



Geography

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Geography Newsletter

December 2016

December Happenings

Graduate hooding for MS and PhD candidates is Friday, December 9 at 7 PM in Gallagher-Iba Arena. Doctoral candidate Aswin Subanthore recently successfully passed his defense (see page 3). Congratulations Aswin! Aswin is the 18th Ph.D. granted by the department since our first 3 graduates in the Spring of 2007.

As a reminder, the university is closed from Friday, December 23 through Monday, January 2 for Winter Break. The Spring 2017 semester begins on Tuesday, January 17 (Monday, January 16 is MLK day and the university is closed). Departmental employees (GTAs and GRAs) are expected to be available for various duties the week of January 9-13.

The University "Holiday Happening" is on Wednesday, December 7 from 2-4 PM in the Student Union Ballroom. Lots of wonderful food and drink courtesy of President and Mrs. Ann Hargis will be served.

The annual Research Symposium takes place on the OSU campus on February 20-24 on campus. This is an excellent venue for both undergraduates and graduates at OSU to present their research, but the format has been changed and there will no longer be any oral presentations but instead a "virtual poster symposium". Registration is open at <http://researchweek.okstate.edu/symposium>

Finally, please make sure you clean out ALL items from the break room refrigerator before you leave. We will be defrosting and cleaning it some time over the break, so all food (including condiments, etc.) will need to go bye-bye.

Departmental News

At the University Awards Convocation on November 30, the team headed by Dr. Adam Mathews (and which included Dr. Amy Frazier) won first place in the 5th Annual President's Cup for Creative Interdisciplinarity with their submission "Inderdisciplinary Synergies for Unmanned Aerial System Innovation & Advancement."



Dr. Rebecca Sheehan attended the Southeast Division of the AAG (SEDAGG) meetings in Columbia, SC November 20-22 and gave a presentation titled "Removing White Confederate Monuments: The Work of Remembrance Not Reverence in New Orleans's Cultural Landscape" with co-author Jennifer Speights-Binet of Samford University.

Former MS student Jordan Brasher, now a Ph.D. student at Tennessee, also presented in the same session and provided this photo of Dr. Sheehan.



Departmental News cont.

On Friday November 4, Brad Bays chaired the Section F: Geography paper and poster session at the Oklahoma Academy of Science Fall technical meeting, which was held at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa. He presented a paper titled "Using Geospatial Technologies to Optimize Rural Field Data Collection for Historic Preservation Planning." Other Oklahoma geography faculty attending were Professor Marco Micozzi of East Central University in Ada and Professor Brad Watkins of the University of Central Oklahoma. One undergraduate student from UCO and four undergraduate students from ECU presented papers and/or posters at the conference. Dr. Watkins will serve as next year's section chair and Dr. Micozzi will serve as vice-chair.

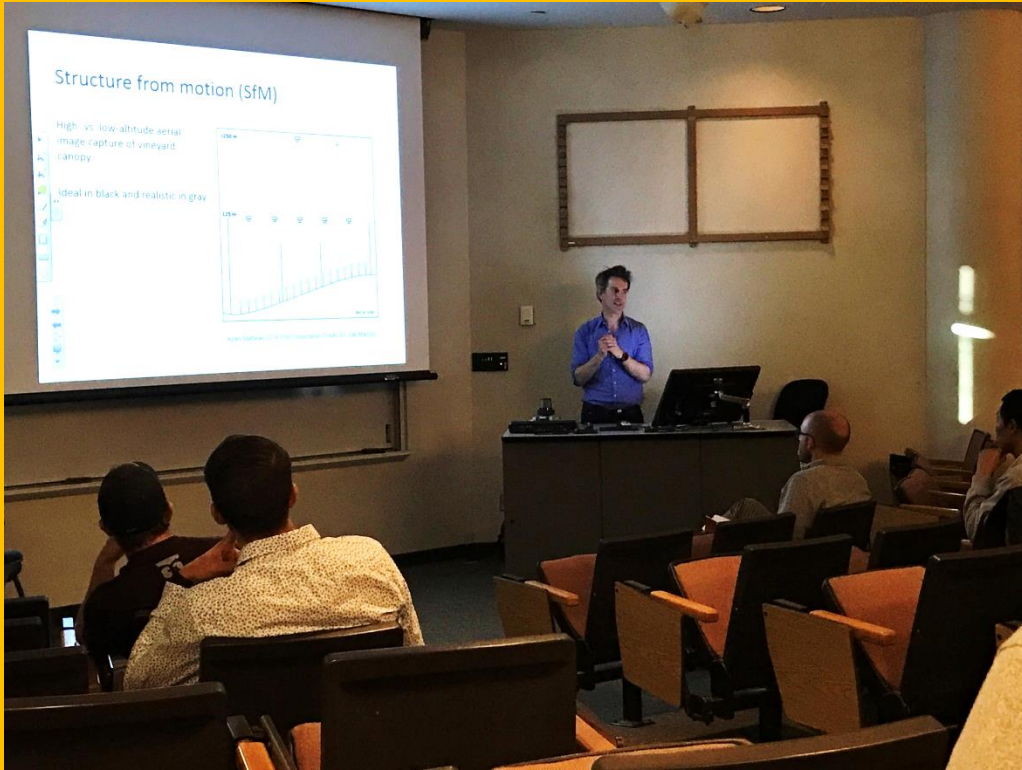
Aswin Subanthore successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation titled "Negotiating Indian-ness: Transnational identities of Indians in the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area." He graduates in December 2016 and he is officially retiring as a tenured graduate student. He is also the first South Indian Ph.D. graduate from the OSU Geography program and the 18th Ph.D. recipient overall.

Ph.D. students Yun Zhao and Er Yue welcomed daughter Erin at 4:50 pm on November 28. She is 9 pounds 5 ounces with a big head! Here is Erin doing her footprint!! Another geo-baby in the family!



November Colloquiums

On November 11, Dr. Andrew Hall gave a talk titled “Remote Sensing Image Analysis in the Era of Very High Resolution Data: Applications in Plant Phenology” as a guest of Dr. Adam Mathews.



On November 18, Ph.D. student Jordan McAlister gave a presentation detailing his summer travels in China which was partially funded by the Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Scholarship.





Holiday Party



On December 2 the department gathered for its annual holiday party and Dirty Santa Gift Exchange. Catherine Shropshire won the “Ugly Christmas Sweater” contest, hot on the heels of her best Halloween costume win in October.



Catherine anointed with the ugly sweater medal



The household cats are a source of unexplained fascination to party-goers



Sighting of “Bongo Boy” with his Congo toy



Finalists for the Ugly Sweater award

