



DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY

College of Arts and Sciences

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Geography Newsletter

May 2022

Spring Graduates

As the semester closes, our big event is Commencement, which occurred in Gallagher-Iba Arena on Saturday, May 7.

The following undergraduate students are slated to receive their degrees:

Maxwell Browne – BS, Geospatial Information Sci.

Zac Carnahan – BS, Geography

Christine Giles – BA, Global Studies

Tanner Hurst – BS, Geography

Gabriel Knight – BS, Geography

Audra Messenger – BA, Global Studies

Reagan Page – BA, Global Studies

Kawai Porter – BS, Geography

Harlan Rebek – BA, Global Studies

Ethan Renner – BA, Global Studies

Kyle Stoner – BS, Geography

Stephen Stumpf – BA, Global Studies

Max Browne and **Gabe Knight** also earned GIS Certificates.

Congratulations to the:

Class of 
2022

Farewells

Changheng (Hank) Yang joined the Geography Department as a GIS Specialist in 2016 and recently left the department. He provided the following message:

"I have been involved in Recreation Management Project since 2016. I enjoyed working with students, faculty members, and OK State Park personnel. I would like to give my thanks to you all and remember the time here. I usually spend my spare time with my children and wife either ice skating or visiting different parks."



Dr. Christian Rossi, a visiting scholar from the Swiss National Park, visited the Department in February–April 2022. Dr. Rossi obtained his Ph.D. in Remote Sensing from University of Zurich. His research focuses on using modern remote sensing technologies for ecological applications. Currently, he is leading projects on remote sensing of plant diversity, function, and ecosystem services in Alpine grasslands. Dr. Rossi was hosted by Dr. Hamed Gholizadeh.

Dr. Rossi worked on developing remote sensing models for monitoring biodiversity during his visit. Dr. Rossi gave a colloquium on April 4 titled "Birds-eye view of a protected nature reserve in the Alps: Quantifying the effect of a non-intervention policy on biodiversity."

News From Around the Department

On May 6, the Department of Geography was well-represented at the Phi Beta Kappa initiation. According to the chapter Treasurer, this is the most students from our department initiated in a single year. Inductees include:

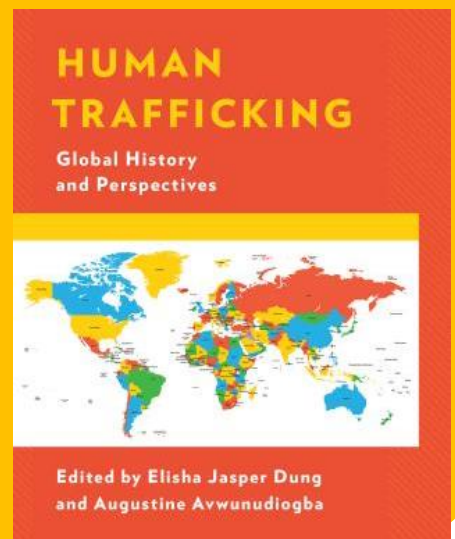
Lydia Blew – Global Studies
 Caitlyn Brooks – Global Studies
 Abigail Lesnick– Global Studies
 Camille McCullough – Global Studies
 Kawai Porter – Geography
 Ethan Renner – Global Studies
 Jali Robertson – Global Studies



On April 27, Channel 4 News in OKC (KFOR) aired an installment of “Is This a Great State or What?” featuring **Dr. Brad Bays’** historic barn documentation. A story and lots of barn photos can be viewed at [this link](#).

On May 7, the [Stillwater NewsPress](#) ran a lengthy and very inspiring story about **Christine Giles**, an OSU employee and May 2022 recipient of a BA in Global Studies. Christine has worked in the LASSO center on campus alongside one of her daughters Casey, who will graduate next year. Also, younger daughter Sera graduated from OSU on the same day as her mother. You can read the full story [here](#).

PhD alumnus **Jasper Dung** (2012) and one-time Visiting Assistant Professor **Augustine Awwunudiogba** (2006-07) have co-edited a book on [human trafficking](#), published by Rowman & Littlefield (2021).



2021-22 Awards Gathering

On April 21, the annual Geography Awards Gathering took place in the SSH basement auditorium followed by the initiation of new students into Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international geographical honor society. All award winners were announced in the March 2021 newsletter.



