



## Geography

### INSIDE:

April Happenings .....	1
GIS Day at the Capitol .....	2
Faculty-Student Research .....	3
Departmental News .....	4
2017-18 Awards Gathering Info .....	6



# Geography Newsletter

April 2018

## April Happenings

No foolin' – April is here, and that means AAG, the end of the semester looms, and all sorts of events and activities near:

- Wednesday, April 4 – 3:30 PM in AG Hall 201 – **Geography Career Spotlight**. Jody Walker and David LaGorce will give a talk titled “An Inside Look at ConocoPhillips GIS.”
- Friday, April 6 – **Drs. Steve Stadler, Allen Finchum, and Jon Comer** will be in Norman to help conduct the National Geographic Bee as they annually do.
- Week of April 9-13 – pretty much everybody will be gone to the **AAG meetings** in New Orleans.
- Monday, April 16 – 9 AM in MUR 327 (Keso) – **Yun Zhao** will defend his dissertation, “Exploring the Relationship Between Urban Form and Door-to-Door Travel Time: A Focus on High Speed Rail in the United States.”
- Friday, April 20 – **International Beer, Wine, & Cheese** party sponsored by GTU will be at 7 PM at Dr. Wikle’s home.
- Wednesday, April 25 – 3 PM in the Student Union Council Room – **Graduate College Awards Ceremony**. Several Geography graduate students are nominated for awards – we’ll see if they win!
- Friday, April 27 – 3:30 PM in NRC 207 – **Dr. Pinliang Dong** from the Department of Geography and the Environment, University of North Texas, will give a talk titled “A review of LiDAR applications in urban environments.”
- Saturday, April 28 – 1 PM at Boomer Lake – **Geography Club** end-of-year cookout.

## GIS Day at the Capitol

The OSU Department of Geography was extremely well-represented at the 2018 GIS Day at the Capitol, the 24<sup>th</sup> year for the event, on March 6. Twenty departmental staff and students (an all-time high!) were on hand to answer questions about the department's degree programs, the GIS certificate program, and information about our student organizations and their involvement in the department.



Pictured above (L-R): Anthony Hernandez, Chi Cheng (Finn) Yip, Colby Thompson, Kayla King, Giovanni Penna, Katy Hites, Haley Best, OSU Cartography Services Coordinator Michael Larson, Kellen Bullock, Nick Rose, Lauren Wood, Samuel Brander, Amanda Thomas (behind) Catherine Shropshire, Racine Swick, John Hall, and Dr. Hongbo Yu. Not pictured are Dr. Adam Mathews, Changheng (Hank) Yang, and Diane Johnson.

GIS Day #25 is slated for March 5, 2019 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor rotundas, and OSU will be there as always.

## Faculty-Student Research

Dr. Carlos Cordova and PhD student Tom Cox have been busy talking about their mammoth finds. On February 26<sup>th</sup> they gave a talk at the Stillwater Library to a group of individuals that are in assisted living or have Alzheimer's. The presentation also had the support of Kim Johnson and Amanda Weber with GTU. The presentation was called "Mammoths in Oklahoma" (below left).



On March 1<sup>st</sup> they attended the Oklahoma Public Archeology Network Conference in Norman. Tom presented a poster titled "Mammoth Localities in Oklahoma: Working with Communities to Help and Enhance a Better Understanding of the Late Pleistocene" (above right). Last but not least, during Spring Break Tom did some structure from motion-multi-view stereo work (SfM-MVS) with a UAV at his Eagle City mammoth locality (below).



## News from Around the Department

**Steve Stadler** has been appointed Geography Steward of Oklahoma by the National Geographic Society. In this capacity he is to work with the National Geographic Regional Director in “fostering close connections between National Geographic Explorers, grantees, educators, and stakeholders.” The overall mission is to develop partnerships to “build geographic competency in educators and students.” The stewardship initiative is National Geographic’s effort to more closely connect with all states and this supersedes its efforts with the state K-12 alliances. The Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education (OKAGE) has its own endowment and will continue to function as a key group advocating geographic literacy. Steve invites all geographers to become involved in National Geographic’s efforts in Oklahoma and provide ideas to him. More information will be forthcoming...

### Sports Wrap –Up:

On **Wednesday, February 28**, 9 graduate students, 8 undergraduates (UG), and 5 Faculty And Staff Teamers (FAST) bowled at Frontier Lanes. In order to be fair (and make the contest no-so-lopsided), only the top 5 student team scores were averaged to compare to the 5 FAST scores with these results:

1. FAST – 265 (two games per person, averaged). Colley, Kedron, Larson, Mathews, Montes. Kedron had high game (180) and two-game (336) totals.
2. GRAD – 244. Shelby Rider had the 2<sup>nd</sup> -highest game (172) and total (300).
3. UG—197. Giovanni Penna had the 3<sup>rd</sup> -highest game (152).

On **Saturday, March 3**, the semi-annual student vs. FAST soccer game took place at the Colvin Center. Despite playing with a 4 v 5 disadvantage, FAST (Barrett, Comer, Mathews, and Rose) stayed close to the student team through three quarters, trailing 5-7. However, in the fourth quarter, with one of the students having departed and the sides even, FAST exploded for 4 goals to finish the game up 9-7. FAST now holds all the trophies – softball, bowling, and soccer (basketball was not contested this year).

## More News from Around the Department

On Wednesday, March 28 and Thursday, March 29, the department conducted an undergraduate recruiting event on the library lawn. Many faculty, staff, and students volunteered to work the table, telling students about Geography majors and minors, quizzing them with Geo-Bowl questions, and generally spreading the word on campus about all the exciting initiatives going on in the department. Despite the damp and chilly weather, many students were engaged and learned more about us. Thanks to all who spent time helping out, and to Undergraduate Advisor Don Colley for setting up the logistics.



## 2017-18 Awards Gathering

On May 4, the annual Geography Awards Gathering will take place in the Murray Hall Parlor. Light refreshments will be served starting at 5:00 PM, with the Awards Ceremony starting at 5:30 and Gamma Theta Upsilon inductions immediately thereafter. Nearly \$10,000 of awards and scholarships will be distributed:

### 2017-18 Recognition Awards:

- John F. Rooney, Jr. Scholarship for Outstanding Junior
- A&S Outstanding Senior
- Robert E. Norris Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> Year MS Student
- Robert and Lucy Fite Scholarship for Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> Year PhD Student
- Jerry Croft and Family Award in Geographic Education
- Susan Shaul Medal for Excellence in Teaching

### 2018-19 Travel Awards:

- Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship
- Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Scholarship
- Norris Conference Travel Award

Other awards and honors earned by students, staff, or faculty (on campus or off) will be recognized, so if you received some type of award or scholarship in the past year, please let [Jon Comer](#) know so he can add it to the list to be announced at the Gathering.



**2017-18  
GEOGRAPHY  
AWARDS  
GATHERING**

**WHEN:** FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018, 5:00-7:00 PM  
(Awards presentation and GTU initiation will begin at 5:30)

**WHERE:** MURRAY HALL PARLOR

*LIGHT SNACKS AND SOFT DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED*