail releases. In Indiana, I was invited to take part in Coyote release. In fact, I got to drive both to their release site. Other animals I've seen released include Opossums, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Kestrels and a Red Tail Hawk. Food preparation and feeding has been a large part of my work, too. It has been fascinating to see the differences in geography and agriculture as well as learn about the native wildlife in the states I've worked in. There were the Blue Ridge Mountains (beautiful hiking) with their vineyards and valleys and Indiana's farmlands with corn and soybeans. For the future, I want to further my education in wildlife conservation/rehabilitation as well as obtain full time employment in wildlife rehabilitation. You can still find me at lmontal@okstate.edu.



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ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

JIM NELSON (B.S. 1986): After graduating from OSU (proud 1985 recipient of the Rooney Scholarship), I went on to the University of Georgia in Athens as a teaching assistant. I obtained an M.A. degree in Geography (cartography/spatial analysis/GIS) from Georgia in 1988. In my professional life, I am currently the Real Estate Group Manager for the Federal Aviation Administration in Fort Worth, Texas. In that role, I manage a team of real estate contracting officers responsible for acquiring land leases or purchases for FAA ground-based navigational facilities, utility service contracts, and commercial office space leasing for FAA field offices. We cover a 17-state area that makes up roughly the central one-third of the U.S. My career with the Federal Government is approaching 28 years in length. On the personal side, I have three children from my previous marriage – Eric, Lindsay, and Bryce. The youngest, Bryce, is a freshman at OSU. He is a declared Business major, but getting his first taste of geography this Fall with Intro to Physical Geography and loving it. Just last June, I married a beautiful lady originally from the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas who also has grown children from her previous marriage. Our wedding ceremony (see below photo) was outdoors in the Canadian Rockies (Banff National Park). So, 30+ years after learning alpine processes and glacial terminology as a geography kid at OSU, and teaching them as a grad student, I was able to actually stand in awe and hike among the likes of Mt. Rundle, Mt. Robson, Moraine Lake, and the Athabasca Glacier for the first time in my life. What an experience it was!



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ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

JERRY OVERTON (B.S. 1970; M.S. 1971): First, I want to again thank the Department of Geography for nominating me for the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award and the School of Arts and Sciences for presenting me with this honor on September 9, 2016. We had a great time visiting with the Geography Department faculty and touring the Department. As I told my wife after the tour, "If we had had all of those great tools when I was working on my degrees there, I probably would never have left. I might still be a student there." We really enjoyed the banquet and I was more than honored to have been singled out for this award. Again, thanks to everyone instrumental in my being honored by both the Department of Geography and the School of Arts and Sciences. I am also thankful that my wife could be present, and that my son, Jason, who now lives and works in the Bay area of California, was able to fly out for the presentation and the ball game on Saturday. I am a 1970 (BS) and a 1971 (MS) graduate of the Department of Geography at OSU and a 1989 (MS) graduate of the Department of Geology at OSU. My doctorate in Geography (1980) was from that other university located down state, in Norman, Oklahoma. At the time of this writing, I am still President and CEO of ATOKA, Inc., an engineering and environmental consulting firm with Corporate Offices in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I have recently reduced my work load to half-time and am in the process of selling my shares in the company to our newest employee, Mr. Timothy Hill, P.G. Mr. Hill has been hired to replace me as the Director of the Environmental Division of ATOKA, Inc. He started this position on October 1, 2016. Mr. Hill has more than 25 years of experience in both environmental consulting and working for major oil companies as a hydrogeologist and manager. Once we have finalized the buyout of my shares in ATOKA, I will officially retire from ATOKA. I have been asked to remain as a member of the ATOKA Board of Directors after retirement. As I slow down as a consulting Hydrogeologist, I have decided to concentrate on litigation support and Expert Witness services. I have been providing these services for more than 30 years. I provide expertise in geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and hazardous waste management as well as other related areas. I will still support the ATOKA Environmental Division as needed, but have turned most of those duties over to Tim and the other employees of the Division. In addition to ATOKA related activities, I am also serving on the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Department of Geosciences, Earth Sciences Advisory Council. Among other tasks, we are assisting the Department in acquiring Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET) accreditation and working toward a Master of Sciences degree for the Department. I am still fishing when I can. After I finally retire, I will have more time for that!!! I have retired from professional competitive bass fishing, for the most part. I am now only fishing Big Bass Tournaments in Arkansas and the surrounding states. I hope to be able to expand the number of Big Bass Tournaments I fish each year. As a wise man once said, "We gotta keep our priorities straight."



Jerry receiving award from A&S Dean Danilowicz.



