



## Geography

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# Geography Newsletter

March 2016

## March Happenings

Despite Spring Break, the department has been full of activity this month with plenty to go during the final week.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Geography Study Abroad trip to Cuba occurred from March 12-19, led by Dale Lightfoot and Jon Comer. See page 5 for more info and photos.

The month is capped off by the annual pilgrimage of geographers from around the world, including Stillwater, to the meetings of the Association of American Geographers which takes in San Francisco this year. Good luck finding very many faculty around Murray Hall next week!



Looking ahead to April, many events dot the calendar:

- Bowl-a-rama – April 6, 6:30 PM, Frontier Lanes
- Colloquium, Dr. Jess Porter – April 18, 3:30 PM, 207 NRC
- International Beer, Wine, & Cheese Party – April 22, 7 PM, home of Dr. Wikle
- Geography Awards Gathering – April 29, 5:30 PM, Murray Hall Parlor

## News from Around the Department

March was an exciting month for the AAPGF-OSU GIS Consortium. Texas, the first map from the Geologic Highway Maps (GHM) project passed the final review with only minor modifications. Current and former graduate and undergraduate students from Geography and Geology have worked on this map over the past two years. The reviewed draft of the Texas GHM has been hanging in the hall outside the Cartography Lab as the March Map of the Month. Along with the Texas Region, we have three other regions in various stages of production. This month also marked approval for a fifth GHM project: the Northern Rocky Mountain Region, which will keep us busy.

Amy Frazier and Tom Wikle published an article in *The Professional Geographer* titled “Renaming and Rebranding within U.S. and Canadian Geography Departments, 1990-2014”. This article examines the renaming and rebranding trends of the past few decades as well as the intended and unexpected factors as perceived by faculty.

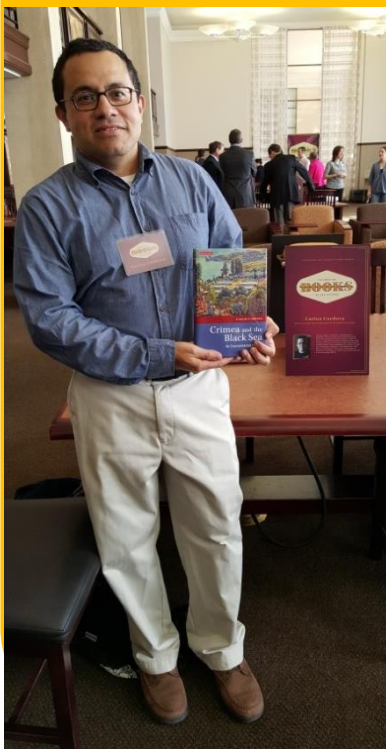
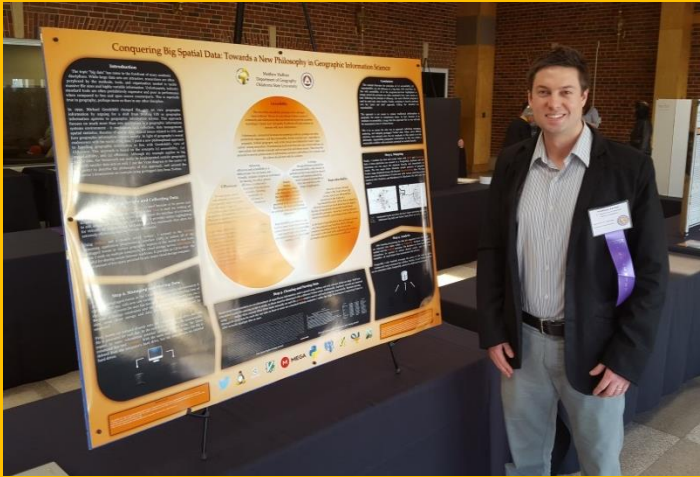
The GEOG 6210 seminar (Historic Preservation) took a quick field trip on March 22nd to check out some of Stillwater's more interesting examples of mid-century modern (1946-1976) domestic architecture. Among the highlights were examples of International, Contemporary, and Shed designs, many examples of early postwar Ranch and later (1960s-1970s) styled Ranch houses, a Buckminster Fuller geodesic dome house, and in particular, a unique, late 1950s orientalist Ranch house on Lakeridge reportedly owned by an eccentric climatologist.



