



Geography

Geography Newsletter

October-November 2019

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Fall Happenings

We are in the mad dash towards finals week – are you ready?

There is a Department Meeting scheduled for Friday, November 15 at 3:30 in the Keso Room, as usual.

On Monday, November 18 at 10:30 AM in the Keso Room, MS student Thornton Raskevitz will defend his thesis proposal, which is titled “Phytolith analysis as a paleoecological proxy when examining bison anatomical and behavioral changes in the Great Plains.” The defense is open to OSU faculty, students, and staff.

On Wednesday, November 20, the department will host an informational session for prospective graduate students in the Keso Room from 4-5 PM. Information about how to apply, what Graduate Committees are looking for, and Q&A will all be part of the program, plus pizza and soda.

November 22, the department will host Dr. Daniel Griffith of UT-Dallas. He will give a colloquium at 3:30 in Classroom Building 112 as part of the ConocoPhillips Spotlight on Geography series. The title of the talk is “Spatial Autocorrelation is Everywhere.” A reception will follow in the Union.

As a reminder, Wednesday, November 27 is a student holiday (no classes) but the university is still open for business. Thursday and Friday are university holidays and everything is shut down for the 4-day weekend (including heat!). If you plan on getting some work done, bring your heaters and blankets.



Departmental News

Dr. Thomas LaVanchy attended the 46th International Association of Hydrogeologists Congress in Malaga, Spain in late September. The focus of this year's meeting was "Groundwater management and governance – coping with water scarcity." Thomas can be seen below giving his paper and at bottom with his friend and collaborator James Adamson.



OSU-Azerbaijan Connections

The Geography Department hosted Dr. Jay Singh, the Chief of Mission for the USAID office in Baku, Azerbaijan, as a speaker for our colloquium series on November 6 in the Wes Watkins Center. Dr Singh was here as part of a larger delegation for the “Oklahoma – Azerbaijan Agricultural Forum.” During this event, delegates from Azerbaijan, including Mr. Inam Karimov, the Minister of Agriculture for Azerbaijan, toured facilities at OSU, and are eager to promote a deeper relationship. OSU signed a MOU with the State Agricultural University of Azerbaijan, and the City of Stillwater has entered into a Sister City agreement with Gadabay, Azerbaijan.

In addition to Mr. Karimov, Governor Kevin Stitt (below, at left) and Congressman Markwayne Mullin both spoke at the forum in OKC, as well as Mr. Elin Suleymanov, the Azerbaijani Ambassador to the US (below, center).

Doctoral candidate Brian Gilson (bottom, right) was the initial contact for the University, and played a substantial role in advocating for OSU as the host for this event, as well as in much of the early planning. Additionally, Dr. Reuel Hanks took the lead in coordinating departmental involvement.



Faculty/Student Conference Travel

OSU was very well-represented in Ft. Worth, TX on October 10-11 at the Southwest Division AAG Geography Conference. The Department's GeoBowl team took home 2nd place – Congrats! Presentations were given by:

Undergraduate Students (all part of the GUMP program):

- **Emily Gile:** "Hydropolitics in Central Asia: Has the Rubicon Been Crossed?" Paper
- **Christine Giles:** "Food Deserts in Oklahoma: A Convergence of Research and Narrative." Paper
- **Madahi Lozano:** "The Relation between Wildfires, Prescribed Fires, and Drought in Oklahoma." Poster
- **Addison Van Zandbergen:** "Former Lake Texcoco, Mexico City: Urban Park or Ecological Reserve?" ***Won 3rd Place in the Student Poster Competition!***

Graduate Students:

- **Jesse Andrews:** "Quantifying the Relocation of Urban Greyhound Bus Terminals 1935-2019." Paper
- **Mark Mahar:** "Quantifying Aesthetics: Using Curb Appeal to Evaluate Neighborhoods."

Faculty:

- **Jon Comer (with Tom Wikle and Michael Larson):** "Maps Published in Geography Journals, 1987-2017: A Longitudinal Analysis."
- **Alyson Greiner with Jaryd Hinch:** "An Analysis of the Visual Language of *National Geographic*, 1990-2015."
- **Steve Stadler:** "Threatening Weather Events and Oklahoma Mesonet Web Hits."

Also, a few geographers went to the Applied Geography Conference in Charlotte, NC on October 24-25 and gave papers:

- **Jesse Andrews:** "Quantifying the Relocation of Greyhound Bus Terminals Over Time." ***Won 3rd Place in the Student Paper Competition!***
- **Jon Comer:** "Patterns and Processes of Political Factionalism in the U.S."
- OSU MU Alumna **Burrell Montz** was in attendance as usual – she is a former co-Executive Director of the Conference and is currently at East Carolina State Univ.

Conferences (cont.)



GeoBowl 2nd place team (L-R): Jesse Andrews, Madahi Lozano, Stephen Stumpf, and Addison Van Zandbergen

They have GUMption (L-R): Undergraduate students Emily Gile, Addison Van Zandbergen, Stephen Stumpf, Madahi Lozano, and Christine Giles



Madahi, Stephen, and Addison explore Ft. Worth's Water Gardens

Homecoming Tailgating

Geography personnel celebrated OSU homecoming with a tailgate party on Saturday, October 19.



Murray Hall – 10 years after the Rebirth

The Geography Department moved into Murray Hall 10 years ago October. Here are some before and after photos of a representative office:

