



Geography

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Geography Newsletter

January 2017

January Happenings

Welcome back! The Spring 2017 semester has finally begun – let’s start a petition to ban any future 5-week winter breaks!
☺

The first colloquium of the semester will be on **Friday, February 17** when Dr. Joseph Kerski of ESRI will give a talk titled “Why Data Quality Matters—Now More Than Ever.” The colloquium will be at the normal time of **3:30 PM in 207 Noble Research Center** (NRC). Dr. Kerski will also be giving a series of 30 minute workshops throughout the morning in the Library (room 206) – see the sign-up sheets in the main office to attend as many as you want to or are interested in. Space is limited due to the need for each student to have a computer.

Recently (December 20, 2016), Dr. Jackie Vadjunec published an editorial in the journal *Nature* titled “How Woody Guthrie can help us fight for science”

<http://www.nature.com/news/how-woody-guthrie-can-help-us-fight-for-science-1.21210>

In it, she discusses the role of populism in combating science skeptics, and in particular climate change deniers, of which there are plenty in our state.



NATURE | COLUMN: WORLD VIEW



How Woody Guthrie can help us fight for science

After the election of Donald Trump, **Jacqueline M. Vadjunec** offers a message of resistance and hope from deep within the US Bible Belt.

20 December 2016

Iceland

Drs. Tom Wikle and Jon Comer spent January 12-17 in Iceland on an exploratory trip with other faculty from around the country to learn about the prospects of leading study abroad trips to the island in the future. Based in Reykjavik, they toured many natural wonders, including several waterfalls, a geothermal plant, the meeting of the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates, geysers and hot springs, and went up to the top of a glacier in order to walk through a manmade tunnel that has been carved into the Langjokull glacier, Iceland's second-largest. Before flying out on January 12, they spent part of the day at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum at Dulles International Airport, where the Space Shuttle *Discovery* is housed. In the last month Jon has been able to see both *Discovery* and *Enterprise*, which is housed in New York City, and plans to see *Atlantis* (at Kennedy Space Center) this coming November before the Applied Geography Conference. Now he's just got to get to L.A. to see the *Endeavour* someday...



View of downtown Reykjavik from top of Hallgrímskirkja (below)



Blue Lagoon (above) and lunar landscape nearby (below)

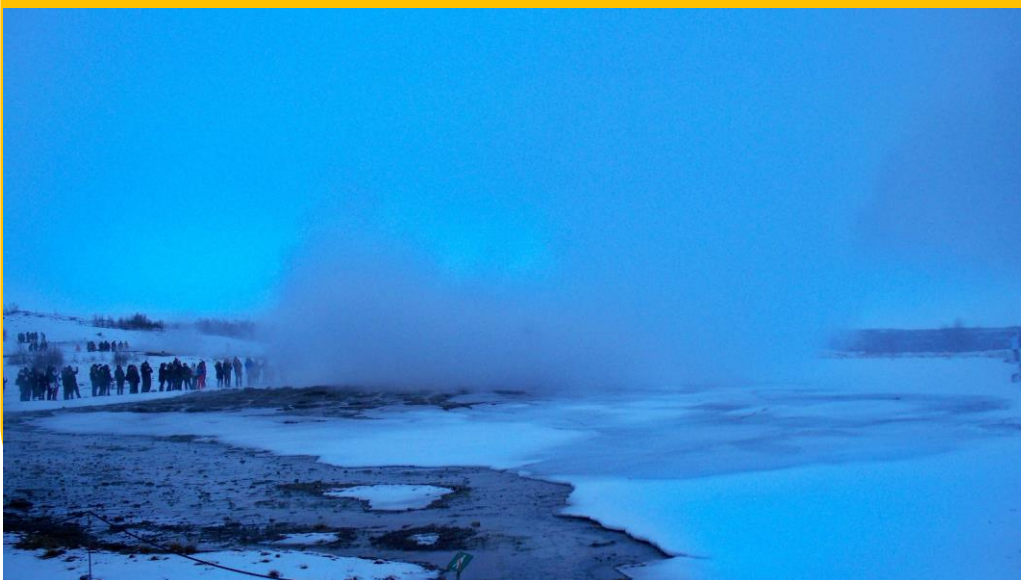


Iceland (cont.)



Pingvellir National Park -- standing on the edge of the North American Plate looking east towards the Eurasian Plate

Gullfoss (Golden Waterfall) in central Iceland – fed by the Langjökull glacier



Strokkur geyser in the Haukadalur valley area, where various other geothermal features such as mud pools, fumaroles and other geysers are located

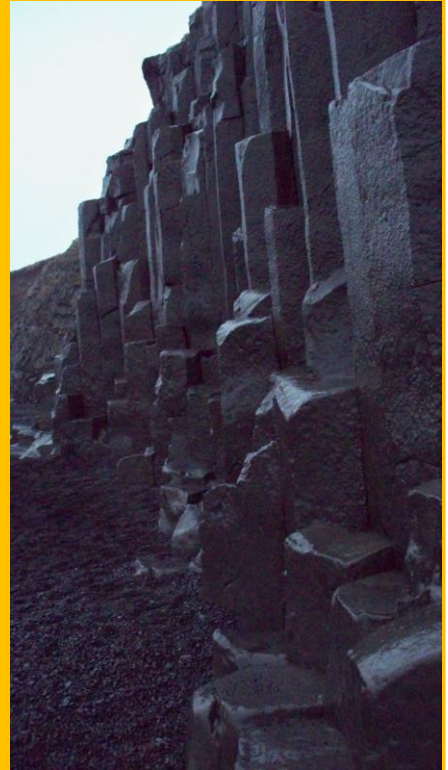
Iceland (cont.)



Seljalandsfoss waterfall



Skógafoss waterfall



Volcanic intrusions



How one gets to the top of the glacier (in a blizzard)

Iceland (cont.)

Entering the Langjökull glacier



If you don't choose the right passage, you never leave the glacier tunnel again...

Descent from the top of the glacier – the only blue-ish skies we saw all week!

