



DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY

College of Arts and Sciences

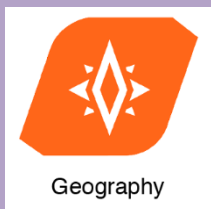
INSIDE:

Welcome Back.....1

News from Around
the Department.....2

Faculty Research
Activities.....3

Faculty Travel.....4



Geography Newsletter

August 2022

Welcome Back!

Fall 2022 – dare we say it feels almost “normal”? Let’s hope that we can continue to work, teach, gather, and cheer on OSU teams and get on with the semester.

The department has already had a social event, a cookout/pool party (did anyone actually swim?) at Brad Bays’ neighborhood on Friday, August 26. Many thanks to Brad for hosting, cooking, and providing an excellent venue to welcome everyone back to the school year. Alas, no photos were evidently taken to commemorate the event 😞.

Please send all pertinent news items (research, travel, social) to Jon Comer (jon.comer@okstate.edu) for inclusion in this monthly newsletter.

Important dates for Fall 2022:

- Monday, September 5 – Labor Day Holiday (no classes and university closed)
- October 20-22 – [Applied Geography Conference](#), online
- October 27-28 – [Southwest Division of AAG](#) (SWAAG) regional meetings in Fayetteville, AK
- November 21-25 – Fall Break and Thanksgiving Holiday, no classes (university closed Nov. 24-25)
- December 12-16 – Finals Week

News from around the Department

New Ph.D. student **Nivedita Kamaraj** received a \$10,000 Delores and Jerry Etter Research Scholarship to use hyperspectral remote sensing technology to monitor grassland plant diversity. Nivedita will be working with Dr. Hamed Gholizadeh on this project.

Ph.D. student **Ny Aina Rakotoarivony** also received the \$10,000 Delores and Jerry Etter Research Scholarship, for the second year in a row, to detect an invasive alien plant in grasslands using remotely sensed data. Ny Aina will be working with Dr. Gholizadeh on this project.

Ny Aina Rakotoarivony (below) presented the results of her ongoing research at the Ecological Society of America 2022 meeting in Montreal.



A view of Montreal from Parc du Mont-Royal (Photo: Hamed Gholizadeh)

Faculty Research Activities

Dr. Carlos Cordova directed a workshop "Silica phytoliths and their applications to reconstructing paleoenvironments" at his undergraduate and master's alma mater (UNAM) in Mexico City in early August. The event was attended in-person and virtually by participants from Mexico, Peru, and Chile. See add at right.



TALLER
SILICO-FITOLITOS
Y SU APLICACIÓN EN LA RECONSTRUCCIÓN
DE PALEOAMBIENTES

IMPARTIDO POR EL DOCTOR
CARLOS CORDOVA
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

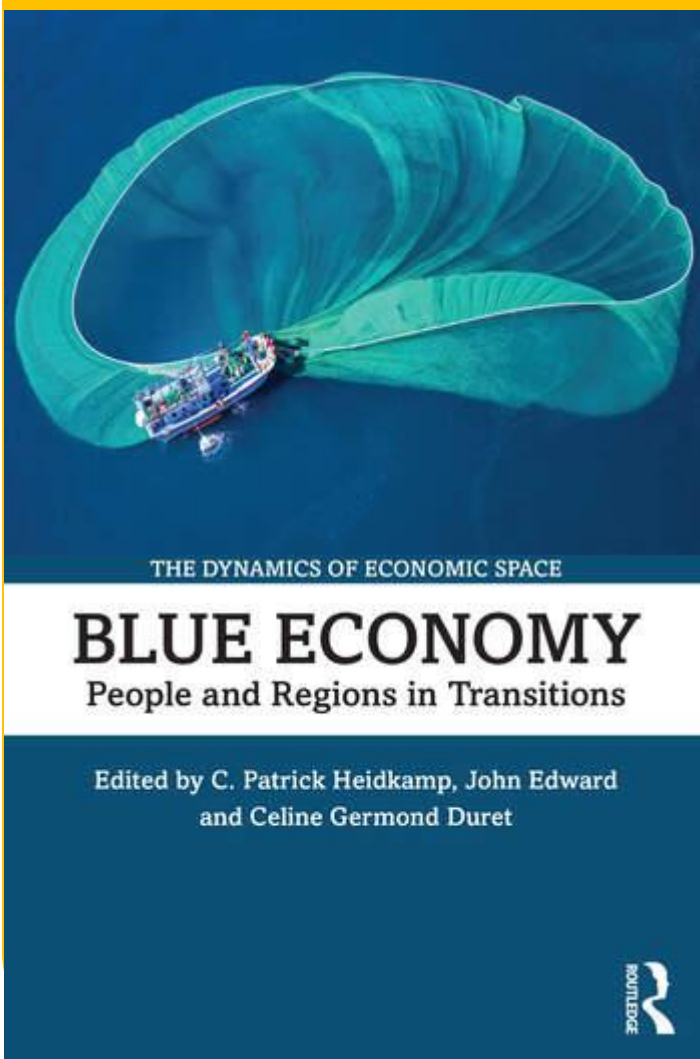
1 al 5 de agosto de 2022
Salón de Usos Múltiples del IIA, 10:00 a 14:00 horas

Temario:

- ◊ Los aspectos básicos de la ciencia de los fitolitos de sílice
- ◊ Las aplicaciones de los fitolitos en arqueología y paleoecología
- ◊ Los aspectos básicos de los silico-fitolitos en la familia Poaceae (pastos) y otras monocotiledóneas
- ◊ Los métodos de extracción y análisis de fitolitos de sílice
- ◊ La identificación y conteo de fitolitos en el microscopio.
- ◊ Las interpretaciones cualitativa y cuantitativa de datos de secuencias de fitolitos
- ◊ Elaboración de protocolos regionales ambientales para la interpretación de fitolitos. Sugerencias para su uso en México.
- ◊ Interpretación de secuencias de fitolitos con otros indicadores ambientales (e.g., polen, diatomeas, isotopos estables)

Programa y bibliografía disponibles en: www.iiia.unam.mx

IIA, Circuito Exterior s/n, Ciudad Universitaria, 04510, Ciudad de México



Dr. Jose Torres has a book chapter to be published on December 30, 2022. His chapter is titled "The Blue Economy, Climate, Tourism, and Social Injustice in Barbuda."

Faculty Travel



Geographer and writer **Dr. Carlos Cordova** visiting the old city of Riga. He went to Estonia and Latvia (former Kingdom of Livonia, see map below) to research the geographic locations of his future historical cli-fi novel on a story centered on interconnected events during the Little Ice Age, the Soviet Period, and the 21st century.

1573 map of the Kingdom of Livonia (approximately today's Estonia and northern Latvia). See views and explanation of numbered locations in next figure.



Faculty Travel (cont.)



1) **Tallinn, Estonia.** 26 of June at midnight. This is what a “white night” looks like.

2) **Emajõgi River.** Note that on the map that in the 16th century it connected **Tartu** with the sea; Hanseatic ships could reach the city. However, post- glacial isostatic rebound changed the course of the river to the lake to the east. Tartu is the intellectual and cultural capital of Estonia.

3) **Narva River.** To the left (Estonian side of the border) is the Narva Castle, and to the right (Russian side) is the Ivangorod fortress.

4) **Arensburg Castle.** Late medieval castle on the island of Saaremaa.

5) Archaeological remains of a WWII runway on the west side of **Saaremaa Island**, used by Soviet planes to bomb Berlin in the early days of the German invasion of the USSR.

6) Square in beautiful medieval **Riga**, Latvia.

Faculty Travel (cont.)

Emeritus faculty members Steve Stadler (with wife Barb) and Dale Lightfoot (with wife Tory) enjoyed a tour of the Pacific Northwest this summer. At right: Barb, Tory, and Dale on the sailaway from Vancouver, Canada.

Below: happy bear at Brooks Falls, Katmai National Park.

