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Geography Newsletter

April/May 2014

April/May Happenings

With this final Newsletter of the 2013-14 school year, it is time to wrap things up and catch up on what's been going on for the past month or so...

Awards:

Matt Haffner has won a \$500 OK South-Central Arc Users Group (SCAUG) Scholarship.

Nick Rose was chosen as the Outstanding Graduate Student at the President's Leadership and Service Recognition Reception.

Events:

Informal student/staff/faculty volleyball matches will return to the mean courts of Stout/Murray Halls courtyard on Tuesday, May 6, around noon. Consider this a fashionably late Cinco de Mayo party! Come one, come all!

May Graduations:

Tory Lightfoot successfully defended her dissertation on April 23. OSU now is the only Geography Department in the world with 2 Dr. Lightfoots (or is it Lightfeet?).

Joel Barrow successfully defended his thesis on April 16.

Study Abroad:

Drs. Dale Lightfoot and Jacqueline Vadjunec are again taking students to Morocco in May to study resource management.

Drs. Jon Comer and Tom Wikle are taking students to Amsterdam, Paris, and London, also in May, to study urban geography.

International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party

On April 4 the annual International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party was held at Dr. Wikle's home. Always a popular departmental event, this year was no exception and much merriment was had.

Results of the judging:

Cheeses:

1st place – Kathryn Roberts

2nd place – Thomas Craig

3rd place – Jon Comer ☹️



Beers:

1st place – Stuart McAllister

2nd place – John Davenport

3rd place – Sean Thomas



Wines:

1st place – Shannon Comer 😊

2nd place – Tom Wikle

3rd place – Amy Frazier

2014 Geography Awards Gathering

On April 25, the annual departmental Awards Gathering was held in the Murray Hall Parlor. All departmental awards and scholarships were announced:

Undergraduate Student Awards:

John F. Rooney, Jr. Scholarship for Outstanding Geography Junior (\$2,000): **Emily Ellis**

A&S Outstanding Geography Senior: **Andrew Potter**

Alyson L Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship (\$500):
Avonlea Keenen (receiving certificate from Jon Comer, right)



Graduate Student Awards:

Robert E. Norris Field Research Grants (\$1,500 each):
Amy Graham, Kathryn Roberts

Robert E. Norris Field Conference Travel Grants (\$500 each): **Thomas Craig, Matt Haffner, Gustavo Ovando, Qinyue Pan, Nick Rose, Yanxia Wu, and Yun Zhao.**

Robert E. Norris Scholarship for Outstanding First Year Master's Student (\$1,000): **Kathryn Roberts**

Robert and Lucy Fite Scholarship for Outstanding First Year Doctoral Student (\$2,000): **Thomas Craig**

Susan Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching (\$500):
Stephanie Heald

Geography Department Outstanding Faculty Instructor:
Amy Frazier (receiving certificate from Nick Rose, right)



Gamma Theta Upsilon (ΓΘΥ) Initiation

On April 25, the Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geographical Honor Society, initiated 30 new members! Dr. Thomas Wikle, co-advisor of the chapter, is currently the international president of GTU and was on hand to induct the new members who were present. Those inducted were:

Clay Barrett**

Lindsey Chancellor

Allen Conner

Thomas Craig**

Michael Davis

Emily Durbin

Emily Ellis*

Kathaleen Franklin

Matt Haffner**

Stephanie Heald**

Jeremy Henning**

Jennifer Hofener

Nicholas Keen

Lindsey Keller

Kirsten Kuhn*

Jordan McAlister**

Amy McLarty

Lauren Montalbano*

Jonathon Perrin

Emily Ray

Terry Sherman

Breanna Shunn

Andrew Simmons

Jill Stanolis

Joe Thomas**

Sean Thomas**

Alexis Upshaw

Jaqueline Vadjunec***

Margret Webber

Taylor Woodall

* Geography Undergraduate Major

** Geography Graduate Student

*** Geography Faculty Member



L-R: Sean Thomas, Jill Stanolis, Jacqueline Vadjunec, Matt Haffner, Lauren Montalbano, Clay Barrett, Breanna Shunn, Thomas Craig, Terry Sherman, Jeremy Henning (behind Sherman), Michael Davis, Amy McLarty, Jordan McAlister, and Emily Ellis.

Student News From The Field

Dan Wilson (B.S. 2010, M.S. 2013) recently wrote to us from North Carolina with the following dispatch and photos:

“I wanted to update the department on my travels, so please feel free to forward this to everyone. I have had a very fun and busy life since last May. I lived and worked at CSU’s wilderness campus last summer for three months. Although I worked in the kitchen, it was a great way to interact with the natural resource students and professors who lived at the camp for a four-week course on wildlife ecology, forestry, and botany.

Last September I moved to San Francisco to work with an old college friend. I was the account executive for his online start-up company. It was a great chance to get a taste of the business world and to live in a thriving and amazing city.

I currently work and live at a coastal ecology camp in Arapahoe, NC. The Don Lee Camp is located on the Neuse River, approximately seven miles inland from the Pamlico Sound and Outer Banks. I became interested in the camp because of the eclectic range of curriculum. The children (elementary and middle school) can take classes on everything from marine invertebrates, reptiles, fish, coastal birds, salt marsh, beach ecology, forest ecology, soils, weather, fossils, astronomy, Native Americans, and pirates. We also take the kids canoeing and sailing on the Neuse River.”



When I biked to the Pacific Ocean near Golden Gate State Park



When I caught at Spiny Dogfish Shark on Duke University’s research trawler in the Atlantic

Student News From The Field (cont.)



Salt marsh near the camp



Rigging a Flying Scot sailboat at camp



Holding the King Snake named Arthur that I take care of at the camp