



## Geography

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# Geography Newsletter

Summer 2016

## August Happenings

Surprise! A summer newsletter to get everyone ready for the new school year! August arrives on Monday so here's what's ahead:

- August 9 – All day faculty meeting 9-5
- August 10 – GTA Conference, 8:30-4:30 in CLB. All graduate students employed in the department encouraged to attend:

<http://itle.okstate.edu/gtaconference/agenda.php>

- August 11 – Departmental Welcome/Orientation Meeting, 9AM to noon, Murray Hall Parlor
- August 11 – Back to School Potluck Dinner, 7PM, Dr. Lightfoot's house
- August 12 – Library Welcome Week Tour, 3PM and 4:30PM, Circulation Desk (1<sup>st</sup> Floor, North)
- August 15 – Start of Fall 2016 Semester

Two proposal defenses are scheduled this month:

- **Stephanie Heald**, Ph.D. Student, August 10, 2PM, Keso Room. Dissertation proposal: "Mental Health Treatment Patterns and Service Utilization in Oklahoma."
- **Emily Ellis**, M.S. Student, August 19, 9:30AM, Keso Room. Thesis proposal: "Ideal Methods for Identifying Urban Vegetation and Assessing Vegetation Change: A Study of Oklahoma City, 2006-2013."

## News From Around the Department

On May 6 several Geography graduate students “walked” at the graduate hooding ceremony. Below left, MS recipients **Brian Gilson**, **Ben Hemingway**, and **Jordan Brasher** prior to the ceremony. The following day, Geography undergraduates were recognized at commencement. Below right, **Trent Williams**, **Rachel Oestmann**, **Chike Etumudor**, and **Teddy Breig** after the ceremonies.



**Dale Lightfoot** has been selected as the 2015-2016 Outstanding Faculty Member for the School of International Studies for his “exemplary service to the program and contributions to the successes of our students.” He was presented with the award during the SIS Commencement Ceremony in May.

We said farewell this summer to our two Research Assistant Professors, **Dr. Stella Liu** and **Dr. Nicky Wu**. Nicky is off to Middle Tennessee State University’s Department of Health and Human Performance, while Stella has accepted a position at South Dakota State University in the Department of Health and Nutritional Sciences (Sport, Recreation, and Park Management Program). We are sorry to see them both go but are happy for them with their new opportunities! New faculty, staff, and student faces will appear in the next newsletter.

**Aswin Subanthore** has been guest blogger for a geopolitical firm (Narrative Strategies, LLC) this summer and two of his latest blogs on hot button topics related to India are now online. Follow at: <http://www.narrative-strategies.com/qa>

## Summer Travels

**Colton Flynn, Dr. Adam Mathews, Emily Ellis, and Dr. Amy Frazier** (below) recently visited the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. They were able to meet with their collaborator, Dr. Son Nghiem, on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

They traveled to the JPL to discuss their ongoing summer project that is funding Colton, Emily, Yun Zhao, and Gustavo Ovando this summer. They planned their research efforts and got an opportunity to tour the JPL. It was a productive trip!



**Matt Haffner and Drs. Adam Mathews, Peter Kedron, and Amy Frazier** (left) attended the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) Symposium in Scottsdale Arizona in late May where Drs. Frazier and Mathews presented a talk on integrating UAS into the GIScience research agenda. They also did some critical research on the local brewing landscape, while Dr. Kedron examined the overpriced art retail space.





## Summer Travels (cont.)

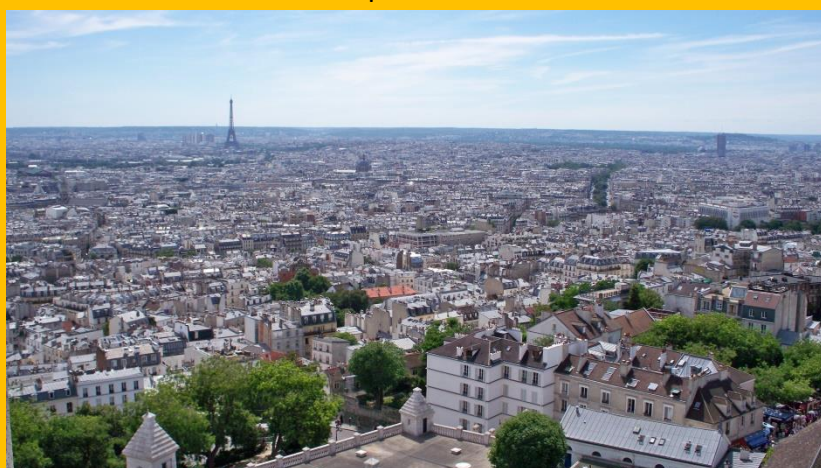
Jon and Shannon Comer spent two weeks enjoying the hospitality of France and Switzerland in July. Despite some scary terrorist attacks in Europe during their trip, they encountered smooth sailing with nary a glitch (except a suitcase that finally came home to them today). Paris, Geneva, and Lucerne were their main stops but excursions to the Normandy D-Day beaches in western France, the Champagne region of eastern France, the Palaces of Versailles, and Chamonix (France) kept them busy. While they didn't ascend the Eiffel Tower, Jon did accomplish a single-day climbing trifecta in Paris – Notre Dame Cathedral, Sacré Cœur Basilica, and the Arch de Triomphe, all on July 10. Jon also climbed the tower of St. Pierre Cathedral in Geneva, the old watch towers in Lucerne, and rode up the frightening gondolas to the top of Mont Blanc.



The Champs-Élysées from the top of the Arch de Triomphe



The Seine from the top of Notre Dame Cathedral



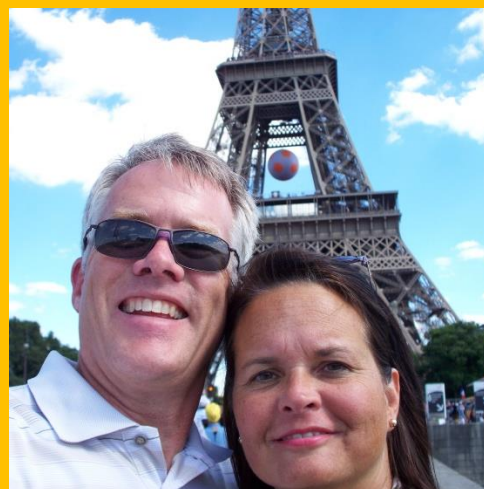
Paris from the dome of Sacré Cœur Basilica



## Summer Travels (cont.)



The Champagne region of France



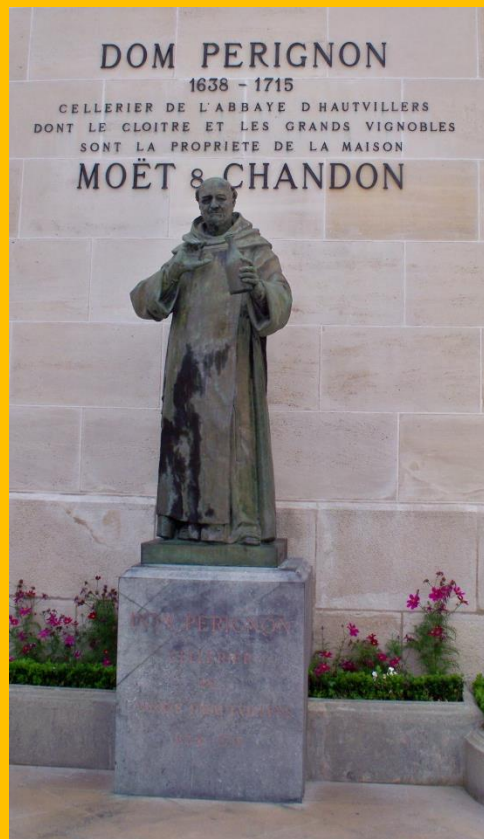
Note the football hanging under the tower for Euro 2016 Finals



Hall of Mirrors at Versailles



Omaha Beach in Normandy



A very wise man...