

Oklahoma
State
University



Geography Newsletter

October 2014

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October Happenings

October is here, and events both academic and social are in full swing in the department.

On October 13, Dr. Alexander Diener, University of Kansas, will give a colloquium titled “Imagining Kazakhstani-stan: Negotiations of Homeland and T titular-Nationality” in Agriculture Hall 320 at 3:30 PM. A reception at the Wes Watkins Center will follow at 5:00 PM.

Homecoming activities will be ramping up during the month of October, highlighted by the world-famous “Walkaround” right outside Murray Hall on University Avenue the afternoon of Friday, October 24. That Friday is also OSU’s designated “Fall Break,” which like Spring Break is a student holiday (*i.e.*, classes recessed) but all university offices and functions operate normally. Unlike Spring Break, however, Fall Break is just one day...

Finally, the annual Halloween costume party is planned for Thursday, October 30 at 7 PM (location TBD - any volunteers?)

Club News: Officers and Events

Geography Club is led by the following officers for 2014-15:

Adam Majors, President
Ava Keenen, Vice-President

Lela Berastequi, Treasurer
Emily Ellis, Secretary

The club is working on a t-shirt design to raise both departmental spirit *and* funds for the club. Watch for order forms! They make great Christmas presents!

The club was excited to revive the once-annual faculty/staff vs. student softball game (see pages 5 & 6). The club is also coordinating with FOGG and GTU to undertake campus activities during Geography Awareness Week (November 17-21). It is also planning a spring camping trip.

The Forum Of Geography Graduate students (FOGG) elected the following officers for 2014-15:

Jeremy Henning, President
Lauren Wood, VP/Secretary
Tom Cox, Treasurer

Nick Rose, GPSGA Representative
Kathryn Roberts, Principal Delegate (Faculty Rep.)
Samayita Bandyopadhyay, Alternate Delegate

FOGG sponsors events like AAG practice sessions and writing groups, facilitates faculty-student interaction, and other academic and social activities for the good of the department.

Gamma Theta Upsilon (ΓΘΥ), the International Geographic Honor Society, each spring inducts outstanding undergraduates and graduate students who have completed a minimum of three geography courses, have a GPA of at least 3.3 overall and in geography, and shall have completed at least three semesters or five quarters of college course work.

Officers for **Gamma Theta Upsilon** for 2014-15 are:

Keeley Heise, President
Stephanie Heald, Vice-President

Nick Rose, Secretary and Historian
Tom Cox, Treasurer



Dr. Thomas Wikle is currently the international president of the organization, as well as the Faculty Co-Advisor (with Rebecca Sheehan) for the Chi Chapter at OSU, which was established in 1948 as the 22nd chapter nationally. More information is at: <http://www.gammathetaupsilon.org/>

News from Around the Department

Several staff and graduate students in the department attended the 2014 Oklahoma South Central Arc Users Group (OKSCAUG) conference at the Moore-Norman Technology Center in Oklahoma City in late September. In attendance were April Chipman, Michael Larson, Jing Wang, Clay Barrett, and Matt Haffner. Michael Larson taught two, half-day workshops titled "Introduction to Cartographic Concepts I and II". Clay Barrett presented a poster titled "Monitoring Oklahoma Lake Water Quality with Remote Sensing". Matt Haffner gave a user presentation titled "Using ArcGIS, Python and R to study social interaction potential (SIP) in Tulsa and Oklahoma City". Matt was also one of the recipients of the 2014 OKSCAUG Scholarship. Congratulations Matt!!!

In July, Barb and Steve Stadler traveled through China ending up in Hong Kong. Hosting a dinner for them was Daniel Yuen, a 1994 M.S. graduate of the department. Daniel works in the Innovation and Technology Commission of the Hong Kong central government. Pictured (L to R) are May Yuen, Barb Stadler, Steve Stadler, and Daniel Yuen.



Jon Comer will be scarce in October. From October 15-18 he will be in Atlanta attending the Applied Geography Conference, of which he was recently elected a Board Member, and will be presenting a manuscript that he and Tom Wikle have had accepted for publication entitled "Community Access To General Aviation Amidst Airport Closures, 1991-2011." A week later he will be in Albuquerque attending the joint regional meetings of the Southwest (SWAAG) and Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Divisions (GP-RM) of AAG. He will participate in a session of Graduate Coordinators and also present a paper on a new mystery topic.

More Summer Travels

In May 2014, Dale Lightfoot and Jackie Vadjunec led a group of students from Oklahoma State University, along with non-student participants, on a two-week Study Abroad field course in Morocco. The course exposes participants to the culture and society of Morocco, practical resource management concerns in a developing country, provides a historical perspective on the evolution of landscape and culture in Morocco, and provides experience traveling abroad. This fourth offering of The Cultural and Natural Resources of Morocco traveled from Casablanca through Rabat, the Roman city ruin of Volubilis, the artisan markets and historic sites of Fez, over the Atlas Mountains for three nights in the Sahara while exploring the traditional villages, historic sites, irrigation and agricultural practices of the Tafilalet Oasis. A return route back to Casablanca took us past the Todra Gorge, the World Heritage Site of Ait Ben Haddou and other historic kasbahs of the Ouarzazate Valley, a couple of days in amazing Marrakech, and a day of hiking through the High Atlas Mountains past traditional Berber highland villages. We had an amazing experience and adventurous travelers!



Our travel group including guide Addi Ouadderrou (left), students Samantha West, Carson Bode, and Jordan McAlister, Dale Lightfoot, and students Samayita Bandyopadhyay and Kay Lyn Terrill ready for dinner in our Sahara hotel. Jackie Vadjunec took the photo.

Staff vs. Students Softball Game

On September 27, 2014 at high noon, the Staff vs. Students softball game was revived after a long hiatus. After weeks of trash talk and much wagering, the Staff team proved unstoppable, romping to a 19-6 victory in six innings. Below, (L-R) the "staff" team of Matt Haffner, Adam Mathews, Luis Montes, Dale Lightfoot, Steve Stadler, Jon Comer, Mike Larson, Reuel Hanks, Alex Comer, Amy Frazier, and Stephanie Heald hoist the Carney Cup.



Students countered Dr. Hanks' \$100 wager (a donation to the Geography Club) with having to sing the OSU fight song outside Dr. Hanks' office. Not only did they come through, but Dr. Hanks made his donation anyway – what sportsmanship!

At right, Geography Club members (L-R) Lauren Montalbano, Ava Keenen, Daniel Surach, Nicholas Deyoe, and Emily Ellis “Ride ‘em Cowboys” outside Dr. Hanks' office bright and early Monday morning.



OSU Geography Students Beat Faculty into Submission 31-10



2001 Carney Cup Champions



Thanks to Mike Larson for excavating this photo, giving students hope that they may someday reclaim the Cup. Note the location – the 2001 game was played on the exact same field as this year's contest at Babcock Park.

However, there being no official records kept in the department, this outcome (and especially the score) can only be considered apocryphal and likely the result of finals week delusions by the students of that bygone era...