



DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY

College of Arts and Sciences

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Geography Newsletter

June 2023

Hot in Stillwater

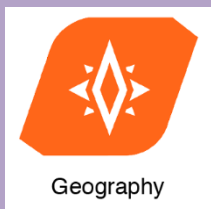
We managed to make it most of the way through June before summer really showed up, but now the heat is on and it's best we focus on indoor activities:

On Monday, June 26, PhD student **Ofuje Amune** successfully defended her dissertation proposal, titled "The State of COVID-19 in Oklahoma; Patterns, Socio-Relations and Accessibility." Her advisor is **Dr. Jon Comer** and committee members are **Drs. Tao Hu, Hongbo Yu, and Kelly Sittner** (SOC). Congrats to now PhD Candidate Ofuje!

On Tuesday, June 27, PhD candidate **Hassani Kianoosh** successfully defended his dissertation, "Application of UAS-Based Remote Sensing in Estimating Crop Phenotypic Traits." His advisor is **Dr. Hamed Gholizadeh** and committee members are **Drs. Jon Comer, Yuting Zhou, and Lu Zhai** (NREM). Congrats to *almost* Dr. Hassani!

On Friday, July 21, PhD candidate **Jordan McAlister** will defend his dissertation, "Differing Outcomes: An Exploration of Regional Approaches to the Historic Preservation of Small-Town, County Courthouses." His advisor is **Dr. Brad Bays** and committee members are **Drs. Alyson Greiner, Rebecca Sheehan, and Laura Arata** (HIST). Zoom link:

<https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/j/4616854314>



Geography

Flying High at Skyline

The Geography Department participated in the Outdoor Day at Skyline Elementary School on May 11. The event engaged students in a variety of outdoor learning activities. **Jing Wang**, the coordinator of CARS, led a team of graduate students to demonstrate collecting weather data with a kite. In addition, the NASA Aerokats program sent 200 Frustrationless Flyers for students to make and decorate their own kites. There were 6 groups with a total of 120 students participating. Many of them had never flown a kite before. They cheered when the Kestrel device took off with the big kite and were very excited to fly the kites they built themselves.

Special thanks to USRI staff Kathleen McNamara and Leo Fagge, who provided training; NASA AREN project for sending the Frustrationless Flyer kits, as well as PhD students **Belem Carrasco Galvan**, **Nivedita Kamaraj**, **Wenqi Liu**, and **Ny Aina Rakotoarivony**, who volunteered at the event.



Skyline Outdoor Day (cont.)



New Face in the Office

Liv Rice is the new student worker in the main office, as of June 2023. She is going into her second year as an undergraduate student this fall, double majoring in Philosophy (Pre-Ministry) and History, with minors in Religious Studies and Ancient & Medieval Studies. This fall will begin her first semester as the President of the Religious Studies Student Organization (RSSO) and her second year in the Oklahoma State Ethics Club.

When she is not working in the Geography Department (or hanging out downstairs in Philosophy), Liv is a full-time dog mom who enjoys exploring antique stores and writing novels on the side. Liv grew up in the Norman/OKC/Edmond area for most of her life, but has called the Stillwater area home for almost three years now, and graduated from Stillwater High School in 2022. After finishing her Bachelor's degrees here, she hopes to earn an mDiv and a PhD, and her ultimate goal is to become a professor.

