

Oklahoma
State
University



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Geography Newsletter

October 2013

October Happenings

October is here, and events both academic and social are in full swing in the department. On October 7, Justin Holman, CEO of Aftermarket Analytics, gave the semester's first colloquium "Beyond ArcGIS: Spatial Career Planning in 2013."

Two notable Geography conferences usually occur each October. On October 24-26, the annual meeting of the Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) is being held in Nacogdoches, Texas. Dr. Rebecca Sheehan will be representing the department, and she also serves as Secretary of SWAAG. The next week, Jon Comer travels to Annapolis, Maryland for the Applied Geography Conference on October 30-November 1.

Finally, the departmental Halloween party (with costume contest) is being revived by the Geography Club. The party, while technically on All Saints' Day this year, will allow geographers to get creative in pursuit of prizes in costume categories such as "Most Creative", "Most Geographic", "Lamest", and "Best Faculty/Staff Impersonation". Dr. Amy Frazier is hosting the potluck party on Friday, November 1, at 7 PM. Maps will be available in the Geography Office. Don't miss it – you never know who might show up...



Fred Flintstone
meets his match



"Brad" Chastain
wins '99 World Cup



Elvis has NOT left
the building

Club News: Officers and Events

Geography Club has met to plan several events for the year and has elected the following officers for 2013-14:

Zach Marschik, President **Adam Majors**, Treasurer
Alex Hubbard, Vice-President **Nathan Rosecrans**, Secretary



The club is working on a t-shirt design (logo above) to raise both departmental spirit *and* funds for the club. Watch for order forms! They make great Christmas presents!

The club is excited to revive the once-annual Halloween party. Farther ahead, Friday December 6 will be the annual Christmas Party and Dirty Santa Exchange, held at Dr. Lightfoot's home.

Finally, the club is coordinating with FOGG and GTU to undertake campus activities during Geography Awareness Week (November 18-22). It is also hoping to organize a fall camping trip, a service project cleaning up a Stillwater park, and weekly volleyball games in the Murray courtyard.

The Forum Of Geography Graduate students (FOGG) elected the following officers for 2013-14:

Nick Rose, President **Jeremy Henning**, GPSGA Representative
Thomas Craig, VP/Secretary **Robert Garrett**, Principal Delegate (Faculty Representative)
Keeley Heise, Treasurer **Gustavo Ovando**, Alternate Delegate (GPSGA & Faculty)

In addition to coordinating with Geography Club for many activities, FOGG sponsors events like AAG practice sessions and writing groups, and facilitates faculty-student interaction.

Gamma Theta Upsilon (ΓΘΥ), the International Geographic Honor Society, each spring inducts outstanding undergraduates and graduate students who have met certain academic qualifications.

Dr. Thomas Wikle is currently the international president of the organization, as well as the Faculty Advisor for the Chi Chapter at OSU, which was established in 1948.

Presently, Chi Chapter is seeking nominations for officers for the 2013-14 school year. Chapter positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please contact Aswin Subanthore if you are interested.



More information can be found at: <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/>

News from Around the Department

- Scott Kusselson successfully defended his thesis, “Investigating How Land Use Patterns Affect Traffic Accident Rates near Frontage Road Cross-Sections: A Case Study on Interstate 610 in Houston, Texas” in August and is set to receive his M.S. in Geography in December, 2013.
- Alyson Greiner has received a grant from the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office to conduct a research and thematic survey on women in Oklahoma history. Project funding is provided by the National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund. Alyson will use field and archival research to identify and document properties associated with women significant in Oklahoma's history. In spite of the government shutdown, work on the project is already underway.
- On Friday, October 4, April Chipman in Cartography Services traveled to Oklahoma City to make a presentation on behalf of the AAPGF-OSU GIS Consortium at the monthly Oklahoma Geographic Information Council meeting. The presentation, titled “Funding Opportunities with the AAPGF-OSU GIS Consortium” was well-received by committee members and the general public. Several agencies have already begun thinking about projects to propose to the Consortium. The Consortium exists to create, accelerate and sustain digital peer-reviewed GIS products, carried out through OSU’s Geology and Geography Departments and the AAPG GIS Publications Committee. The products will have direct application to the search for and development of petroleum and energy-related mineral resources, and / or related to environmental geology or related economic issues. The presentation introduced and discussed the program and types of projects that can be funded.
- Jon Comer has had two manuscripts accepted for publication in late 2013. His paper with Tom Wikle titled “Localism and American Broadcasting in the Age of Satellite Television” will be published in the *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences*. Another paper with co-author and former advisee Stacey Brown (PhD, 2011) titled “Food Deserts in the Southwest: A Case Study of Oklahoma City” has been accepted by *The Southwestern Geographer*.

More Summer Travels

In May 2013, Dale Lightfoot and Jackie Vadjunec led a group of students from Oklahoma State and Humboldt State University (California), along with non-student participants, on a two-week Study Abroad field course in Morocco. This third offering of The Cultural and Natural Resources of Morocco traveled from Casablanca through Rabat, the Roman city ruin of Volubilis, the artisan markets and historic sites of Fez, over the Atlas Mountains for three nights in a nomad-style tent encampment in the Sahara while exploring the traditional villages, historic sites, irrigation and agricultural practices of the Tafilalt Oasis. A return route back to Casablanca took us past the Todra Gorge, the World Heritage Site of Ait Ben Haddou and other historic kasbahs of the Ouarzazate Valley, a couple of days in amazing Marrakech, and a day hiking through the High Atlas Mountains past traditional Berber highland villages. The trip was an amazing adventure with many unique experiences with a fun group who bonded as a family; the Tribe of Ait Khabbash!



Students Aanika Islam, Lauren Montalbano, and Hayley Hicks hiking near the Berber village of Armad in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco.

Spotlight on Student Research

Understanding the life and environment of mammoths should help comprehend the complex causes of their extinction. Geography Master's student Tom Cox has been excavating a mammoth in Alfalfa, County, as part of his thesis directed by Carlos Cordova (OSU Geography) and Lee Bement (Oklahoma Archaeological Survey). Various undergraduate students are participating in the project. Some geography professors and volunteers have also helped in the excavation. More information coming up in the next issue of this newsletter...

