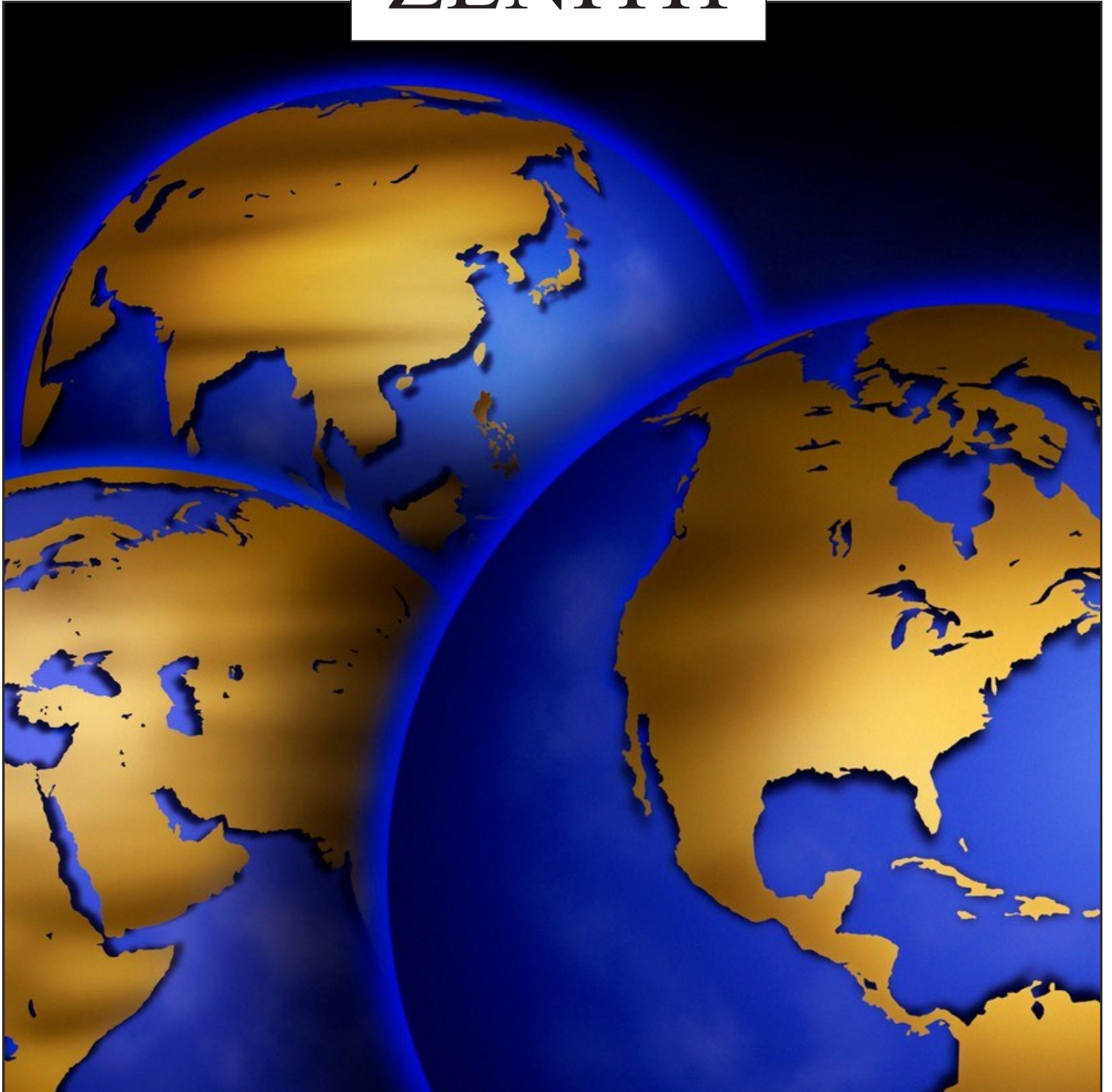




ZENITH



2014

Department of Geography



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All communications should be mailed to:
OSU Geography Department
ATTN: Zenith
337 Murray Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078-4073

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A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

Dear alumni and friends of Geography,

Your Department of Geography is an active and growing place full of creative and productive people. You will see what I mean as you read through these pages of the *Zenith*. In the midst of busy semesters we often forget many details from the year. This annual review allows us to take stock of accomplishments and to share these experiences with our Geography friends and family. We are happy to present another issue and hope that you enjoy reading and sharing the memories with others.

After 15 years in our department, we were sad to see Bruce Battles leave for greener pastures but we were fortunate to find a great replacement as Coordinator of the Center for Applications of Remote Sensing with Jing Wang (page 10), who comes to us from Clark Labs at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. New faculty member Adam Mathews (page 9) completed his Ph.D. at Texas State University and joined us in August, and we are in the process of hiring two new faculty members to begin fall 2015.

While many accomplishments are reflected in the pages of this magazine, a few special accolades really stand out. We were very pleased to select Ava Keenen and Ryan Conner to inaugurate our new Geography Mentors Program that pairs select undergraduate students to work on research with our faculty (in this case, with Drs. Hanks and Bays). Our department's Chi chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon—Geography honor society—was selected by GTU as an Honor Chapter for 2014, one of seven (out of more than 130 GTU chapters) honored this year. Tom Wikle is serving his second year as the 34th President of Gamma Theta Upsilon. Geography doctoral student Matt Haffner received a \$1,500 scholarship in the South Central Arc User Group regional competition at the SCAUG meeting in Oklahoma City. Two of our graduate students—Nick Rose and Thomas Craig—working with Brad Bays' Historical Geography Seminar had nominations successfully admitted to the National Register of Historic Places. Special faculty congratulations go to Reuel Hanks, Jon Comer, Jackie Vadjunec and Alyson Greiner. Reuel was named an Honorary Professor by Suleyman Demirel University in Kazakhstan. Jon received the GPSGA Outstanding Graduate Coordinator Award at the December 2013 University Awards Convocation. Jackie was awarded the 2014 Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence (Social and Behavioral Science), and Alyson was successfully promoted to the rank of Professor in summer 2014.

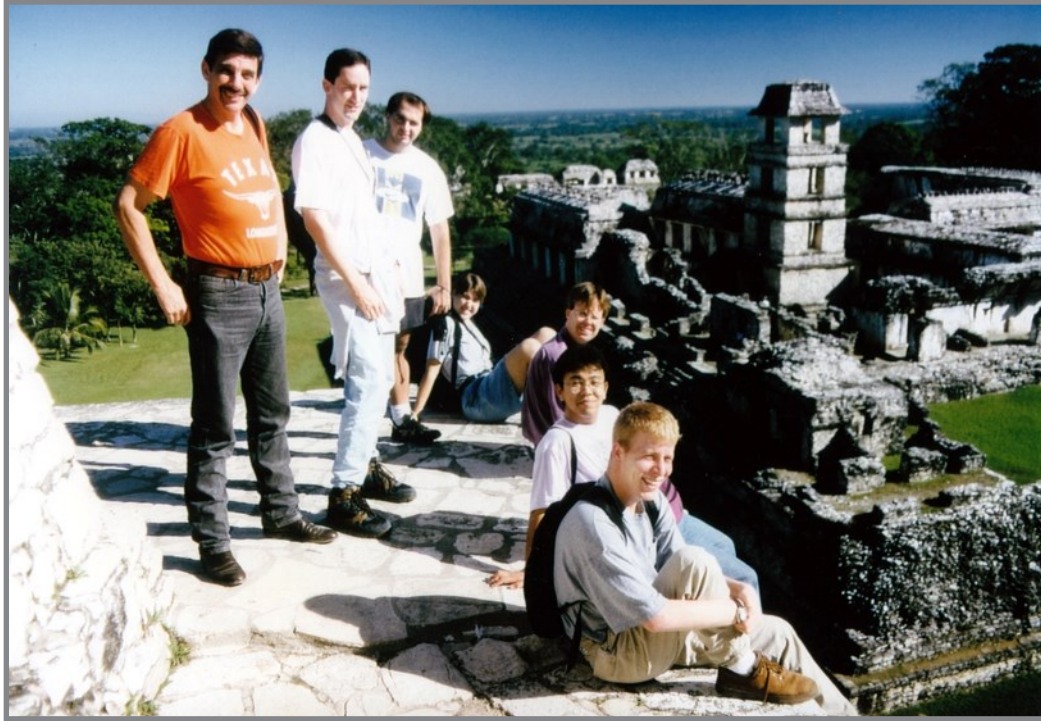
Enjoy your new *Zenith*. We hope to hear from you before the next edition and we look forward to seeing some of you over the next year when your travels bring you back to Oklahoma State.

All the best,

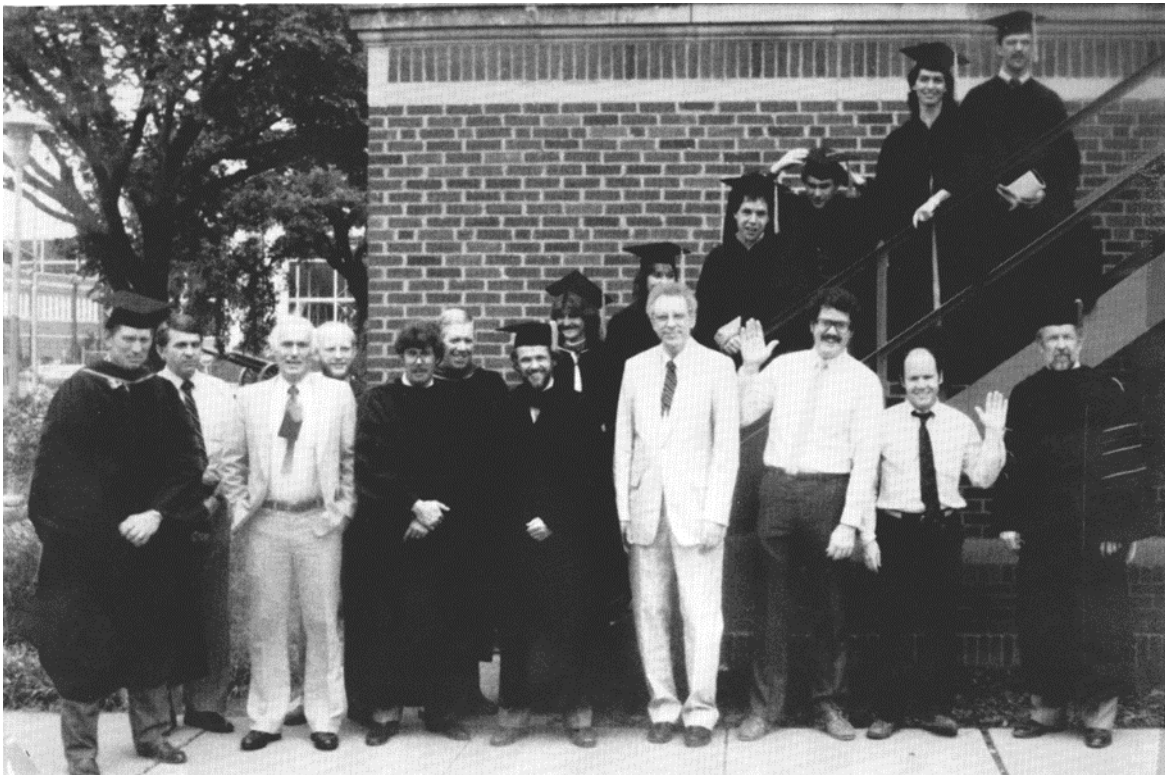


Dale Lightfoot
Professor and Head

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Honduras Study Abroad faculty and participants, December 1995 at Palenque, Mexico (clockwise from left) Bill Doolittle, Matt Bell, Scott Nicholson, Amy Weeks, Dean Lambert, Tadashi Kyuno, and Luke Marzen. Participants not pictured are Duncan Maeer, Mike Owens, and Dale Lightfoot.



May 1984 Commencement, on the south end of Thatcher Hall (the former location of CARS). (left to right): On Ground: Robert Norris, John Vitek, John Rooney, Nick Connelly, Stephen Stadler, Keith Harries, Stephen Tweedie, James Stine, David Butler, George Malanson, and Richard Hecock. On Stairs: Melanie Brown, Beverly Arkeketa, Jim Doerner, Chris Kinder, Belkys Jatar, and Todd Schara.



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AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Geography Scholarship Priorities 2015

Enhance Existing Geography Scholarships for Outstanding Students:

- (1) Robert and Lucy Fite Award for Outstanding First Year Ph.D. student
- (2) John F. Rooney, Jr. Award for Outstanding Junior
- (3) Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship

Finish Endowing the Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Scholarship: To reach the full endowment needed to sustain annual awards to Geography majors embarking on a significant travel experience.

Geography Excellence Fund: This will assist funding for the new Undergraduate Mentor Program initiative, begun in 2014 with limited funding to broaden opportunities for our majors and minors to work with faculty on research projects. Students—selected through a competitive process—co-present their research with their faculty mentor at a professional conference. In addition, this fund will also be accessed to assist graduate student conference travel.

2014-15 Academic Year Awardees:

Norris Conference Travel Award (7 @ \$500 each)
Thomas Craig, Matt Haffner,
Gustavo Ovando, Qinyue Pan, Nick Rose, Yanxia Wu, and Yun Zhao

Norris Field Research Award (2 @ \$1,500 each)
Amy Graham, Kathryn Roberts

Greiner Travel Scholarship (1 @ \$500)
Avonlea Keenen

2013-14 Academic Year Awardees:

Rooney Scholarship for Outstanding Junior (\$2,000)
Emily Ellis

A&S Outstanding Senior
Andrew C. Potter

Norris Scholarship for Outstanding 1st Year Master's Student (\$1,000)
Kathryn Roberts

Fite Scholarship for Outstanding 1st Year Ph.D. Student (\$2,000)
Thomas Craig

Shaull Medal for Teaching Excellence (\$500)
Stephanie Heald



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AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Geography Mentors Program

The Department of Geography Mentors Program allows undergraduate students to work closely with a selected faculty mentor on research. Students are selected through a competitive process and will work with a faculty member on a research project. The student enrolls for 3 hours credit in an independent study course during the fall semester, and the mentor and student then co-present the research at the SWAAG meeting, or another local conference. The student performs the bulk of the presentation, and the department covers the student's registration fee, transportation (via a seat in an OSU department van), and hotel costs. We hope to have as many as six students eventually participating in this program each year. This year Avonlea Keenen and Ryan Conner were selected, and are working with Drs. Hanks and Bays, respectively. The point of the program is to train the student about conducting research in geography, cultivate and expand the student's skills and knowledge, and develop a mutually beneficial mentor-student relationship. Students wishing to apply are required to produce the following documents, which are then reviewed by the Undergraduate Committee, and, if the student is selected to participate, by the faculty member identified as a potential mentor:

1. A letter of interest, articulating why the student wishes to participate, his/her interests in geography, and identifying at least one potential mentor.
2. An unofficial transcript.

2014 Awardees:

Avonlea Keenen



Ryan Conner

Faculty Awards

Jackie Vadjunec won the 2014 Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence, recognized in September 2014 at the Arts and Sciences Convocation.

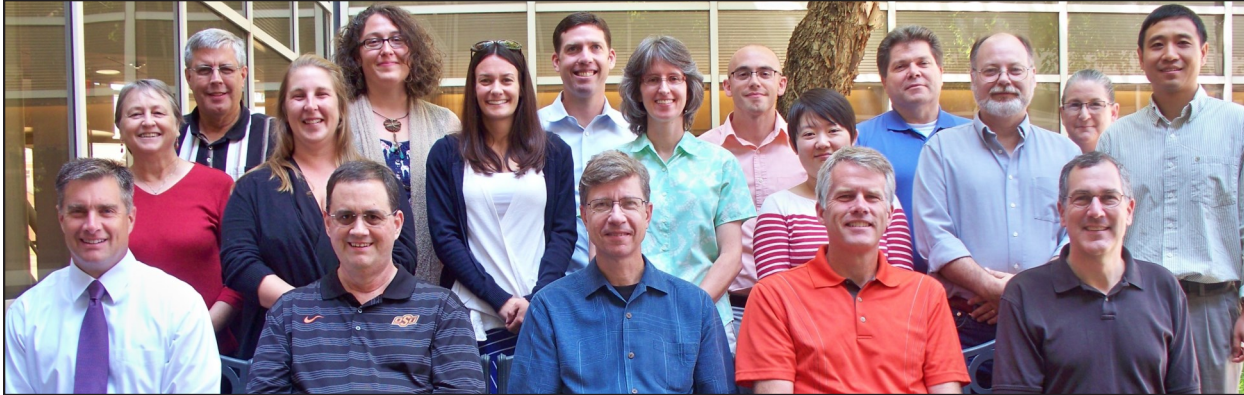
On December 4, Jon Comer was recognized at the University Awards Convocation for receiving the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) Outstanding Graduate Coordinator Award for the 2012-13 year. The award was originally announced in April at a GPSGA ceremony.



Jon receives congratulations from awards presenter Shiretta Ownbey, Associate Dean in Human Sciences, on the convocation stage.



STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS



Standing (L-R): Ann Adkins, Steve Stadler, Nicole Colston, Jacqueline Vadjunec, Amy Frazier, John Davenport, Alyson Greiner, Adam Mathews, Jing Wang, Reuel Hanks, Michael Larson, Emily Williams, and Hongbo Yu.

Seated (L-R): Brad Bays, Allen Finchum, Dale Lightfoot, Jon Comer, and Tom Wikle

ANN ADKINS finished her fourth year in the Geography Department in August. She decided not to attend the National Scrabble Tournament this year in Buffalo, NY, but she is tentatively planning to attend the one next year in Reno, NV. Ann and her husband, Dale Adkins, took on a challenging project this summer—they bought a used hunting cabin in the Cheyenne Valley west of the Gloss Mountains on the Cimarron River, and they are renovating it in their spare time. As you can see from the photo, the river was getting pretty dry when Ann's grandsons came for a visit. The boys got busy depositing fish into deeper water after rescuing them from drying pools. They would scoop them up (mud and all) in both hands and unceremoniously drop them into the water. The technique may not have been smooth, but the end result was perfect!



DR. BRAD BAYS has been active in the area of historic preservation for the last few years. With funding from the U.S. National Park Service, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OK/SHPO), and Oklahoma State University, Brad completed Oklahoma's statewide thematic survey of historic barns. The survey has resulted in about 1,000 additions to the state Historical Society's Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, including over 100 eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In five years Brad spent more than six months of workdays in the field, logged over 50,000 miles on OSU vehicles, endured countless barking yard dogs, and was twice chased from pastures by angry bulls. Aside from getting to visit every township in the state's 77 counties, his favorite part was meeting hundreds of rural Oklahomans, 99 percent of whom welcomed him onto their places and educated him about farm and ranch life. Brad is serving as the 2014-15 College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Fellow for Engagement and is temporarily stationed in the A&S Dean's office. In this role Brad is coordinating college efforts to define, document, and promote engaged research and instructional activities that fall within the purview of OSU's land-grant mission by working with other colleges to develop interdisciplinary collaboration and relationships with community partners. In October Brad served as local arrangements chair for the 46th annual conference of the Pioneer America Society (PAS), which met in Oklahoma City. The PAS, which just renamed itself the International Society for Landscape, Place, and Material Culture, is a tight-knit band of scholars dedicated to preserving cultural landscapes and "traditional" research in American cultural geography.

APRIL CHIPMAN continues to work on the projects brought into the department via the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Foundation (AAPGF) and Oklahoma State University (OSU) Geographic Information System (GIS) Consortium. She continues to expand the breadth of her knowledge with ESRI software, and soon could be considered the Subject Matter Expert (SME) for the department.



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STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

DR. NICOLE COLSTON: I recently joined the OSU Geography Department as a postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Jackie Vadjunec and Dr. Julie Thomas (my host mentor at UNL). This NSF-funded fellowship titled Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability (SEES) attends to the increasing need to identify processes of adaptive decision-making in the face of climate change and to study the conditions that enhance or constrain community coordination. My specific research goal is to advance knowledge about processes of participatory communication between scientists and community stakeholders about the sustainable co-management of water resources. Over the summer, I was excited to share a groundwater display with children and parents while recruiting at the Union County Fair. This semester, I am engaged in collaborative research with Vadjunec and her graduate research team collecting household surveys in Oklahoma and New Mexico. I am gaining valuable fieldwork experience and learning a lot about ranching and farming! Next semester, I will continue my meso-level efforts to trace the existing pathways, players, and partnerships for adaptive drought communication and education across the Great Plains. This preliminary research is concerned with the intersections of agricultural, cultural, and technological narratives of drought and is meant to inform future collaborative efforts to create interactive spaces for sustained scientist and citizen dialogue about sustainable co-management of water resources.

DR. JON COMER had another busy travel year during 2013-14. Not content to have spent two weeks in the British Isles in July 2013 with his family, he went to Annapolis for a conference in October 2013, Tampa for AAG in April 2014, and led an 8-day study abroad trip to Amsterdam, Paris, and London, including a short stop in Brussels, Belgium. Jon is planning a study abroad trip to Eastern Europe (Budapest, Krakow, Prague, and Vienna) in May 2015 (with Tom Wikle), making his sixth trip to Europe in a span of 4 years. When he was in Stillwater, Jon maintained his usual load of teaching, graduate advising, service, and publishing. Family-wise, son Eric started his second year at OSU in August 2014 while daughter Alex is doing a “victory lap” (aka fifth-year senior) in pursuit of a double major in marketing and management. Wife Shannon still enjoys teaching first grade at Sangre Ridge Elementary School.

DR. CARLOS CORDOVA taught his first online class in the Spring 2014, Geography of Africa. For his first online course it wasn't bad. But he still misses the physical presence of students, even if they are asleep, texting, or just there. Another event in the Spring: Carlos and his student Tom Cox gave a talk about mammoths in Oklahoma to participants in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in February and to members of the Ponca City chapter of the Oklahoma Archaeological Society in February 2014. Elephants, mammoths, grasses (not grass), soils, pollen, phytoliths, sediments, Neanderthals and Modern Humans haunt him every day in his office, his microscope lab, his processing lab (NRC 018, aka “The Bunker”, his home, and his hideaways. His new book *Crimea and the Black Sea: An Environmental History* (published by I.B. Tauris, London, UK) is already listed in Amazon.com, to be out in February 2015. In the Fall 2014 Carlos is on sabbatical leave. His sabbatical activities include: (1) more research on the African elephant and grasses in 3 countries (Namibia, Botswana and South Africa), (2) attending meetings in South Africa, Belgium and Mexico, (3) the finishing of a third book (on Proboscidean-vegetation relationships in Ice Age North America and modern Africa), and (4) a proposal and two sample chapters for a new book on geoarchaeology and environmental history. The latter book is supposed to cover theoretical and methodological aspects of geoarchaeology since the publication of Karl Butzers' 1982 *Archaeology as Human Ecology*. Finally, as if the above was not enough, Carlos and two colleagues are editing a festschrift for Karl W. Butzer (Carlos's PhD advisor), which will be published as a special volume in *Geoarchaeology: An International Journal*. But among the fun things Carlos has been doing other things: In September he went to Russia on a literary tour (to spend the money he should be saving for his retirement). Whenever he has a chance he writes fiction (short stories and drama). His dream is to become a writer upon his retirement –so to speak.

DR. JOHN DAVENPORT Dr. Davenport joined the Department of Geography in 2012 as a visiting assistant professor after working for the Montana Natural Heritage Program through the University of Montana. He has academic interests in Natural Resource Conservation especially as it relates to the environmental and cultural aspects of ecosystem restoration and species reintroduction projects. Following the completion of a research project related to bison reintroduction in the Montana

Continued on next page...



STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

High Line region, he has recently begun research on the reintroduction of Sea Eagles in the British Isles. Additionally, he has begun a secondary line of research concerning the historical geographic factors that contributed to the current global distribution of astronomical observatories. A more thorough understanding of this distribution reveals that the development of a network of celestial research facilities was guided by both the practical aspects of site specific requirements, including geophysical considerations, *and* broader cultural trends that reflect and reinforce the emergence of a post-colonial scientific enterprise.

DR. ALLEN FINCHUM: During 2013-14 Allen continued his longstanding work with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office as well as working on some other small research projects of personal interest. Allen is still grateful for the support that Mike Larson gives to the SHPO project and its' ongoing success. One of the more personal projects is a more "scientific" formulation of the vernacular region work that he did with Brad Bays about a decade ago. After been led toward some interesting pieces on surface modeling by Steven Ericson he has been able to build a more solid foundation for the vernacular surface approach. During the Summer of 2014 he worked with Nick Rose to upgrade and simplify the Department's server situation, and this has led not only to better service for the Department, but to a significant cost saving as well. He attended both the ESRI Annual Meeting and the AAG. His son Curtis continues as a student at OSU, and Tanya continues her work with the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program.

DR. AMY FRAZIER has spent the last year working on a National Science Foundation grant to develop methods to overcome some of the scaling disparities that are inherent in remotely sensed data. Remote sensing data are captured at a spatial scale that is established at the time of sensor development, yet objects on the ground are often much smaller than the scale of data collection. This leads to mixed pixels in which multiple land covers contribute to the reflectance from a sensor. This project is focused on developing methods to downscale remote sensing data in order to predict land cover patterns at resolutions finer than the data were originally collected by the sensor. The outcome of this research grant thus far has been a manuscript 'A New Data Aggregation Technique to Improve Landscape Metric Downscaling' published in the journal *Landscape Ecology* as well as a presentation 'Downscaling Landscape Metrics' at the United States regional meeting for the International Association of Landscape Ecology (US-IALE), which was held in Anchorage, Alaska during May 2014. In addition to this research, Amy has also been working on a project to utilize imaging spectroscopy to study potential biofuel crops including sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) by developing remote sensing indices that can be used to indicate crop health and biomass during the growing season. This research project includes collaborations with faculty in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, and the long-term goal is to enable remote measurements of biomass to inform energy decisions.

DR. ALYSON GREINER: Last November Alyson was invited to Hong Kong to present a paper in the colloquium series at Hong Kong Baptist University. She and life partner Luis had a wonderful visit, made possible largely through the very gracious assistance and suggestions of one of our department's own graduates, Daniel Yuen as well as the host department. Thank you again, Daniel, for insider tips about getting around the city and sites to see! The AAG meeting in the spring afforded a nice opportunity to make a first-time visit to Tampa, Florida. There were many surprising discoveries, but a most memorable yet unsavory one was an impromptu tour of a small cigar company where these malodorous things are still hand-rolled. Thankfully, this summer was decidedly *the* year to stay in Stillwater for the summer, which is what the Greiner-Montes household did. For Oklahoma, the temperatures were downright tolerable for a change. Much to our surprise, some leftover cabbage seedlings managed to grow all summer long. Over the summer, Alyson also got the exciting news that her promotion to full professor was approved. This year also brought exhaustive work on the second edition of *Visualizing Human Geography*, and a historic preservation project related to women significant in Oklahoma's history. Meanwhile, Luis has pretty much settled in to his role as department head of Chemistry at the University of Central Oklahoma, where the workday is rarely dull. One student recently lost his pants, literally, during lab when he accidentally splattered solvent onto them and they began to get pronounced holes. Yes, their department does in fact keep spare pants (not unlike square pants) in stock, for such emergencies.



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STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

DR. REUEL HANKS: 2014 has been a year of milestones for the Hanks household. Reuel presented papers at the meetings of the International Studies Association (Toronto) and AAG (Tampa) in March and April, and during the spring semester taught a special seminar on the Geopolitics of Central Eurasia for the Honors College. The course was successful enough that the Honors Program requested that it be offered again in the spring of 2015. He had peer-reviewed book chapters accepted for publication in forthcoming collections from University of Kentucky Press and Northern Illinois University Press, and another book chapter accepted for a volume on national identity in Central Asia in a volume produced by Lexington Press. In early May, Oydin graduated with her doctoral degree in English, successfully defending her dissertation on the reception history of John Milton in Russia and the Soviet Union (hurray!). Later that month while visiting Suleyman Demirel University in Kazakhstan, Reuel was appointed an honorary professor of the university and outfitted in traditional Kazakh garb (see photo). Kami Hanks passed her own milestone when she entered the pre-K program at Sangre Ridge Elementary School in August, graduating to the "big school" as she calls it. She stays busy taking dance and gymnastics classes after school, visiting her grandma and attending a plethora of social functions. In October, Reuel learned that he had been appointed to the Don and Kathy Humphreys Endowed Chair of International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, pending approval by the OSU Board of Regents. The Chair will generate funds to be awarded to qualified undergraduate and graduate students for travel abroad experiences of at least two months. Finally, in November Reuel will be participating in a workshop on security in Central and South Asia at Australian National University, and Oydin and Kami are coming along, too, in search of kangaroos, koalas and TimTams (if you do not know what the latter are, ask Adam Mathews).



MICHAEL LARSON: November 2014 will start Michael's nineteenth year as Coordinator of Cartography Services. While Michael performs extraordinary work for the faculty members and students of the Department of Geography, he also continues to support faculty, staff and students from other departments on campus as well as work for various entities, large and small, public and private, off campus. Michael's focus is on two major project areas, his work for the Association of American Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), and his role directing the data collection field work for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Oklahoma Landmark Inventory (OLI) database update. Continuing his role as an educator, Fall 2014, was Michael's twelfth year teaching the Computer Cartography course. In addition to teaching, he continues to be involved with assisting a number of the Geography faculty with their field courses. Michael hopes that through his hard work and positive attitude, he will continue to represent the Geography Department, its faculty, staff and students in a professional and competent manner.

DR. DALE LIGHTFOOT hit the two decade mark—20 years completed at OSU—this year and enjoys (almost) everything about the job. Teaching remains a joy (most days), plenty of research projects are in queue, and he was recently reappointed for a 6th term as Head of the Department of Geography. Two of three presentations this year were invited and externally-funded trips, including a visit to The University of Texas for a presentation and an international conference in Durham, England on the archaeology and environment of the qanat. He also offered a presentation at the annual AAG meeting in Tampa, Florida on the revival of karez irrigation in vulnerable communities in Iraq. He was invited to write the forward to a new book on *Indigenous Engineering of the Qanat* (Springer), published an article (with Tom Wikle) in *Focus on Geography* on "Landscapes of the Slave Trade in Senegal and The Gambia," and published an invited book chapter on the "Function, Distribution, and History of Old World Qanats" in a new UNESCO volume on *Water History and Humanity*. Dale co-directed (with Jackie Vadjunec) his 4th study abroad trip to Morocco and, after a fun two weeks with students in North Africa, flew south to travel with Tom Wikle through southern Africa. Highlights included Victoria Falls, an overnight trip through Zimbabwe on a train that hasn't been fixed since the British departed, pony trekking through the Drakensberg of Lesotho, hiking the backcountry in Royal Natal National Park, whale watching off the coast of St. Lucia, and two days of safaris in Kruger National Park.

Continued on next page...

STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

On the return to Casablanca, Dale detoured for a trip through Ghana, Togo, and Benin with his son, Adam; an amazing adventure with traditional village life, visiting primary schools to offer gifts, and interesting experiences with slave history and voodoo culture. The family vacation this year for Dale and Tory was England-Ireland-Scotland, where the landscape was lovely, pub grub was tasty, and the sheep always plentiful. Adam is a full-time student at OSU majoring in Business. Tory works as Manager of Research Support Services in the College of Arts & Sciences at OSU and the new Doc-Tory Lightfoot completed her dissertation and Ph.D. in Geography in May.



DR. ADAM MATHEWS: This past year was a very eventful one: I wrapped up my Ph.D. at Texas State University in May, moved to Stillwater to join the Department in June, soon after got married in New York State, and spent the remainder of the summer traveling in New York and as far as Medellín, Colombia. The transition to Stillwater has gone smoothly and I have really enjoyed joining the Department. In terms of work, I have recently had manuscripts comprising the remaining portions of my dissertation accepted in the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* and the *Journal of Applied Remote Sensing*. These research articles outline the use of unmanned aerial vehicle remote sensing to analyze spatial variation in vine performance at a Texas Hill Country vineyard. As for upcoming research, I currently have several collaborative research projects beginning or ongoing with other faculty within the Department and across campus as well as at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Texas State University, and Charles Sturt University (Australia). As for the immediate future, I am looking forward to attending, along with Dr. Hanks and undergraduate geography major Ava Keenen, the Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) conference this October in Fort Worth, Texas. Further down the road, Dr. Cordova and I are offering a study abroad trip to South Africa this coming summer (2015). Exciting times ahead!

DR. REBECCA SHEEHAN is on sabbatical in fall 2015 and has worked on and begun several new research projects in the past year. *Emerging Adulthood in Time and Space: An Interdisciplinary Theoretical Approach* is an article being worked with Amanda Williams, a PhD graduate of Oklahoma State University, who is now a professor in Human Sciences at Mississippi State University. Dr. Williams noted that little research deals with homeless youth development, specifically how geographies of their environment, social networks, and daily paths, may affect their development into adults. Therefore, we show how geography can significantly inform the theory and methods with which we understand emerging adulthood for youth experiencing different forms of homelessness. It is currently under final revisions for *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. *Constituting "Nuisance" in New Orleans's Public Spaces through Decree and Defiance* builds upon my existing research on New Orleans's Jackson Square, this project examines how "public nuisances" have been constructed and their social and economic implications to marginalized groups and to public space. Specifically, I am tracing how legislation and other sanctions have shaped public space in the city. This fall most of my research has been in the archives in New Orleans, where I am researching animals' roles in the city and its public spaces. Additionally, I am focusing on noise/sound geographies in terms of how "nuisance" has been constructed but also including what other/alternate constructions exist for noise/sound. Little research on all-female, largely white marching krewes exists in New Orleans; yet, their presence the city's Mardi Gras and beyond has increased dramatically in the last ten years. My study of *New Orleans's All-Female Marching Krewes: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Class* aims to show how these krewes contribute, negotiate, and rework New Orleanian culture. Specifically, I aim to understand how race, gender, and class intersect through play, performance, and praxis in these marching krewes and how they inform the culture of the city. To be sure, a large part of these krewes' public performances is about play—gender play. Their costumes, dances, and interactions with each other and their audiences are laden with playful antics. Therefore, I will use multiple methods—interviewing, archival research, and participant observation—to gain a more complex understanding of their cultural geographies. While I have conducted some preliminary research in Fall 2014, the bulk of this study will take place in Spring 2015.



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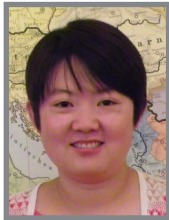


STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

DR. STEVE STADLER is attempting to persevere through his 35th year in the department. “Honestly, how can one handle everyone else reminding you that you are the most aged of the group?” He is still marshalling the logistics of the physical geography labs and has now produced the professionally “slick” version of the iconic *Laboratory Manual*. He is still doing climatology, meteorology, and physical geography classes. With PhD student Keeley Heise he has produced an on-line version of meteorology. Steve is currently finishing a couple of articles about geographic education and writing on his long-term research about Oklahoma wind power. Steve’s wife, Barb, is a math instructor at Northern Oklahoma College in Stillwater and loves her job even while speaking of retirement more often. Last summer, the Stadlers traveled through China observing the fact that not much reminded them of Oklahoma. It proved to be a great experience. The picture is of Steve and Barb in Shanghai drinking in the massive economic growth of China.



DR. JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: I continue to work on a variety of human-environment issues in the Americas. I spent the summer in Morocco co-teaching the Moroccan Cultural and Natural Resources class with Dr. Dale Lightfoot. Morocco continues to be a source of inspiration for me. I spent the remaining part of the summer with graduate students Amy Graham and Kathryn Roberts in the grasslands of New Mexico and the Oklahoma Panhandle continuing my NSF-funded research on issues related to land-use, vulnerability, and resiliency, especially under drought conditions. The field trips with students continue. Last Fall, the students of my Field Techniques and Mixed methods classes explored Robber’s Cave State Park. We worked on various mapping and tourism-related research projects for the Oklahoma State Parks Office of Tourism and Main Street Wilburton. In the Spring, students from the GPS class worked on mapping projects with officials from the Great Salt Plains State Park.



JING WANG is starting her first year as the Coordinator of the Center for Applications of Remote Sensing. Jing worked as a research and project specialist at Clark Labs for two years. She has completed several GIS/RS projects funded by the National Children’s Study, Wildlife Conservation Society, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and ESRI. After joining our department Jing has been helping the students/faculty with technical issues, managing servers and writing programs to analyze remotely sensed data for the OK Fire model in a project with the department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. In her spare time she enjoys hiking, traveling, and designing terrariums.

DR. TOM WIKLE is presently completing his 15th year as Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition to offering a section of introductory physical geography each fall, Tom continues to teach short-term study abroad courses. This last year Tom and Jon Comer offered a course that explored the cultural geography of Amsterdam and Paris with a brief stop in Brussels. Tom then continued on to southern Africa where he met Dale Lightfoot for a journey through Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland, Lesotho, and Mozambique. Traveling by commercial aircraft, mini-bus, taxi, colonial-era train, and rented 4x4, their adventure included a visit to Victoria Falls, whale watching in the Indian Ocean, and day/evening safaris in South Africa’s Kruger National Park. Last year Tom and Dale published a paper in *FOCUS on Geography* that described visits to West African slave forts located in Senegal and The Gambia. Tom also co-authored a paper with Jon Comer for *Papers in Applied Geography* that looked at changes in television broadcasting. Over the next year Tom will be working with longtime research collaborator Guy Bailey on a project called the Linguistic Survey of the Southern Great Plains that will explore language variation and change in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. In 2014 Tom’s wife Missy took over leadership of OSU’s LASSO (Learning and Student Success Opportunity Center) in addition to her responsibilities as Director of New Student Orientation. Both of their children are OSU students. Paige (22) will graduate in May with a degree in psychology and Garrett (20) is a sophomore majoring in political science.



STAFF AND FACULTY NEWS

EMILY WILLIAMS: Since the last time I wrote for the Zenith, our son Bryn spent a semester in Dubrovnik, Croatia, where he studied Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs. Tom and I traveled to Dubrovnik just before Christmas and brought Bryn home with us via England and Wales. It was a trip totally on the run, with a hitch in every leg of our trip, but they added to the adventure. We spent Christmas Eve with Tom's uncle in York, England, then off to south Wales to visit more of Tom's family, staying in a farm house built in the 1500s or 1600s up in the hills, and traveling back and forth to the beach town of Tenby, to Haverfordwest and to St. Clear, where the family hails from. A wonderful time, truly.



Walled Old City of Dubrovnik



Fireplace in 1500-1600 farmhouse in Wales.



View from kitchen window of Welsh farmhouse.

This summer we traveled to Taos, NM, for a week. I've had it on my bucket list to learn how to make tamales. We made a special trip to Santa Fe so I could take a class at the Santa Fe School of Cooking and could learn how to make the tamales. Had so much fun and learned a lot—more than just how to make tamales! We did day trips to the Rio Grande Gorge and the bridge that crosses it high above, then saw the Earthships, houses built completely of recycled materials and environmentally/ecologically sound; of course we visited the Taos Pueblo, and rode the Rail Runner train to Albuquerque from Santa Fe for supper at Tucano's. We visited the Doel Reed Center for the Arts, but nothing was going on while we were there. We had a good, relaxing and cool time together as a family.

DR. HONGBO YU started his tenth year as a faculty member in the department this fall. In the past year, he resumed the position as the Coordinator of the GIS Certificate program in the department, and continued to work on GIS and transportation related research projects. He teamed up with a group of researchers from OSU and OU and worked on an ODOT funded project, which focuses on finding better ways to forecast and detect the formation of black ice on the road surface and effectively deliver warning messages to drivers on the road. On another one-year project funded by the OSU Planning Grants for Establishing Creative Interdisciplinary Programs, he joined the effort with colleagues in the College of Engineering to develop a portable 3D digitization system to quickly map an entire building and automatically produce a 3D digital representation with labeled critical components that can be used in emergency response and management. Ms. Qinyue (Arlene) Pan, a Ph.D. student in the department, provided great assistance on these projects as a graduate research associate. Hongbo was very happy to see three of his graduate students complete their degrees in the past academic year. Leonard Bombom successfully defended his dissertation titled *Deciphering Activity Patterns Using the Time-geography Framework: A Case Study of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater Campus* in last November and graduated with his Ph.D. degree. Scott Kusselson defended his thesis titled *Investigating How Land Use Patterns Affect Traffic Accident Rates near Frontage Road Cross-sections: A Case Study on Interstate 610 in Houston, Texas* in the fall of 2013 and earned his Master's degree. A few months earlier, Matt Haffner also completed his thesis on *Measuring Social Interaction Potential in Oklahoma City and Tulsa*, and is now working towards a Ph.D. degree in the department. Hongbo enjoyed working with every one of them and wishes them the best.



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FORMER STAFF/FACULTY NEWS

DR. JERRY CROFT (Professor Emeritus): Jerry retired from OSU in 1992 after teaching classes for 25 years and has continued to teach at the University of Iowa. On May the 16th, Jerry was honored by the College of Arts & Sciences at Iowa for 50 years of teaching where two of his former students said nice things about him and then his wife, Laurie, handed him a letter that President Obama sent him, so it was a fabulous day. Currently, he is in his 51st year of teaching International Studies for the University of Iowa and has agreed to "slow down" to one class per semester. Jerry will celebrate his 75th birthday in December, and another big event is scheduled for the spring 2015 semester at OSU, as the very first Jerry Croft Teaching Geography Endowed Scholarship will be awarded. Jerry is planning on visiting the campus during this big event. Then he will be going to Sweden and Norway in June with his two daughters, Jennifer and Anne Marie, for a Father's Day Field Trip visiting the Nobel Prize Museum and looking for the Arctic Circle. All is well in Croftville.

DR. RICHARD HECOCK (Professor Emeritus) is in his second year of full-retirement, sort of. There is some continued advocacy work for enhancing water quality in Minnesota lakes and their protection from aquatic invasive species. There is a bit of consulting too, mainly having to do with development of management plans for water resources. There is ongoing service on several city and county committees, as well as with Rotary. Other hours are filled up with a little biking (in-season), swimming (pool, mostly), cutting firewood, maintaining ski trails, and gardening. The Reverend Georgia continues her support of the Episcopal church and a wide range of other local groups; i.e., food pantry, crisis center, United Way, etc. Recently she has been working on educating folks about sex-trafficking problems. The New Year found the Hecoeks in Cuba to look at sustainable agriculture and community water supply projects. A springtime (April) visit was to Eastern Europe—Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia. Otherwise travels involved a couple of East Coast swings to visit daughter Bess (Brooklyn) and son Doug (Lewisburg, PA). The families reciprocated to sample both winter and summer northwoods activities.

DR. JOHN ROONEY (Professor Emeritus): Not much new has happened to us and our family since our last communication. Our three children and ten grandchildren are all thriving. Beth, husband John Powers, and three offspring are completing their 25th year in San Francisco. Our grandson, Ryan completed his MBA at the University of South Florida after graduating from the University of Arizona. Liam is a junior at Creighton and just finished a semester abroad in Chile. Kyra graduated from St. Ignatius in San Francisco in June and is now a freshman at Notre Dame, just 90 minutes south of us in Michigan. Kate, and husband Bob Harstad, are still in Edmond. Sons Jack and Luke are following in the footsteps of their dad, excelling in basketball and all other sports. We get to see them often. Son, Dan and his wife Jacqy, plus five little girls, Tory, Tatum, Mia, Reese and Devyn, finally moved into their new home in Owasso, a suburb of Tulsa. Major Dan is flying again out of an air Force base in Panama City FL. He has completed three tours in Iraq, but, most importantly, the Folds of Honor Foundation which he set up to provide college scholarships to spouses and children of American servicemen and women killed or permanently disabled in the Mid-East conflicts is meeting its goals. I serve on The Board of Directors of the Foundation. We raise money through the Patriot Golf Day initiative, in partnership with the PGA of America, the U.S. Golf Association and several corporate sponsors including Anheuser Busch, Titelist, Polo, Quick Trip, Jimmy John's, Fifth Third Bank and Outback Steakhouse. So far we have brought in over \$50M and awarded over 9,000 University scholarships. Sandy and I continue to live in two places: Stillwater in the winter and spring and in Grand Haven, MI in the summer and fall. We are still very involved in The Patriot Golf Club in Owasso, which opened in May 2010. Please check it out at patriotgolfclub.com. It is a partnership with our son Dan and several Tulsa friends. We believe that it is a truly special place and invite you to come for golf or a visit to the Folds of Honor headquarters. I thank Tom Daxon, Mark Miller and Jerry Croft for their kind and interesting comments in the last issue of The Zenith. Tom if you said I got you into Graduate School with a phone call, I probably did. If you can do it by phone, why bother with a letter.



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FORMER STAFF/FACULTY NEWS

DR. STEVE TWEEDIE (Associate Professor Emeritus): This year's travels included a March trip to Santa Fe to give the James Beard committee my suggestions on revising their chef award regions. They didn't change anything. Then I enjoyed Tampa and other parts of Florida during the AAG meetings in April. June found me and Pat in North Carolina with David at the Ocracoke Festival, then back to Ocracoke for our grandson's 10th birthday in August. On the way back, we saw Keith and Betty Harries in Maryland. After that, we spent three weeks in October visiting Ann and her family in Edinburgh, with a side trip to the Cinque Terre in Italy. We will be in Ocracoke again for Christmas then I'll be part of a session on retirement communities at the AAG in Chicago next April. That leaves us nine months for walking our cats and enjoying life in our Oakcreek Cohousing Community.



The Tweedies at their Oakcreek house.

2014 VISITORS

In addition to friends and alumni of OSU Geography who visited during Homecoming in October 2014, several former students and friends of the department also came to visit since we last published the Zenith. It is always great to see you and we welcome your visit!

Bruce Whitesell (M.S. 1986) visited OSU with daughters Kelsi and Rebecca in March 2014.

Amanda Coleman (M.S. 2001) visited in March 2014 and delivered a presentation for the department's colloquium series.

Hawta Khayyat (Ph.D. 2012) visited in April 2014 and stayed in Stillwater for a few days. He was visiting from Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq on a business trip to Texas and diverted to Stillwater to see friends.

Shellie (Rudd) Willoughby (M.S. 2000) visited in April 2014 and gave a presentation for the department's colloquium series.

2014 VISITING SCHOLARS

Kalibek Assylbekov, Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan: dissertation research (foreign advisor, Reuel Hanks), February-March 2014.

Zhandos Mukayev, Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan: dissertation research (foreign advisor, Reuel Hanks), February-March 2014.

Zhanar O zgeldinova, Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan: dissertation research (foreign advisor, Reuel Hanks), February-March 2014.

Yosef Mammo, President of Hawassa University, Ethiopia: visiting scholar for GIS research project during a sabbatical, April-May 2014.



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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

MASTER'S STUDENTS:

Liz Armstrong
Clay Barrett
Carson Bode
Jordan Brasher
Brian Gilson
Ben Hemingway
Stephanie Koehn
Christopher Krieger
Junlong Liu
Matthew O'Neill
Gustavo Ovando
Kathryn Roberts
William Van Ness
Lauren Wood

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Samayita Bandyopadhyay
Thomas Cox
Thomas Craig
Steven Ericson
William Flynn
Robert Garrett
Ladan Ghahramani
Amy Graham
Matt Haffner
Stephanie Heald
Keeley Heise
Jeremy Henning
Puja Jana
Kimberly Johnson
Nguyen Le
Jordan McAlister
Stuart McAllister
William McBrayer
Qinyue Pan
Adam Payne
Nick Rose
Siewe Siewe
Sean Thomas
Amanda Weber
Yanxia Wu
Yun Zhao

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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG is a first-year Masters student. She earned her BS in leisure studies with an option in leisure service management from OSU in 2014. Her research interests involve health issues in Oklahoma.

CLAY BARRETT is an OSU alum with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences with a Natural Resources Management focus. This is his final year in the Master's program and the topic of his thesis is remote sensing of water quality in eastern Oklahoma using Landsat. Clay lives on a small acreage in the country with his wife, son, four hens and Brewster the Rooster. On weekends he enjoys participating in landcover change with his chainsaw Vera.

JORDAN BRASHER is a first-year Masters student, and he earned his BS in geoscience with a concentration in geography and geographic techniques from Middle Tennessee State University in 2014. His interests are in folk culture and architecture and historic agricultural landscapes in the Upland South of the United States. He enjoys watching sports, being outdoors, and reading and writing.

THOMAS COX: I am a first-year PhD student from Claremore, OK. I received my BS in geography in May of 2012 from OSU and my MS in Geography from OSU in July of 2014. I am studying and conducting geoarchaeological research under my advisor Dr. Carlos Cordova. Geoarchaeology is multidisciplinary in that it encompasses geography, geology, and archaeology techniques. My specific focus is on mammoth sites in Oklahoma. My Master's thesis "The spatial and geomorphological analysis of mammoth sites in western Oklahoma" focused on analyzing mammoth sites and then comparing those sites to other sites looking for commonalities. As I proceed in to the PhD program, I will continue my research into mammoths, focusing specifically on the Pre-Clovis culture. I am also a GTLA with a love for cartography. My two greatest achievements are my children, both of whom are serving their country in the United States Army at Fort Campbell, KY. My motto for this year is, "the only person that can let me down is me." Oh, and "diggity, diggity, dig."

THOMAS CRAIG: I am a second-year PhD student, with interest in cultural and historical geography, more specifically looking at the issues of historical and contemporary representations of the Other, and the place of geographic education within this context. I have recently assumed the role of research assistant to Dr. Brad Bays, in which we plan to examine a number of topics within geographic education, as well as popular culture and representation. I have two forthcoming presentations. One is titled "Capturing Orientalism: Using Photovoice to Engage Undergraduate Learning Environments", which will be presented in December at the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting in Washington D.C. The other presentation, tentatively titled "Undergraduates Remember Geography: Using Children's Literature to Understand Sense of Place", has recently been accepted into the Gail Hobbs Student Paper competition, organized by the Geographic Education Specialty Group for April's AAG meeting in Chicago. I live in Stillwater with my wife, Keira, and our two children, Jackson (5) and Madison (2).

WILLIAM FLYNN: Ph.D. student William Flynn will defend his three-article dissertation *Geographic Perspectives on Contemporary / Smooth Jazz* on November 21, 2014. William presented some of his research earlier this year at the AAG Conference in Tampa and then temporarily relocated back to Stillwater to spend much of the summer and fall finishing his research and writing. Earlier this year, William became certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP) and was recognized as the Employee of the Year by the City of New Braunfels, where he worked in IT and GIS from 2012-2014. William was recently hired as a Senior Analyst by 21Tech, a technology services company based out of San Francisco. He will be helping government clients, including the City and County of San Francisco and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, with the implementation of new land and asset management systems, such as Accela and Infor, respectively. William lives with his wife Rachel (an alumnus of OSU's music department) and their 4-year-old daughter Charlotte on a farm outside of New Braunfels in the Texas Hill Country, where they raise miniature sheep, chickens, and horses.

LADAN GHAHRAMANI is a first-year PhD student. She holds an MS in tourism management from Allameh Tabataba'i University. Her research interests are tourism geography and cultural geography, specifically visitor impact management and open air museums. She spent two years teaching undergraduate courses at the University of Applied Science and Technology in Iran. She likes to bike and camp in her free time.



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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

BRIAN GILSON: I am a Master's student interested in the relationship between religion, identity, and nationalism. I am currently studying patterns of Christianity in Azerbaijan, a small nation in the Caucasus. My wife Shelly and I have 3 children and celebrated 15 years of marriage in November. I currently serve as a board member and as the missions coordinator at our church. This is a position that allows me the privilege to be involved with people and projects that feed the hungry, rescue victims of sex trafficking, and that provide practical needs as well as hope to people all across the globe.

AMY GRAHAM: I am in my sixth year as a Ph.D. student originally from Ponca City, OK. I received my Master's degree from the OSU Department of Geography in 2009, and have a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma. My research interests include cultural geography, human-environment interactions, hazards, vulnerability, and political ecology. I am currently working with my advisor, Dr. Jackie Vadjunec, on a project focused on the vulnerability and resiliency of people in the agricultural communities in Cimarron County, OK and Union County, NM, where an ongoing and devastating drought has plagued the area since 2000. Specifically, I am interested in the topic of gender, and if men and women have had different experiences dealing with the drought. I have spent about 2 months in total in the field so far and have enjoyed getting to know the people and the area as well. This spring, I received the Robert E. Norris Scholarship for field research, which will help fund my own dissertation research in the area next year.

MATTHEW HAFFNER: I am a first year PhD student originally from Pleasant Hill, Missouri. As an undergraduate, I double majored in geography and mathematics at Pittsburg State University, where I also ran cross country. This summer I graduated from the geography department at OSU and defended my thesis "Measuring social interaction potential in Oklahoma City and Tulsa." My research interests include urban geography and quantitative methods.

STEPHANIE HEALD: I am a third-year PhD student. I attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University during my undergraduate studies and graduated with a degree in Social Studies Education with a minor in Geography and History in 2008. From 2010 to 2012, I attended the University of Texas researching the spatial distribution of HIV and AIDS survival in Dallas and Harris Counties, Texas, and I received my Master's Degree in Applied Geography in May 2012. My current research interest is medical inequalities in urban settings.

KEELEY HEISE: I am entering my 2nd year as a Ph.D. student here at Oklahoma State University. My research is still going in the direction of social vulnerability/resiliency to natural hazards/disasters in the Northern Plains of the United States. This fall I was elected the president of our Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon for the 2014-15 academic year. The past year was uneventful. I did not travel anywhere exciting and did not do anything much over the summer. Next year, though, I am hoping to have exciting travel stories to tell as I am going to Eastern Europe at the end of May 2015 and Chicago for the next AAG annual meeting.

BEN HEMINGWAY is a first-year Masters student who earned his BA in geography from the University of Arizona in 2010. Ben is primarily interested in remote sensing technologies. In his free time he enjoys cycling with his wife, Allison.

JEREMY HENNING: I am a second year PhD student and my adviser is Amy Frazier. I am focusing on the applications of remote sensing for detecting Kudzu which is an invasive species. Another thing of interest is that I am getting married next month.

PUJA JANA is a first-year PhD student. She completed her MSc in geography from Mumbai University in India. She is interested in political geography, especially geopolitics and water issues.

KIMBERLY JOHNSON is a first-year PhD student who received her BA in political science from Northern State University (Aberdeen, SD) in 2011 and her MS in geography from South Dakota State University (Brookings, SD) in 2013. Generally, her interests are in cultural and historical geography. She is specifically interested in gender, identity, public space, and protest.



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GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



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STEPHANIE KOEHN is from Piedmont, Oklahoma and received her undergrad at the University of Central Oklahoma, in Humanities, with a minor in Geography. She is now currently pursuing a Master's degree focused in culture geography. Last year, she received the Norris Conference Travel Scholarship and with it presented part of her thesis findings titled "Escaping to American Renaissance Festivals" at the 2014 AAG, in Tampa, Florida. Her thesis research was conducted at the Kansas City and Texas Renaissance festivals where she gathered interviews of attendees, vendors, and organizers. In the end, she hopes to bring new geographical understanding to these Renaissance festivals

JUNLONG LIU is a master student in the final semester. His area of focus is the application of remote sensing in phenology. He enjoys outdoor activities and video games when he is not studying. He plans on travelling to Tibet this December.

QINYUE (ARLENE) PAN: In the last academic year, I passed the comprehensive exam, which could be the most difficult exam in my life. Now when I look back, I would like to say that communication with the committee members might be a very important (if not the most important) factor that helps student passing the exam.

NICK ROSE: I am a 4th year Ph.D. student from Bethel, Ohio. I received my Master's from the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University in 2011. I am currently working toward my comprehensive exams and a dissertation proposal. My research interests include the cultural/historical geography of Appalachia; more specifically the development of the coal industry as influenced settlement and the economy in Appalachia.

SEAN THOMAS is a first-year PhD student. His focus is on cultural and historical geography, and the geography of memory. He received his BS in secondary education from OSU in 2011 and expects his MS in geography from OSU in fall 2014. Sean lives in Chandler, OK with his wife Melissa and their two dogs Fred and Maximus.

WILLIAM VAN NESS: I had a good summer and the first part of this year is going well so far. My creative component research about Stillwater's transit system is progressing very well. I am preparing to finally defend my proposal this semester and complete my research next spring. It will be interesting to see the results of the research and find out if the current bus system can better serve Stillwater. Since this is my final year of graduate school, I just want to say that I am very grateful for the opportunity to be in the Geography Department. My graduate experience has mostly been positive and I appreciate working with everyone in the department.

AMANDA WEBER: I am a first year Ph.D. geography student. My focus is on medical geography from a historic perspective. I am interested in the origin of Quarantine Islands, specifically those located around New York City and the surrounding boroughs; with attention to former and future medical uses for the Islands. Before coming to Oklahoma, I worked as an English and Medical Communications instructor at Saint Paul's School of Nursing, in Staten Island, N.Y. I received my Master of Arts degree from the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, in Liberal Studies, with a focus on the context of disease in Medieval Europe. I won the *Fredrick M. Binder* MALS Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement. My master's research focused on the social representation of the "bubonic plague" in Italy during the 14th-17th centuries; demonstrating that a misdiagnosis occurred. The methodology for my research was qualitative in nature and was heavily influenced by the archival documents obtained from the Biblioteca Ambrosiana, in Milan, Italy. I also hold a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University at Buffalo in Physical Anthropology.

YUN ZHAO: I am starting my 3rd year as a PhD student in the department. I am close to finishing up my coursework and can finally focus on my own research. In July 2014, I attended the 2014 ESRI User Conference at San Diego with Dr. Finchum. I enjoyed the conference as well as the pleasant scenery/weather in San Diego. I also did a summer internship with the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO), in which I helped managing and visualizing some of their transportation projects using Google Fusion Tables.

CENTER FOR APPLICATIONS OF REMOTE SENSING

The Center for Applications of Remote Sensing (CARS) has had an exciting year! We hired a new Coordinator, Jing Wang, to join our team. Jing received her Masters degree in Geographic Information Science for Development and Environment from Clark University in Worcester, MA, and spent two years working at Clark Labs where the Idrisi software is developed. Jing has a wide range of expertise including the GIS/RS aspect of modeling in health and demography, land use and land change, climate change and ecosystem management. In addition to a new Coordinator, CARS also has a new Director - Dr. Amy Frazier. Dr. Frazier joined the Geography department in Fall 2013. Her expertise is in the field of remote sensing, specifically the use of advanced remote sensing techniques for landscape and ecological evaluations.

For the past year, CARS has been working closely with the department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering on a project to update the remote sensing data sources used in the OK-FIRE model. OK-FIRE is a program of the Oklahoma Mesonet that forecasts fire danger throughout the state of Oklahoma. The fire model relies on remotely sensed measurements of vegetation, and CARS is leading the effort to determine the best source of remote sensing data for the measurements as well as computing various vegetation indices that will be incorporated into the model.

CARS is also in the process of developing a website to showcase the projects and work being done. Look for a link to the new website soon on the OSU Geography home page! As CARS continues to strive to serve the geospatial community, one of our initiatives is to build a platform to share public data sources that can facilitate geospatial research and projects. Below is a sneak peak of some of the datasets that will be accessible through the CARS website:

1. Demography: American Community Survey (ACS)

ACS provides nationwide up-to-date socio-economic and housing data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau. The data contains detailed demographic information to the level of census block group and can be accessed through the Summary File Retrieval Tool on the ACS website.

2. Businesses: ReferenceUSA

The OSU Library recently purchased this database for business and consumer analysis. Information on current and historical U.S. business, U.S. Consumers/Lifestyles can be exported to Excel spreadsheet with their geographic coordinates.

3. Boundaries:

TIGER (Topological Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing)/Line shapefiles is another product of the U.S. Census Bureau including geographic and census boundaries such as roads, railroads and ZipCode. ACS and TIGER files are easy to combine using the census identifiers

4. Satellite imagery: Reverb|ECHO

ECHO (The EOS ClearingHouse) is a web-based client archive of NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS), which contains more than 3200 data sets in Earth science including sources from satellites, aircraft and field measurements.

You are highly encouraged to contact jean.wang@okstate.edu to share other data sources at any global/regional scales. Sources will be compiled and listed on the new webpage of CARS!



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CARTOGRAPHY SERVICES



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This past year has once again been very busy for all of us at Cartography Services. As usual, we have spent most of our time split between several key working areas; the major cartographic projects, map design and compilation work (for both departmental and non-departmental clients), large format printing, and education and outreach.

The largest of the projects being overseen by Cartography Services is the work for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). This past year was our fifth year of this multi-year funded project. The AAPG work is comprised of many smaller cartographic/GIS projects that vary in nature and complexity. The AAPG project is a large endeavor that consumes a lot of time and effort, but returns invaluable experience for the many students working at Cartography Services. Under the leadership of April Chipman, our staff GIS Specialist, we continue the work.

In addition to the AAPG work, Cartography Services is also in its fifth year working with Dr. Allen Finchum on the SHPO/OLI project. This project, funded by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, consists of sending teams of student employees to the field (mostly small rural Oklahoma towns) locating properties and updating the Oklahoma Landmark Inventory (OLI) database. This past summer we sent a team of two students out to canvas the southwestern counties of the state.

Last spring, Cartography Services took the lead and with the help of a number of student members from the OSU Geography Club, Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) and the Forum of Geography Graduate Students (FoGG), we sponsored an exhibit at the 2014 GIS Day at the Capitol. Participating in this event were: (back row) Zach Marschik, April Chipman, (front row) Michael Larson, Junlong Liu, Chelsea Steiner and Lauren Wood.



Cartography Services would like to acknowledge and thank the following students for their hard work and service as employees of Cartography Services:

Alex Comer
Zelalem Demissie
Curtis Finchum
Stephanie Heald

Zach Marschik
Chelsea Steiner
Lauren Wood

JOURNAL OF CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

News from the *Journal of Cultural Geography* is that there are a lot of good articles to read in it, three times a year. This past year the editor introduced a new section to the journal called, “Creative Mappings.” Recognizing that there are many ways in which scholarship is conducted and presented, the aim of this section is to publish scholarly work that does not fit the mold of the standard, full-fledged research article. To date, the journal has published one paper on the magic of place, and another on Navajo toponyms in the Creative Mappings section. In addition, the June 2014 issue featured a special issue devoted to, “Contemporary Research Strategies in Cultural Geography.” OSU alums, students, and faculty, can view or download journal articles via the library website.

GAMMA THETA UPSILON

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 Nick Rose, Secretary and Historian Stephanie Heald, Vice-President Tom Cox, Treasurer.

Dr. Thomas Wikle is currently the international president of the organization as well as the Faculty Co-Advisor (along with Rebecca Sheehan) for the Chi Chapter at OSU, which was established in 1948 as the 22nd chapter nationally.

OSU's Chi chapter has been selected by GTU as an *Honor Chapter* for 2014!! Rebecca (co-advisor) and Keeley worked extremely hard this year to put us in the running for this honor. Note that only seven (out of more than 130 GTU chapters) were selected as honors chapters this year.

FORUM OF GEOGRAPHY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Hello All, My name is Jeremy Henning and I am the President of the Forum of Geography Graduate Students (FoGG). This year the vice president is Lauren Wood, the treasurer is Tom Cox (who wore a dress and had pies thrown at him for charity), the GPSGA representative is Nick Rose, and the Faculty representative is Kathryn Roberts. FoGG's mission is to foster a dialog between the students and the faculty/staff. This dialog promotes professional growth and an improvement in all aspects of the graduate experience. FoGG will be continuing its involvement with GIS Day at the Capital. The group became involved in GIS Day at the Capital last year upon the request of Michael Larson. This year FoGG's role will increase to demonstrate the work done by students using GIS in the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University.

UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY CLUB

The 2014-15 officers of the Geography Club are: Adam Majors, President; Lela Berastequi, Treasurer; Ava Keenen, Vice-President; and Emily Ellis, Secretary

The club is working on a t-shirt design to raise both departmental spirit *and* funds for the club. The club was excited to revive the once-annual faculty/staff vs. student softball game, and it is coordinating with FOGG and GTU to undertake campus activities during Geography Awareness Week (November 17-21). There is also a spring camping trip in the works.

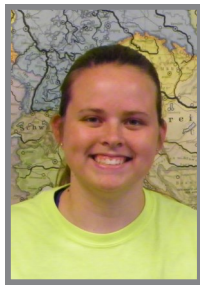


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GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT EMPLOYEES

Current undergraduate student employees (L-R below): Adam Lightfoot (SHPO), Alex Comer (SHPO), Curtis Finchum (SHPO), and Mikayla Peters (front office).



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS & THEIR HOMETOWNS

Brooke Atherton, Edmond, OK
 Clint Bales, Bartlesville, OK
 Lela Berastequi, Plano, TX
 Theodore Breig, Denver, CO
 Tommy Casey, Sligo, Ireland
 Ryan Conner, Ozark, AR
 Nicholas Deyoe, Jones, OK
 Emily Ellis, Edmond, OK
 Chike Etumudor, Broken Arrow, OK
 Austin Fessler, Broken Arrow, OK
 Micah Friese, Guthrie, OK
 Melissa Gambill, Morrison, OK
 Taylor Iberosi, Dallas, TX
 Morgan Johnson, Tulsa, OK
 Avonlea Keenen, Claremore, OK
 Kirsten Kuhn, Pampa, TX

Sarah Lamoreaux, Tulsa, OK
 Morgan Lee, Seminole, OK
 Broderick Malloy, Arcadia, OK
 Maddison Mayer, Tulsa, OK
 Lauren Montalbano, Broken Arrow, OK
 Rachel Oestmann, Anahuac, TX
 Anthony Pennington, Edmond, OK
 Ross Romero, Fairborn, OH
 Jeb Shelden, Boise City, OK
 Catherine Shropshire, The Woodlands, TX
 Nathan Smith, Medicine Lodge, KS
 Ryan Smith, Tulsa, OK
 Jasmine Stone, Stillwater, OK
 Daniel Surach, Frisco, TX
 Zachary Turk, Chandler, OK
 Trenton Williams, Oklahoma City, OK



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CERTIFICATES IN GIS EARNED

FALL 2013:

Michael Priest

SPRING 2014:

Jacob Bushog Chelsea Steiner
Zach Marschik Lee Johnson
Lauren Wood

BACHELOR'S DEGREES EARNED

FALL 2013:

Michael Priest Alex Hubbard
Falon King Nathan Rosecrans
Whitney Hellmuth Robert Schiller
Andrew Potter

SPRING 2014:

Zach Marschik Tayler Gallien
Lauren Wood Chelsea Steiner
Jacob Joyner Lee Johnson

SUMMER 2014:

Curtis Moss

MASTER'S DEGREES EARNED

FALL 2013:

Scott Kusselson
Advisor: Hongbo Yu
Thesis: "Investigating How Land Use Patterns Affect Traffic Accident Rates Near Frontage Road Cross-Sections: A Case Study on Interstate 610 in Houston, Texas"

SPRING 2014:

Joel Barrow
Advisor: Allen Finchum
Thesis: "A Geographical Study of the Varying Impact of Denominational Affiliation and Poverty on Presidential Voting in Kansas: 1972-2012"

SUMMER 2014:

Thomas Cox
Advisor: Carlos Cordova
Thesis: "Spatial and Geomorphological Analysis of Mammoth Localities in Western Oklahoma"

Matthew Haffner
Advisor: Hongbo Yu
Thesis: "Measuring Social Interaction Potential in Oklahoma City and Tulsa"

PH.D. DEGREES EARNED

FALL 2013:

Leonard Bombom
Advisor: Hongbo Yu
Dissertation: "Deciphering Activity Patterns Using the Time-Geography Framework: A Case Study of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater Campus"

SPRING 2014:

Victoria Lightfoot
Advisor: Jonathan Comer
Dissertation: "The Value of Walkability in Midtown Tulsa"

COLLOQUIA

- 2/3/2014 Yun Zhao and Conner Wenning
Tweedie Travel Scholarship Experience Presentations.
- 2/24/2014 Wendy Jepson, Department of Geography, Texas A&M University
“No-Win Waterscapes and Household Water Insecurity on the U.S.-
Mexico Border.”
- 3/24/2014 Amanda Coleman, Northeastern Oklahoma University
“Geography, Crime, and Jurisdiction in Indian Country: A Review.”
- 4/21/2014 Shellie Willoughby, Oklahoma Office of Geographic Information
“Oh. the Places You Can Go With GIS.”
- 4/28/2014 Adam Payne and Sean Thomas
Graduate Student Presentations
- 8/22/2014 Peter Kedron, Department of Geography, Ryerson University
“Understanding Bioenergy Policy, Technology and Regional
Development.”
- 10/13/2014 Alexander Diener, Department of Geography, University of Kansas
“Imagining Kazakhstani-stan: Negotiations of Homeland and Titular
Nationality.”
- 11/17-12/15/2014 Assistant Professor Candidate Presentations (3)



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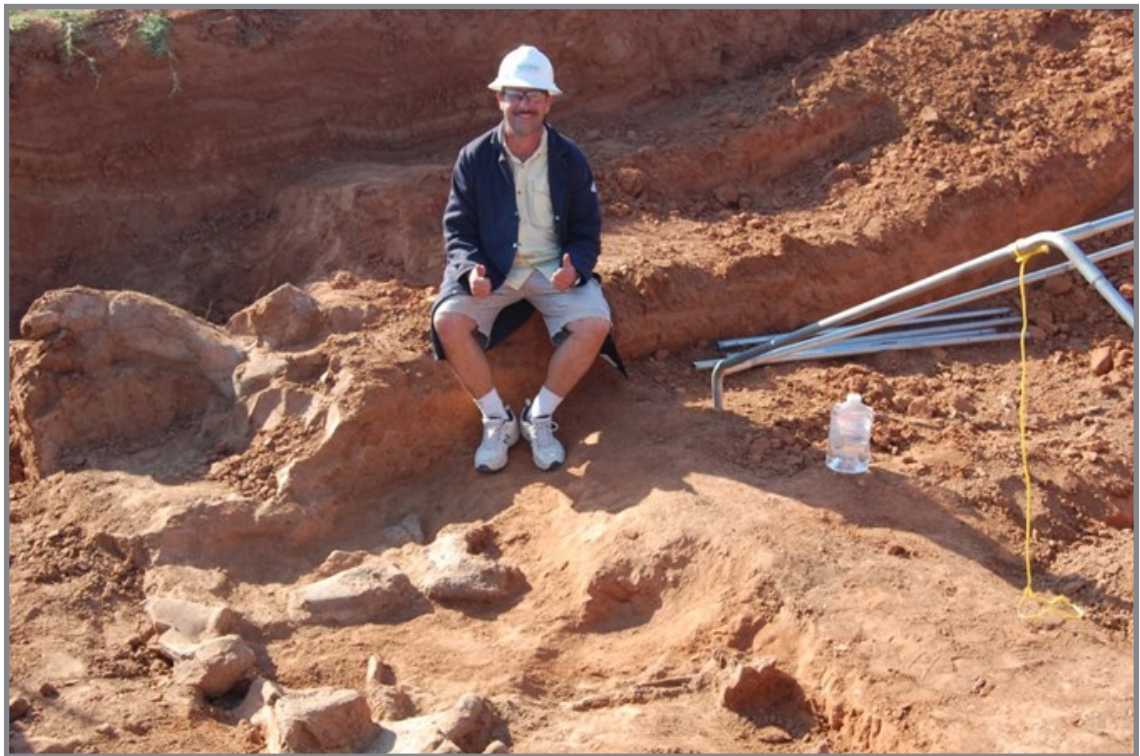
GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

THOMAS COX: There be Mammoths in Oklahoma?