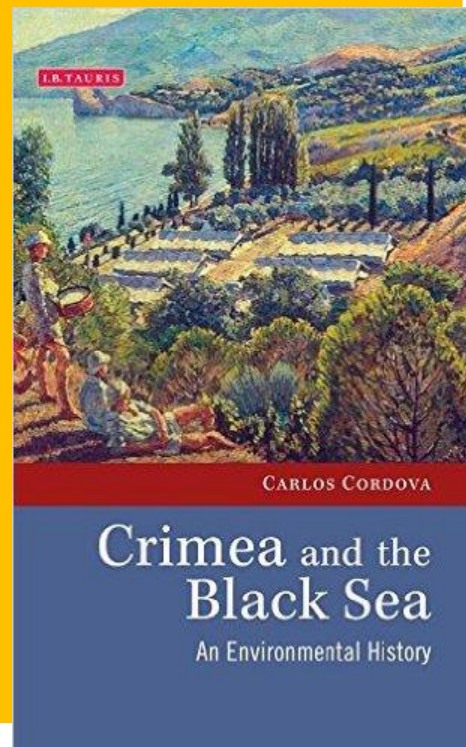
(L-R) Amanda Weber, Kim Johnson, Jordan Brasher, Liz Armstrong, Lauren Wood, and Jordan McAlister at the bizarre structure on Lakeridge.

## Research Week 2016

Many Geographers were active during Research Week on campus, February 15-19. Three students – Emily Ellis (below right), Brian Gilson, and Matt Haffner (below left) gave presentations – and Emily received 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Social Sciences Paper competition. Also, Dr. Brad Bays participated in a panel titled “The Importance of Research Breadth at OSU” and Dr. Steve Stadler was on the panel “Powering Oklahoma and the Nation.”



Book authors were recognized at an event held at the OSU Library on February 16. Dr. Carlos Cordova was there in honor of the publication of his new book, *Crimea and the Black Sea: An Environmental History*.



## 2016 GIS Day at the Capitol

The OSU Geography Department had an impressive showing at the 22nd annual GIS Day at the Capitol on March 10. In attendance were (L-R): Matt Haffner, Theodore Breig, Adam Mathews, Rachel Oestmann, Michael Larson, Ben Hemingway, Clay Barrett, Maria McKeaigg, Amy Frazier, Lauren Wood, Avonlea Keenen, and Jing Wang.



## Spring Break in Cuba

During Spring Break, a contingent of OSU faculty, OSU and OU students, and others traveled to Cuba under the leadership of Dale Lightfoot and Jon Comer. Both devoted readers of the Newsletter will recall the photo (below left) from the 2015 trip; this year, the editor got to assume his rightful place at the lunch table of the home of artist José Fuster.



2015: Not "A Comer"



2016: A (J.) Comer

The group enjoyed the sights, sounds, flavors, and beverages of Havana for 5 days as well as a 2-day trip to the Viñales Valley in Western Cuba. The agenda was jam-packed with sight-seeing, welcoming cocktails, and friendly Cubans, and the group was fortunate to leave the day before the President's visit really jammed up traffic and closed many sights (and sites).



## Cuba, continued



Sunset along the Malecón



Photo speaks for itself



Organic farm near Havana



Lunch at the Fuster home/exhibit



View of Viñales Valley from hotel



Annie meets a tree rat

## Cuba, continued

The trip consisted of 16 enrolled students, 13 in GEOG 4600, one in GEOG 5700, and two doing an independent study with co-instructor Lucero (Chelo) Tenorio (SPAN). The students are pictured below on the pool deck of our hotel in the Viñales Valley (background).



Front (L-R): Michelle Symczak, Kami Hogan, Sydney Rudy, Cordrea Nance (OU), Annie Dooley, and Sarah Garfinkle (OU).

Back: Michael Griffin (OU), Brian Barton, Matthew Dunn, Dillon Ledoux, Aurelie Hernandez (OU), Andrew Price, Colton Craig, Tyler Wilson, Nate Trotter, and William Wedge.