Gabby Boyd
Outstanding Junior
Rooney Scholarship



Jacob Shepherd
Outstanding Senior



Ny Aina Rakotoarivony
Outstanding Grad Student
Norris Scholarship



Emma Riddle
Shaull Medal for
Outstanding Teaching



Brice Zoungrana
Croft Scholarship
Geog. Education



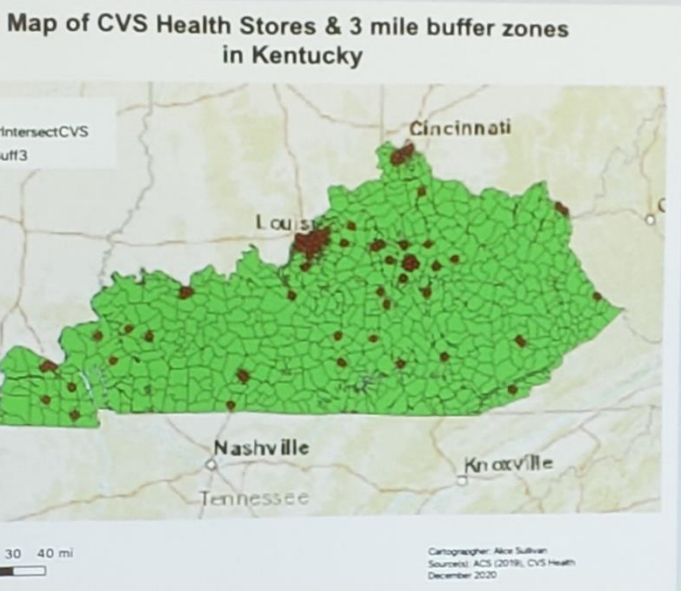
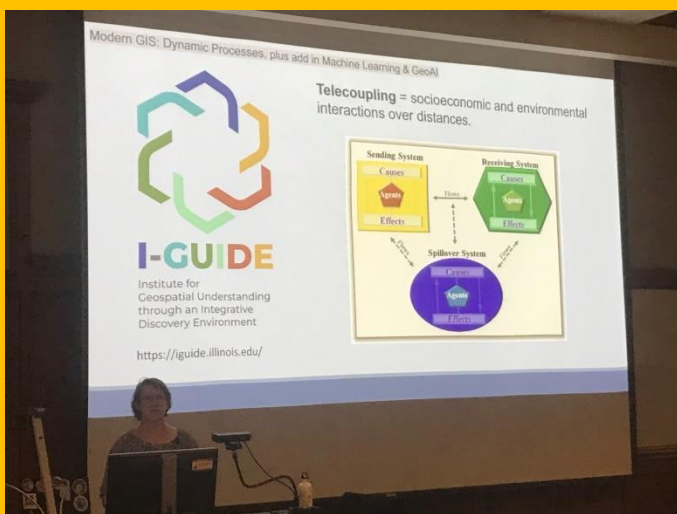
GTU Initiates (Front L-R): Emma Riddle, Erin Templeton, Ny Aina Rakotoarivony
Back: Dr. Thomas LaVanchy, Emmanuel Kumi, Tanner Hurst, Elise Neighbors, Sydney Galante, Jacob Shepherd, Ethan Piske, Wenqi Liu, and Ehsan Foroutan
(Not pictured: Abigail Hobbs and Nicholas Johnson)

Colloquia



Visiting scholar **Dr. Christian Rossi** gave a colloquium on April 4 titled “Birds-eye view of a protected nature reserve in the Alps: Quantifying the effect of a non-intervention policy on biodiversity.” The image at left is a photo from his presentation – too bad he has such a bland environment to work in...

The ConocoPhillips Geography Career Spotlight Speaker for this year was **Dr. Diana Sinton** (right), who gave a talk titled “Why GIS Matters in Board Rooms, Battle Fields, and Bus Routes.” Dr. Sinton is a Research Fellow with the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and an Instructor of Spatial Analysis & GIS at Cornell University. The maps below done by one of her students demonstrates that administering COVID vaccines at dollar stores in Kentucky would be more accessible than pharmacies.



End of Year Shenanigans

On April 22, the various Geography student organizations hosted a potluck at Boomer Lake to celebrate the end of the school year.



Potluck Cornhole Competition results:

1st place: Belem and Dr. Hu, Team Tornado (standing tallest, top right)

2nd place: Emmanuel and Ehsan, Team GIS (middle, left)

3rd place: Katrina and Brice, Team Last But Not Least (lowest level, right)



This could be one of those click-bait photos on the web: "Moments caught on camera just before disaster strikes!" The completers of GEOG 5303 posed for this photo just *before* embarking on the all-essay final exam for the course. Front (L-R): Ny Aina Rakotoarivony, Belem Carasco. Standing: Wenqi Li, Ehsan Foroutan, Emma Riddle, Instructor Jon Comer, and Bashar Bashar. No students were permanently harmed...