



Geography

# Geography Newsletter

January 2023

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## Winter Happenings

The Spring 2023 semester has arrived!

While details are at this time scant, we do have a busy slate of departmental colloquia coming up in late January and early February. Presenters, titles, and locations will be posted in the department, but all presentations start at 3:30 PM:

- Friday, January 27
- Monday, January 30
- Friday, February 3
- Monday, February 6

Fall Graduation was busy again for the department. The following undergraduate students were candidates to receive degrees:

- Blew, Lydia (GLST BA)
- Boyd, Gabby (GLST BA)
- Brazeel, Chad (GSIS BS)
- Gile, Emily (GEOG BS)
- Harris, Samuel (GSIS BS)
- Maddock, Ben (GSIS BS)
- McCullough, Camille (GLST BA)
- Roberston, Jali (GLST BSA)

Also, Stephanie Grace completed requirements for her MS. Congrats to all our grads!

## Faculty Research

**Dr. Peter Crank** was at the 2023 American Meteorological Society's Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. While there he presented some of his work on "Assessing Microclimate Impacts of Neighborhood Redesign in a Desert Urban Climate Using ENVI-met and MaRTy". He is a member of the AMS Board on Urban Environment and chaired a few of their sessions. The mild week in Denver was a great success for the first primarily in-person AMS Annual meeting since January 2020.



In a new publication, **Dr. Crank** and others have shown that minimum air temperature is correlated with schizophrenia hospitalizations in Phoenix, Arizona with a 2022 adjusted cost of \$2.75 million/year.

They used hospitalization data from Phoenix, Arizona county from 2006-2014 to explore the relationship between the atmosphere and mental health. Using distributed lagged-nonlinear modeling, they identified 3.5% of all schizophrenia admissions during the study period could be attributed to non-optimal minimum air temperature. The article appears in *Science of the Total Environment* (Vol. 862). You can access it at: <https://sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722077026?dgcid=author>

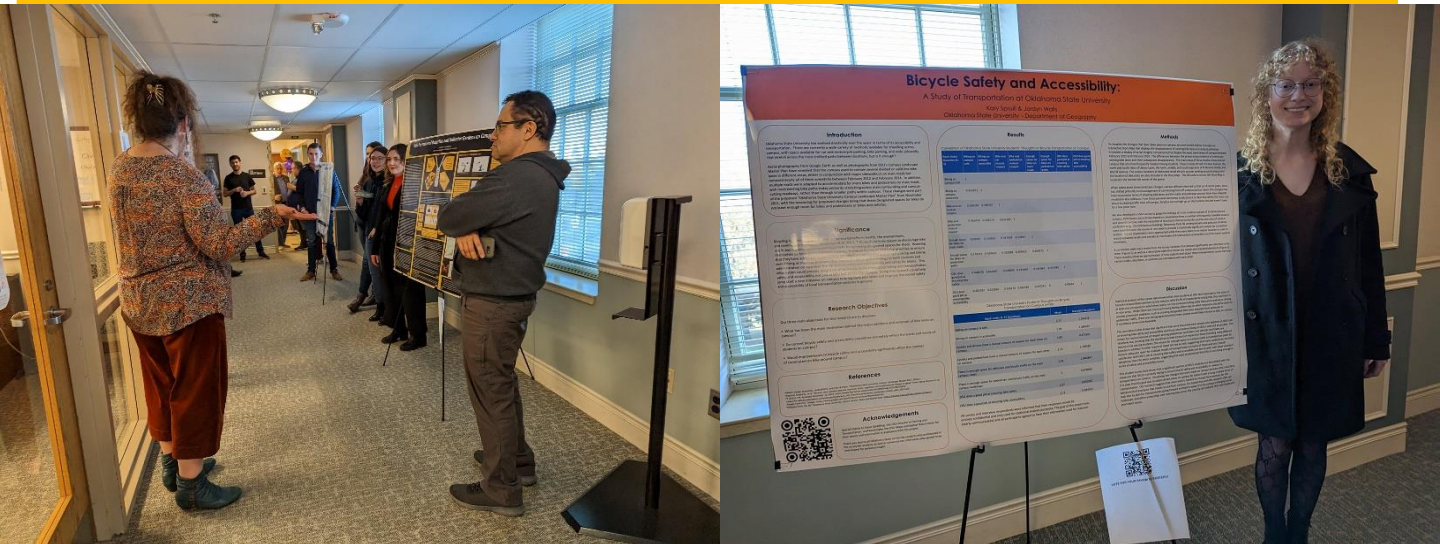
## Field Techniques Poster Session

The annual GEOG 4313 (Field Techniques) poster session was held on December 15 in the department, allowing undergraduate students in **Dr. Jackie Vadjunec's** field methods course to show off their semester projects in poster format.



Connor Cotner (left) and Emily Gile undertook "Mapping Trails Leading to Rock Climbing Areas within the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge."

Jackie Harsha (left) and Isabelle Ley studied "Public Perceptions of Butterflies and Pollinator Gardens on Campus."



A good crowd of visitors viewed the posters and enjoyed refreshments in the break room.

Jordan Walls and Kary Spruill (not shown) presented, "Bicycle Safety and Accessibility: A Study of Transportation at Oklahoma State University."



## Departmental News

The department was sad to learn of the passing of [Tom Daxon](#), a departmental alumnus. His OSU degrees were BA in Economics (1970) and MS in Geography (1978). He was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of our department in 2017. He was a former Oklahoma Auditor and Inspector and Secretary of State Finance.

MS student **Melissa Wynn** brought her kids up to see what mom does during the day late last month.



The 2023 AAG meetings are coming up: **March 23-27** in Denver and online. This is an excellent opportunity to submit photos and paper/poster presentations for inclusion in the April newsletter!