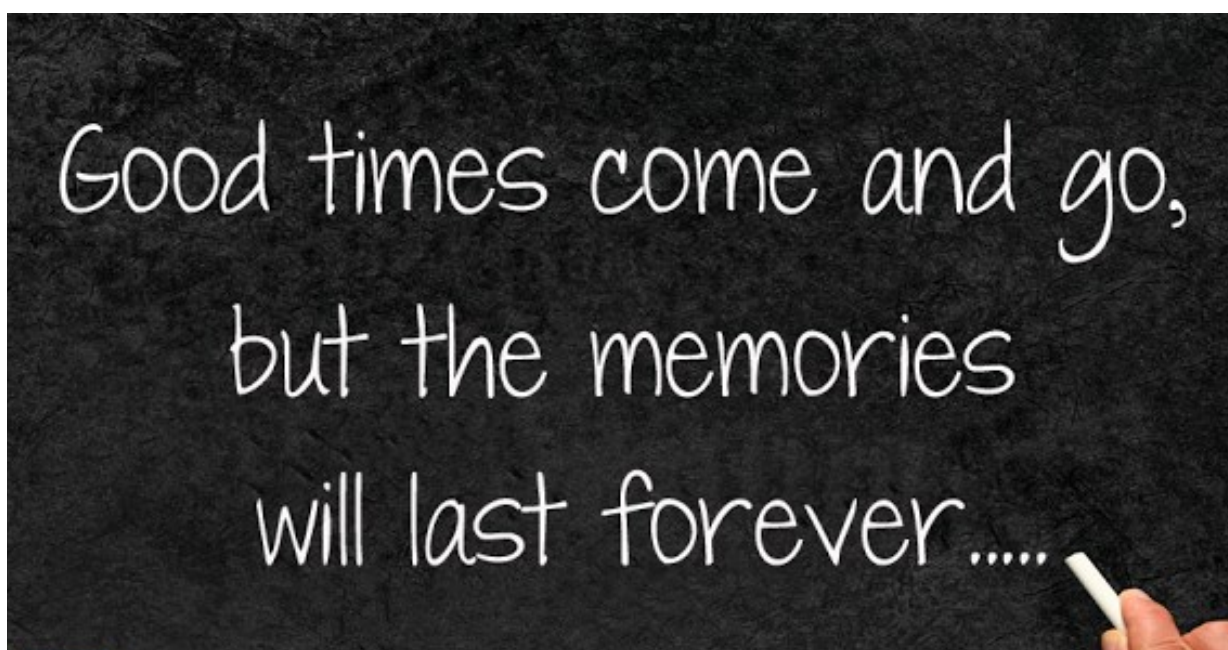
Jerry visiting with Dale Lightfoot and Avonlea Keenen.

ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

JENNIFER PIZZI (B.S. 2000): I graduated in Spring 2000 with a B.S. in Geography. My name then was Jennifer VandeWeghe. James Pizzi also graduated at the same time with the same degree. And, we just recently got married on June 8th on the beach in St. Thomas! We couldn't be happier to finally say "I Do" after so many years as "just friends." Hope all is well in the department!

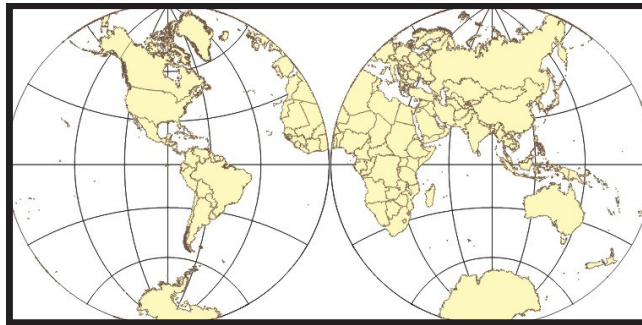
JESS PORTER (M.S. 2002; Ph.D. 2007): Jess is Chair of History and Coordinator of Geography at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). This past year, Jess moved into the Chair's office and he now enjoys bossing around historians. The Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching in the College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences was awarded to Jess this May. His National Endowment for the Humanities-funded traveling exhibit *Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry* concluded its three-year tour of the US this spring. One copy of the exhibit was gifted to the Oklahoma History Center and the other was gifted to the Cimarron Heritage Center (CHC) in Boise City, Oklahoma. Jess presented the exhibit and gave a talk at the CHC's annual fundraiser in April. Jess led a study abroad trip to South Korea and, if only ever so briefly, North Korea over an extended Spring Break. Keeping life interdisciplinary, Dr. Porter continues to serve on the state geology board. The rest of the Porters (Leslie, Claire (13), Abbie (11), Cole (2) and dogs Bessie and Carlie) remain happy and healthy.

MIKE RUSSELL (M.S. 1974): I recently read a newspaper item that marked the anniversary of the day in 1973 (September 20th) that Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs played an exhibition tennis match that pitted Man against Woman. It reminded me that I watched that match in Stillwater. My wife and I arrived in Stillwater in mid-August 1973, ready for me to start in as a Geography Grad student. It had been just a few weeks since our wedding back in Boston, MA and it was still early in the Fall semester. Dick and Georgia Hecock decided it would be a good night to have some bonding among the new class of grad students and wives, so they invited us all to their home for a cookout and to watch that historic tennis match. We all had a great time! Just one of many great memories of my year in OSU Geography.



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The mission of the Department of Geography is to advance geography instruction, research and outreach, to promote and maintain a growing statewide workforce skilled in geographic research and applications. We strive to achieve national and international stature in scholarly and creative activities to enhance the visibility and desirability of the geography program at Oklahoma State University. We plan to capitalize on new opportunities and respond to the changing needs of Oklahomans and society to provide Oklahoma schools, university, industries and businesses, and those in the surrounding region, with the highest caliber professionals in the field of geography.