



DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY

College of Arts and Sciences

Geography Newsletter

October 2021

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October Happenings

So what’s happened this month? Plenty, that’s what!

- A surprise retirement party was held for **Dr. Steve Stadler** on October 1 in the SSH parlor. Photos appear on pages 2-3.
- OSU cohosted SWAAG with OU in Oklahoma City on October 14-15 along with field trips organized by Dr. Stadler on the 16th. A list of presenters and titles appears on page 4.
- FoGG and Geography Club sponsored a bake sale along Greek Walk on October 4. See page 6.
- The department participated in the recruitment event *Up Close* on October 25. See page 5.
- **Dr. Scott Sheridan** of Kent State University gave a virtual colloquium on October 25. See page 6.
- Homecoming weekend was October 29-30 and once again the department held a tailgating event near Old Central on game day. See page 5.

Upcoming in November:

- Geography Awareness week is November 15-19 – stay tuned for activities, including a GeoBowl trivia contest November 17 at 7 PM. See page 9 for the flyer and QR code to sign up a team.
- There are no classes the week of November 22-26. The 22nd and 23rd are the students’ Fall Break, while university offices are closed the 24th-26th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Farewell Dr. Stadler

Dr. Steve Stadler was feted with a surprise retirement party in the SSH parlor on the afternoon of October 1, 2021 – his official last day at OSU. A contingent of Oklahoma Mesonet personnel made the trip for a special presentation as well as most current Geography faculty. Dr. Stadler’s family was also able to attend (including his grandson Jacob) and several “toasts” were given.

Below at left is the plaque that will be mounted outside the Physical Geography Lab (SSH 345) recognizing Dr. Stadler’s contributions to the creation and maintenance of the Mesonet, along with a large LCD TV that will stream live Mesonet data.

Given the Stadlers’ fondness for cruises, the theme was *bon voyage* as evidenced by the poster and cake for the event (bottom right).

Dr. Stephen J. Stadler Oklahoma Mesonet Pioneer



Dr. Stephen J. Stadler served with distinction for over 40 years as a faculty member in the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University. A prolific researcher, he conducted important studies in atmospheric science and wind power. Dr. Stadler taught a variety of courses and had a positive impact on thousands of undergraduate and graduate students. His experience in meteorology and climatology and his passion for high-quality weather data led to his 30+ year association with the Oklahoma Mesonet. In 1990, Dr. Stadler brought his expertise and collaborative spirit to the newly formed Mesonet Steering Committee. He contributed significantly to the Mesonet’s early design and implementation and to its evolution and long-term success as a world-class network.

The Oklahoma Mesonet delivers real-time measurements of atmospheric and soil conditions from more than 100 monitoring stations located across the state. These observations enable the distribution of thousands of value-added products used by local, state, and federal agencies, weather forecasters, agricultural producers, public safety officials, electric utilities, researchers, students of all ages, and private citizens. The Mesonet is the result of a long-standing partnership between Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Mesonet was commissioned in 1994 and is considered the gold standard in surface observing networks.



Farewell Dr. Stadler



SWAAG and AGX 2021

SWAAG 2021 was held in person in Oklahoma City and virtually October 14-15. Many OSU faculty and staff presented:

Papers:

- MS student **Joseph Frimel**: "A Geopolitical Analysis of Education and Language Policy in Latvia"
- **Dr. Alyson Greiner**: "The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Making of Osage Hills State Park"
- **Dr. Tao Hu**: "Inequality in access to COVID-19 vaccine: a case study of Oklahoma"
- **Dr. Rafiq Islam**: "An Objective Estimation to Determine the Seasonal Onset of South Asian Monsoon"
- **Dr. Rebecca Sheehan**: "Publicly Maneuvering Subjectivities through an Assembly of Plurality: the Camel Toe Lady Steppers in New Orleans's Muses Parade:"
- **Dr. Jose Torres**: "The Blue Economy, Tourism, and Environmental Justice in the Caribbean"

Posters:

- PhD student **Georgina Belem Carrasco-Galvan**: "Becoming Drought Proof? The Role of Subsidies in Land and Water Use in the Southern Great Plains (SPG)"
- **Dr. Allen Finchum**: "Using CLQ to Estimate the Boundary a Vernacular Great Plains and Midwest"
- MS student **Stephanie Grace**: "A GIS Platform for Calculating Livestock Populations around a Point of Interest"
- **Dr. Hongbo Yu**: "Urban Form, Time Constraint, and Gender Difference in Job Accessibility"

The Applied Geography Conference (AGX) took place simultaneously and in tandem with SWAAG (and other regions) with the following OSU paper presentations:

- **Dr. Jon Comer**: "Oklahoma's Red Shift: Trends and Implications"
- PhD student **Fernanda Ramirez Sáenz**: "Spatial Analysis of Covid-19 Vulnerability in the State of Oklahoma"

Fernanda won the Grand Prize for best student paper at the AGX!! Congrats!!!

Departmental News

On Monday, October 25th, OSU hosted *Up-Close*, a recruiting event that was attended by more than 225 high school students. This was an opportunity to showcase our department and undergrad programs in Geography, Global Studies, and GISci. **Dr. Brad Bays** and CARS coordinator **Jean Wang** helped staff the table.



On Saturday, October 30, Geography Club and FoGG co-sponsored a tailgating event before the Homecoming game against Kansas.



Departmental News (cont.)

On Monday, October 4th FoGG and Geography Club held a bake sale fundraiser on Greek Walk in front of SSH.



On Monday, October 25, **Dr. Scott Sheridan** of Kent State University gave a colloquium via Zoom entitled “Heat Vulnerability in a Changing Climate - Can We Acclimatize?”



Faculty Abroad

Dr. Carlos Cordova passed through Moscow on his way to field research in the Pre-Ural region during his sabbatical. He visited the newly built Zaryade Park. Zaryade was an old trade district demolished during the Brezhnev era to build the horrible Hotel Rossiya (the worst of the 1970s Soviet architecture), which was demolished to build the park.



In the background you can see one of the “Seven Sisters”, high-rises built in the Stalinist era of architecture in Moscow, known as Stalinkas. Others include Moscow State University.

Odds and Ends

PhD student **Fernanda Ramirez Sáenz** participated in the 2021 Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial half-marathon on October 3. She trained hard and is proud of this achievement and so are we!



Halloween has been affected by COVID!



JOIN US FOR A ROUND OF GEOGRAPHY TRIVIA AT...

GEOBOWL

"FORMED IN 1920, NAME THE COUNTRY KNOWN TO ITS NATIVES AS AL-JUMHOURIYA AL-LUBNANIYA, WHOSE CAPITAL IS BEIRUT."

"WHAT IS THE TERM FOR A PART OF AN OCEAN OR SEA THAT CUTS FAR INTO THE BORDERING LANDMASS AND MAY CONTAIN ONE OR MORE BAYS?"

NOVEMBER
17TH
7:00-9:00 PM

SSH 035

Sign up here:

