



## Geography

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# Geography Newsletter

February 2017

## February Happenings

On Friday, February 17 the department will be hosting Joseph J. Kerski (below), PhD, GISP, who is the Education Manager for ESRI. He is holding a sequence of 30 minute workshops all morning in the library for interested students and faculty (sign-up sheets are in the main office) and is presenting a colloquium titled “Why Data Quality Matters – Now More Than Ever” that afternoon at 3:30 in 207 NRC. A reception will follow at Dr. Tom Wikle’s house at 5:30.



[Research Week](#) is February 20-24 at OSU, and this year the Research Symposium has become a digital poster presentation format for OSU students. Also, the A&S finals for the Three Minute Thesis® will be Wednesday, February 22 at 2:30 in the Peggy V. Helmerich Browsing Room of the Edmon Low Library. Hopefully some of the many entrants from GEOG will make the finals (see page 3 of this newsletter for more details)!

Monday, February 20 is a federal holiday – but not for OSU ☹

## News from around the Department

The Chi chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon is pleased to announce a new conference travel award. This award will contribute to costs associated with presenting research at an academic conference. The award is in the amount of \$250, and can be used for conference presentations done in the 2016-2017 school year, so this can be applied towards AAG in April. The award is open to all GTU members. Applications must be received by Dr. Sheehan by 4:00 PM on Friday, Mar. 10. This award is funded by our coffee donations in the breakroom, so please continue to support GTU by using that resource. Any questions about the award can be directed to the GTU faculty advisor, Rebecca Sheehan, or to Brian Gilson.



The department's new [BA in Global Studies](#) is now up and running, available for students to enroll. One new course supporting this degree, GEOG/GLST 2002 (Environmental Sustainability), will be offered in Fall 2017 by Dr. Peter Kedron and GEOG/GLST 2013 (Introduction to Global Studies) will be offered in Spring 2018 by Dr. Alyson Greiner.

Kudos especially to Drs. Greiner and Fekete for a lot of the legwork (i.e. paperwork) in getting this through the many hurdles and finally approved by the Regents!

## Three Minute Thesis®

Geography graduate students Emily Ellis, Colton Flynn, Robert Garrett, Stephanie Heald, Keeley Heise, and Yanxia Wu competed in the preliminary rounds of the A&S Three Minute Thesis® competition this month. A&S finalists will compete Wednesday, February 22 at 2:30 in the library browsing room – good luck to all and hope to see you in the finals! Campus finals are March 9 from 3:30-4:30 in the Student Union Little Theatre.



Keeley talks blizzards ... Colton gets “tef” with the crowd... and Emily “veges” out.



Tory Lightfoot with Wu, Emily, and Stephanie at the competition.

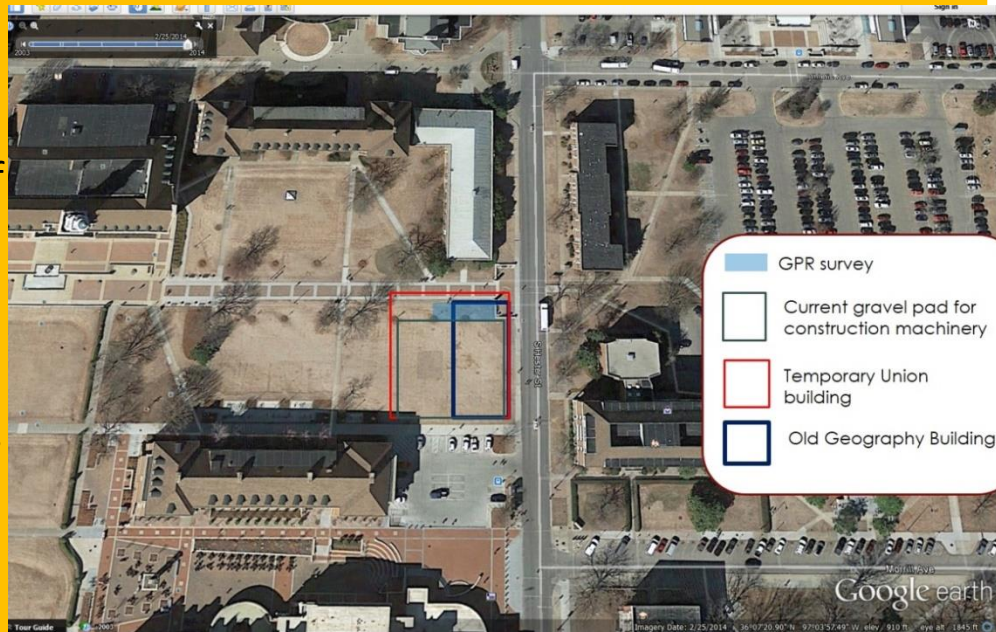


## (Geo) Archaeology of the old Geography Building

Carlos Cordova's Geoarchaeology class are using ground penetrating radar (GPR) to identify remains of the old Geography building. The equipment is operated by Geology student Nick Johnson (below). GPR data shows that the foundations of the old building are for the most part gone, except for one area where there is an underground structure. However, that may be a pipeline or a structure (post-Geography building). The practice was just an exercise that shows the kind of methods and decisions made in archaeological research.



The Google Earth Image at right shows the former location of the old Geography building, and location of temporary constructions after demolition (ca. 2003). The area surveyed with GPR is also indicated.





## Geo-Babies

The Geo-Baby Boom continues. Sofia Luz Mathews (right) was born to proud parents Adam and Carolyn Mathews on January 27. Two weeks later (right) she was a healthy 9+ pounds and 22 inches long and totally an OSU Cowgirl already!



Harper Finchum celebrated his first birthday on February 13! He enjoyed his blue cake (above) and watching some hoops (right) – he's a Finchum all right!



Meanwhile Jacob Stadler (left) is now 9 months old and looking more like Grandpa Steve every day!



## Just a bit more Iceland...

A new monthly feature will be additional photos of Iceland! (Just kidding). But these are worth revisiting from last month's trip...



Is that Brooke Shields and Christopher Atkins in the Blue Lagoon?



Yep, the Northern Lights are a real thing!