



DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY

College of Arts and Sciences

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Geography

Geography Newsletter

Fall 2020

Fall Wrap-Up

Well, that was...2020. In February we were humming along, and then...2020. But we all got through our “hybrid” fall semester, our endless Zoom meetings, and Zoom conferences.

Despite the cancellation of nearly every type of in-person event, no commencement, etc. life did go on and this newsletter reports some of the accomplishments in the department (and hint hint to those who should submit some news once in a while!).

Students who had successful defenses:

- October 9, 2020. MS student **Kellen Bullock** defended his creative component titled “Adaptive Geodatabase Cleaning.” His advisor was Dr. Allen Finchum.
- December 4, 2020. MS student **Jaryd Hinch** defended his thesis proposal titled “A Hero in Azeroth and the Real World? Evaluating the effect of *World of Warcraft’s* virtual space on players.” His advisor is Dr. Alyson Greiner
- December 14, 2020, PhD candidate **Qinyue Pann** defended her dissertation titled “A Time Geographic Approach to Investigating Gender Difference in Accessing Employment Opportunities in a Metropolitan Area.” Her advisor was Dr. Hongbo Yu.

One event we were really looking forward to was co-hosting SWAAG with OU in October, but like all conferences SWAAG pivoted to an on-line (i.e. Zoom) platform during November 18-20. Next year it is possible that there will be an in-person presence combined with online meetings, and OKC is a possible site. Stay tuned...

Finally, as of this writing, Fall 2021 is intended to be fully in-person, with a return to regular classroom layouts and class capacities. May the Force be with us...

New Office Staff

Barbara Goodnight is the new Administrative Assistant in the Department of Geography as of May 2020. She was born in El Reno and has lived in Oklahoma her entire life. She graduated from El Reno High School and went to El Reno Jr. College for a business degree while working at the First National Bank in El Reno. She enjoys traveling and trying out new dishes from other regions. Working here as she is really excited to meet the faculty as well as the students because it makes her feel young at heart. She also enjoys reading and having family around. GO POKES 😊



Joanna Guevara is the new Administrative Support Assistant in the department. Joanna graduated in May 2019 from Arizona State University with an MFA in Arts Entrepreneurship and Management after finishing her B.A. in Theatre with a minor in Economics at Eureka College in 2016. During her graduate work, Joanna served the Mesa Arts Center in community impact and engagement programming, wrote a W.K. Kellogg grant on behalf of a nonprofit in Haiti, served as a bookkeeper for a youth theatre in Phoenix, and help launch an experimental immersive theatre company.

She moved to Stillwater in 2019 and has loved every single minute of her time becoming an Okie! Outside work, Joanna enjoys reading, singing at church, knitting, and walking her dog Arthur.



New Graduate Students

New PhD student **Clayton Lucas** began attending OSU in the fall of 2020. His research is focused on the memorial landscape as it relates to monuments of the American South and Latin America, specifically focusing on what is remembered, as well as purposefully forgotten. His love of people, culture and travel has developed throughout his life while living in Venezuela and traveling abroad. Clayton earned a bachelor's degree in Geography from Fresno State and a master's degree from Penn State. He is the published author of a novel titled *Iron Post Corner* and he and his wife, Lora, have five children.



New PhD student **Ofuje Amune** is a GIS analyst and Health geographer, specializing in the geographical issues related to health and health care systems, health impact assessment, the social and environmental factors surrounding health, and the application of GIS in solving social environmental problems.

Hobbies: Travelling, socializing, and getting to meet people.

Faculty News

Assistant Professors **Yuting Zhou**, **Hamed Gholizadeh**, and **Thomas LaVanchy** published an article in *Remote Sensing* (2020, volume 12(14)) titled "[Inspecting the Food–Water Nexus in the Ogallala Aquifer Region Using Satellite Remote Sensing Time Series.](#)"

Dr. LaVanchy also co-authored a book: LaVanchy, GT, MJ Taylor, N Alvarado, A Sveinsdóttir, and M Aguilar-Støen (2020). *Tourism in Post-Revolutionary Nicaragua: Struggles over Land, Water, and Fish*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Dr. LaVanchy also published a book review of Ginio, R. *The French army and its African soldiers: the years of decolonization*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press. *The Social Science Journal*, 57(4).

Dr. Zhou is also part of the newly awarded [NSF EPSCoR project](#). His work on the project will address monitoring sub-seasonal to seasonal variability of drought in the Great Plains. He will also guide a graduate student to work on evaluating the impacts of drought on socio-economic sections in the region using satellite remote sensing and statistical data.

Dr. Gholizadeh was awarded the following grants:

Mapping invasive *Lespedeza cuneata* using airborne imaging to detect its spread and determine its ecological and economic impacts, Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, Role: PI with co-PIs Henry Adams and Omkar Joshi (Total: \$99,980).

The effect of drought on wildfire in Oklahoma: an improved quantification of the role of vegetation for forecasting wildfire risk, Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, Role: co-PI with PI Bryan Murray (Total: \$99,266).

Student News

PhD student **Jesse Andrews** finished 3rd place at the 2020 Applied Geography Conference (again) in the student paper competition. He and **Dr. Finchum** also published “Paring Old Dixie Down: The Dixie Highway and the Mapping of a Vernacular South” in the *Southeastern Geographer*.

PhD student **Sean Thomas** was recognized in the most recent CAS [*Connect*](#) magazine for his GIS and geography of memory work related to the Tulsa Race Massacre. Information about his project is on page 14 in a larger story titled “Expanding Understanding.”

Undergraduate **Monique Walker** (GLST and POLS double-major) completed an internship in Washington, DC at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars institute this past fall. While at the Wilson Center, she worked in the Africa Program department and was the Director’s Office Intern—which meant she worked very closely with the program director and her assistant and administrated numerous projects that aided and abetted the program. In addition, she supported the director’s speaking and stakeholder engagements by producing research, analysis, and talking points on a variety of topics and issues related to Africa and US-Africa relations. She also contributed to the program’s event planning by producing monthly events and speaker series that keynoted high-profile professionals such as ambassadors, department heads, congressional figureheads, and program officials that provided a variety of viewpoints, which in turn expanded her knowledge on a number of topics. Overall, this internship presented her with numerous research, analysis, and publication experience, in addition to networking and connecting with individuals that share the same goals that she possesses. She was also able to propose a research project on “The Benefits of Education in Developing Countries,” which she presented at the Geography Undergraduate Mentors Program (GUMP) conference this past fall under the guidance of **Dr. LaVanchy**.