What a year for studying mammoths in Oklahoma. It all started when I got a call from Dr. Lee Bement of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey in July 2013, telling me there was a mammoth out by Enid. Excavation of the Helena Mammoth in Alfalfa County began in September and lasted until the end of October. Approximately 90 to 95 percent of the mammoth was recovered. Shawna Smith, a geology student, and Taylor Iberosi, a geography student, assisted me last spring with the preservation and repairing the bones for future display. Faculty, staff, students, and friends participated in this once in a lifetime opportunity.

In November of 2013, Lee once again called and informed me that there was a mammoth at Foss Reservoir in Custer County. This particular excavation only took a day, and only the skull and bits of tusk were recovered. The excavation took place in December, and it was a joint operation between the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Then, in January of 2014, while conducting research at the Grandfield Mammoth site in Tillman County, a tusk was located while cutting a profile for my soil analysis. Excavation of the Grandfield tusk began in July, and a tusk and vertebrae were excavated. The other tusk and some other bones have been located and partially excavated. A final excavation will happen in October 2014. Approximately 70 percent of the Grandfield Mammoth was excavated between 2009 and 2012 under Debra Baker of the Institute of the Great Plains, and Michael Dunn of Cameron University, in partnership with Randy Clark and the City of Grandfield.



Tom just chillin' in the Helena Mammoth bone bed (September 2013).



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD



G E O G R A P H Y



Shawna Smith, a geology major (left), and Taylor Iberosi, a geography major (right), preserving and assembling the Helena Mammoth bones (January 2014).

Tom excavating the Foss Mammoth skull in December 2013.



Tom excavating a tusk at the Grandfield Mammoth site (July 2014).

GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

NICK ROSE and THOMAS CRAIG: Historical Geography Seminar Successfully Adds to the National Register of Historic Places

This past spring Dr. Bay's Historical Geography Seminar (GEOG 6210) was tasked with finding and nominating a property or structure to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Since the completion of the course, two students' projects have been successfully admitted to the NRHP by the Historic Preservation Review Committee in Oklahoma City. Nick Rose nominated Long Branch Creek Bridge (built 1910), an example of a Pratt Half-Hip Pony Truss bridge. This bridge (photos below) is located over Long Branch Creek five miles north of Stillwater, near the intersection of N3300 and E0540. This bridge nomination was accepted at the local level for its contribution to the Half-Hip Pony Truss bridge design in Payne County, Oklahoma. Acceptance to the National Register of Historic Places occurred on Thursday July 14, 2014.



Thomas Craig nominated the Oklahoma A&M College Dairy Barn (built 1948), to add to a number of existing NRHP sites on OSU's current campus. The Dairy Barn (photos below), historically known as the "Dairy Palace", located near the intersection of Western and McElroy, reflected both the local importance of the building to students in the university's Animal Science program, as well as a state and regional hub of dairy research and practice. The Dairy Barn was accepted at the local level for its historical contributions to the university, and also for its architectural significance in design and function. Acceptance to the National Register of Historic Places occurred on Thursday October 16, 2014.



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: Summer Field Work

Summer always goes by way too fast! Travel highlights include co-teaching the Cultural and Natural Resources of Morocco field course with Dr. Dale Lightfoot, where I ate lots of delicious olives and tasty tagines, trekked the Atlas Mountains to make it to the Shrine of the Jin, and wandered through the awe-inspiring streets of Fes. Afterwards, I spent the rest of the summer in Cimarron, OK and Union, NM counties with Dr. Todd Fagin (OU) and PhD students Amy Graham and Kathryn Roberts, talking to ranchers and agriculturalists about the impacts of drought on their land-use and livelihoods. In August, the field team, along with an exciting new member of our field crew, Nicole Colston, spent the week at the Union County fair (below), talking to kids about water issues, and talking to folks about our research project. Fieldwork can be tough, but we caught some awesome sunsets, and got to hang out with some amazing people. All in all, it was a great field season!



Clayton, NM County fair.



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

JON COMER and TOM WIKLE: Study Abroad in Amsterdam and Paris

Jon Comer and Tom Wikle co-led a Study Abroad trip on the “Urban Geography of Amsterdam and Paris” in May 2014. Eight OSU undergraduates and three graduate students from West Chester University in Pennsylvania went.

After flying from Detroit to Amsterdam, the group had time to explore the city most of the first day due to its 5:55 AM arrival at Schiphol Airport. They visited the Rijksmuseum, the national museum of the Netherlands, wandered around in a bit of a daze, saw some strange red lights in a district somewhere, and concluded the day at a “brown pub” for an authentic Dutch dinner. Day 2 in Amsterdam started with a bus tour of the main sights and sites, and then most travelers when on a trip out of town to Volendam (a historic fishing village) and Zaanse Schans (culture park with lots of working windmills), ending the evening with a canal cruise. Day 3 started with a tour of the Anne Frank house and then free time the rest of the day to explore, wander, and shop.

A day-long bus trip was livened up with a short stop in Brussels for lunch and shopping, including a quick stop at the Atomium sculpture and the Manneken Pis statue, before arriving in the Latin Quarter in Paris for a delicious dinner. Day 2 in Paris featured a bus tour followed by free time (some went to Versailles), a visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral, and most of the group made it to the top of the Eiffel Tower that evening. Day 3 started at the Louvre, then free time to explore and walk (but not shop on!) the Champs Elysees, capped by a river cruise on the Seine.

Most of the group then traveled on to London, via Eurostar train through the Channel Tunnel, arriving around noon and taking a bus tour of the sights of London capped by an excellent fish and chips dinner. Day 2 in London started with a tour of the Tower of London, then free time, mostly waiting out a rainstorm in the British Museum (yes, they saw the Rosetta Stone!), and several went to the counter-culture Camden Town market in north London before heading back to the hotel to pack. The group departed from Heathrow, landing in Atlanta for connecting flights home.



Posing in front of the iconic “I amsterdam” sculpture in the Museumplein are OSU students (L-R) Alex Comer, Eric Comer, Brooke Cox, Lauren Jarman, Taylor Iberosi (seated on the “t”), Micah Parnell, Chandler Phillips, unidentified legs, and Ethan Farris (back to camera)



GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD



G E O G R A P H Y



View of a typical canal in Amsterdam

Eric, Jon, and Alex Comer at the Eiffel Tower in Paris



Taylor Iberosi and Micah Parnell approach the Tower of London

GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

DALE LIGHTFOOT and JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: Morocco Study Abroad

In May 2014, Dale and Jackie 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 Tafilalt 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 with a good group of 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.



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GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD



Kay Lyn Terrill and Samantha West resting on top of Erg Chebbi sand dunes after an evening climb.



OSU students on the trip included (from left) Samayita Bandyopadhyay, Carson Bode, Samantha West, Jordan McAlister, and Kay Lyn Terrill (at the Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca).



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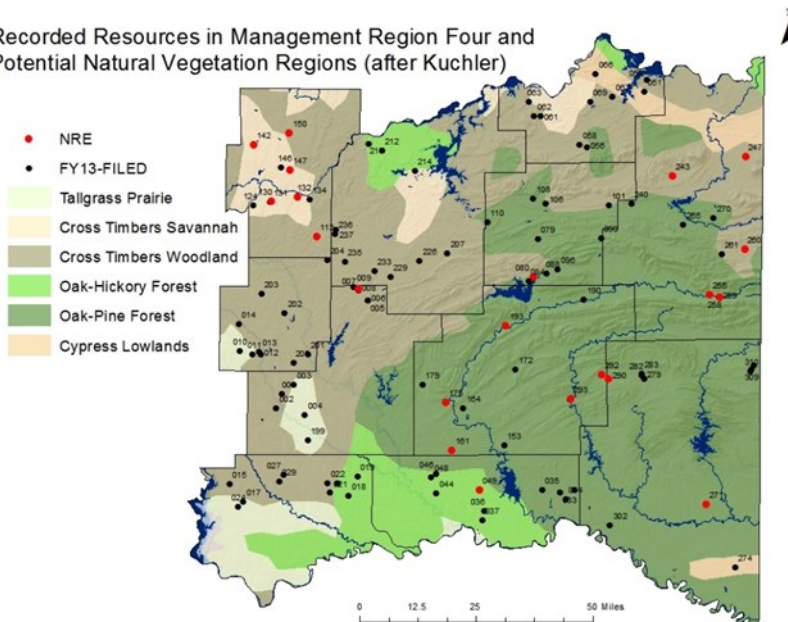


GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

BRAD BAYS: Oklahoma Historic Barn Survey

The use of an historic GIS approach in fieldwork preparation paid great dividends in the final phase of the Oklahoma Historic Barn Survey. Undergraduate Adam Lightfoot carried out the brunt of the prep work by creating county-scale databases of targeted outbuildings. Adam located 228 historical USGS 7.5-minute (1:24,000) series topographical quadrangles covering most of the 11,426 square mile study area. These were published mainly between the late 1940s and the early 1980s and required conversion to geo-referenced TIFFs for use in ArcMap 10. Adam digitized every outbuilding on each quadrangle to generate 11 databases containing a total of 30,589 raw targets. Brad then overlaid these points onto current aerial imagery to verify surviving barns and cull those that had disappeared, which reduced the database by 78 percent to a mere 6,599 surviving targets and allowed Bays to visit only extant barns on his mobile GIS/GPS platform between 23 January and 28 May 2014.

Recorded Resources in Management Region Four and Potential Natural Vegetation Regions (after Kuchler)



OSU Chevrolet Impala after a particularly rough week in Pittsburg County.



GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

The log Transverse-crib barn in the below photos is located near the rural community of Pickens, Pushmataha County, in a cul-de-sac of the Kiamichi Mountains, just west of the McCurtain County line. It was built in 1909 by James Martin Baggs and his brother Jerry. Among the best known examples west of the Mississippi River, it utilizes half-log construction (old-growth yellow pine) and semi-lunate corner notching. The Transverse-crib barn plan is thought to have evolved in Tennessee around 1815 somewhere between Knoxville and Nashville. While it is without question the most common barn plan in the Upland South, log examples are incredibly rare. The barn is currently being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places



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DEPARTMENTAL GATHERINGS

2013 Christmas Party



(Left to right; front row): Yanxia Wu, Nick Rose, Stephanie Koehn, Alyson Greiner
(back row): Dale Lightfoot, Keeley Heise, Stephanie Heald, Steve Stadler



Santa (a.k.a. Chris Storm) with Tom and Missy Wikle



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DEPARTMENTAL GATHERINGS



G E O G R A P H Y



Jackson, Madison, and Keira Craig,
family of Thomas Craig



Yanxia Laura Wu and Nick Rose



Bruce Battles and Matt Haffner
(Thomas Craig with daughter
Madison in the background)

DEPARTMENTAL GATHERINGS

2014 Halloween Party



Kurdish man with Mary Poppins



A pair of Google maps.
(Best geographical costumes)



Solar radiation and SPF30 sunblock



Saddam Hussein



Abraham Lincoln



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DEPARTMENTAL GATHERINGS



A Frozen Werewolf Clown family



Gypsy girl



Vampiress
(Best costume
winner)



Characters from The Big Bang Theory
(and a photo-bombing Waldo)



Elvis was in the house



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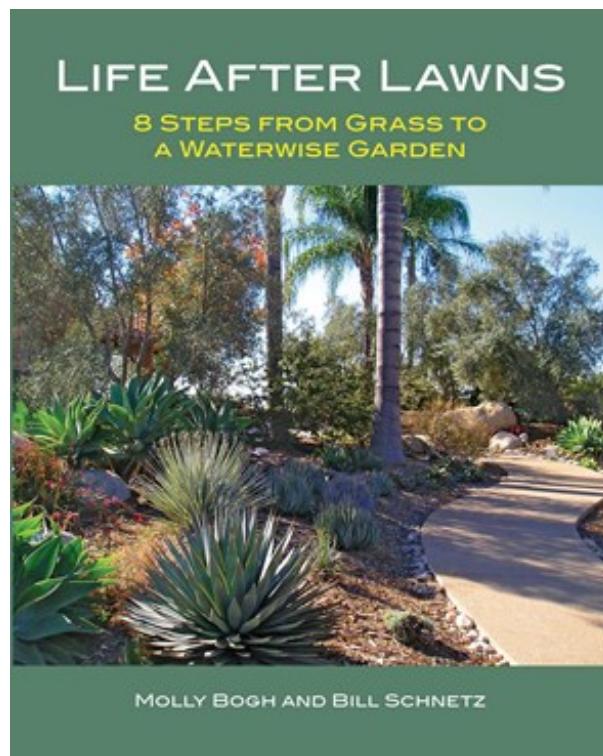


ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

MOLLY SCHULTZ BOGH (M.S. 1979) and MILES BOGH: It's been 37 years since aspiring geographers Miles Bogh and Molly Schultz arrived at OSU as new graduate students in the Geography Department. We were greeted by the smells of southern cooking, wafting up from the Home Economics Department below our third floor offices, which made us feel comfortably at home there for the next two years. We found at OSU a faculty known for the diversity of its geographical research. Molly and fellow grad student Jim Renner followed Dr. George Carney's lead by studying American folk music—especially fiddling. We had numerous play-offs at department parties contrasting Canadian/Northwest fiddling with Texas-style, which Jim usually won by crooning old Bob Wills songs. Molly also helped Dr. Keith Harries proofread the galleys for his latest book on the geography of crime and justice. Office mate Mark Rupert followed Professor John Rooney's work in sports geography by analyzing the baseball draft. Miles and Nancy Thorwardson, his office mate across the hall, helped department chair Dick Hecock by mapping recreational users at state parks. The lesson we learned? Almost any subject can be studied geographically if you do it right.

When we married in 1979, Professor Steve Tweedie and his family attended our wedding in California. Since then decades have sped by. Miles co-founded a successful steel contracting business, where he is still vice president. Molly spent 25 years in city planning, serving as planning director for four Southern California cities and consultant to public and private clients. Two sons were born and raised, and now three grandchildren have arrived to be guided in the tradition of geographical thinking.

After retiring a few years ago, Molly stayed busy writing. Her recent book *Life After Lawns: 8 Steps from Grass to a Waterwise Garden* (available on Amazon.com) explains how to convert thirsty turf into beautiful, drought tolerant gardens. We call on all geographers in arid climates to be early adapters in the diffusion of lawnless living, setting an example in our own yards of how to live with drought and a changing climate. It's geographical—just like we learned at OSU.



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ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

STACEY BROWN (Ph.D. 2011): I cannot believe how fast three years have gone by! In that time, there have been some great achievements both in my professional life as well as in my personal life. In August of 2011, I started a tenure-track position in the Department of Geography at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. I have been teaching Introduction to Geography, World Regions, Intro to GIS, Medical Geography, and the Geography of Europe. I am the faculty advisor for the Geography Club and GTU as well as the Assistant Graduate Director. All three articles from my dissertation have been published and I successfully made it through my mid-tenure review this past year.

In my personal life, things have also been wonderful and I have to attribute that to the geography department. After I successfully defended my proposal in April 2010, I went out to celebrate at Eskimo Joe's and ended up meeting the man that would become my husband. We got married in April 2014 at Pere Marquette State Park in Godfrey, Illinois. We were so happy that Jon and Shannon Comer could attend as well as some of my classmates from OSU.


I am so thankful for everything the department did for me not just as a student, but also training me as a researcher, how to be a faculty member, as well as giving me some of the greatest friends and mentors possible. I hope to see some of you in Chicago at AAG next year.



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ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES



PAT DOLAN (M.S. 1990): OSU seems a long time ago. I've now been at Mott MacDonald for nearly 12 years and changed to an IT Compliance role having left my former GIS & Software Manager role (2003-2012). My professional interest is now in internal audit in all aspects of ISO 27001 Information Security including the gearing-up of the various Mott MacDonald offices to gain certification, undertake subsequent surveillance as well as global IT risk assessment. The company's IT risk assessment exercise keeps me busy for Q1 each year with Dubai, London, New Jersey (Iselin) and Singapore office visits featuring heavily followed by risk mitigation activities through the remainder of the year. My wife, Angela, seems to spend an ever increasing amount of time in and around schools with her Governor role as well as exam invigilation and general giving a helping-hand. Ruth (12 years) is in Year 8 at Middle School and travels there by bus 6 miles from home and will go on to High School in September 2015 which again will be a bus-ride away. At the same time, Joseph (8 years) will move from the local First School to the Middle School that Ruth will just have left. Ruth wants to be a microbiologist which Angela and I have no idea where that comes from! Ruth is into photography – again this mystifies her parents. Joseph is too busy playing sports such as football (soccer), rugby, running, swimming and cycling (he's his School's Sports Captain) as well as Xbox to even consider what he wants to do. As well as the work related travel, the family still spend their holiday times with frequent England, Scotland and Wales trips. Windsor Castle (May and Dec 13) was a particular highlight. Keeping up the Royal theme, the family were at the Commonwealth Games (Glasgow, Jul-Aug 14). Last two foreign holidays (Oct 13 & Aug 14) have been to the Cape Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa. These islands are beautiful, unspoilt, underdeveloped and desolate – a perfect get away. Barcelona, Dublin, Rome and New York are on the family's collective, and ever increasing, must see list.

KELLY FOX (B.A.1980) is a senior revenue analyst for Phillips 66 Company (formerly ConocoPhillips) in Bartlesville, OK. She hopes to retire in three years. Kelly still continues to travel quite a bit. In the past four years she has visited Turkey, China, Iceland (three times), Greenland, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Toronto. She is planning a trip to England in March 2015 to attend the funeral of King Richard III.

CHRIS GORE continues his second year at Kilgore College in the East Texas Piney Woods. In the summer of 2014, KC merged the office of new student relations which he managed with the registrar's office to form the office of admissions and registrar. Gore now serves as director of admissions and registrar. During the last year, his contributions to the college's enrollment management efforts significantly slowed eight semesters of declining enrollment and saw a twenty-five percent increase in SAT takers. Although the job keeps him extremely busy, he has developed a new white chocolate chip with cranberry and macadamia nut cookie recipe. He's sure the cookies would be as popular in the geography department as they are in his new office. Chris wishes everyone a productive and enlightening academic year.

LISA (BROWN) HASKELL (M.S. 1994): I celebrated 10 years at Jeppesen, a Boeing Company, in Denver earlier this year. I have held various positions including GIS Software Engineer, Senior Product Manager, and Functional Analyst while at Jeppesen. In September 2013, I received a United States patent (#8,533,180) for my work on *Method and Apparatus for Enhancing a Geographic Information System Database with Operational Data*. In conjunction with the patent, I was responsible for getting Airport Mapping Databases on board the Airbus 380 and Boeing 787 flight deck, among others. Pilots use this data on an airport moving map application on the front panel of the flight deck to help them navigate the aerodrome movement area, much like you might use a GPS unit in your car to navigate to a destination. This is a great time to be working in the aviation industry, as mobile devices are pushing the limits of technology on the flight deck. In my free time, I enjoy running half marathons and playing golf. I hope to run a few races at sea level next year. My husband and I live in Castle Rock, Colorado. Best wishes to former geography alumni and faculty. Go Cowboys!



ALUMNI NEWS & MEMORIES

TIM HAYES (M.S. 1998): Tim has been the GIS Manager at the San Jose/Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF), located in the Silicon Valley of California, for the past 14 years. The RWF is the largest wastewater treatment plant on the west coast and also operates one of the largest recycled water utilities in the nation. Tim and his team of GIS Specialists have built an elaborate GIS for the inside of the RWF. Tim gives most of the credit for his success in the GIS field to the wonderful professors and staff in the OSU Geography Department. His time as a graduate student allowed him to focus on improving his GIS, public speaking, and project management skills. Tim's advice to people wishing to make a career in GIS is that learning the technology is only half the battle, you must also master the art of public speaking and project management. Tim enjoys traveling with his wife to Indonesia (Java and Bali, mostly). He recently learned to drive in Jakarta, they drive on the left-side there, and enjoys taking his mother-in-law shopping.



SCOTT KUSSELSON (M.S. 2013): I have been working at KAMO Power full time for over a year and a half as a GIS Analyst in their telecommunications department. I was recently promoted to Project Manager where I have been planning new fiber routes, inspecting completed fiber projects, and building and maintaining their fiber and equipment assets in GIS. In January, I became a board member for Kendall Whittier Inc. They are a non-profit group, in Tulsa, which helps to improve the quality of life for the individuals in the neighborhood. I am creating a GIS database of the different land uses to identify abandoned properties that could potentially become a community garden as well as the location people needing to use their food bank. In July, KAMO Power sent me to San Diego for the ESRI Users Conference, where I also saw Dr. Finchum and Yun Zhao there as well.

DANIEL WILSON (M.S. 2013): I miss “living” in Murray Hall. It has been fun wearing my Geography Club t-shirt all around the country. I have had a very fun and busy life since last May. I lived and worked at CSU's wilderness campus last summer for three months. Although I worked in the kitchen, it was a great way to interact with the natural resource students and professors who lived at the camp for a four-week course on wildlife ecology, forestry, and botany. Last September I moved to San Francisco to work with an old college friend. I was the account executive for his online start-up company. It was a great chance to get a taste of the business world and to live in a thriving and amazing city. Unfortunately the company began to shut down towards the end of last year. I currently work and live at a coastal ecology camp in Arapahoe, NC. The Don Lee Camp is located on the Neuse River, approximately seven miles inland from the Pamlico Sound and Outer Banks. I became interested in the camp because of the eclectic range of curriculum. The children (elementary and middle school) can take classes on everything from marine invertebrates, reptiles, fish, coastal birds, salt marsh, beach ecology, forest ecology, soils, weather, fossils, astronomy, Native Americans, and pirates. We also take the kids canoeing and sailing on the Neuse River. So far the experience has been wonderful. I am really glad to be teaching again. I have not decided when I will return to the world of academia. But I do know that I miss the wonderful family of Geographers at OSU.

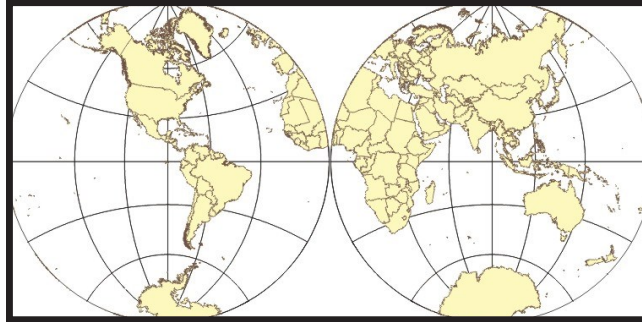


Daniel Wilson biked to the Pacific Ocean near Golden Gate State Park.



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The mission of the Department of Geography is to advance geography instruction, research and outreach, to promote and maintain a growing statewide workforce skilled in geographic research and applications. We strive to achieve national and international stature in scholarly and creative activities to enhance the visibility and desirability of the geography program at Oklahoma State University. We plan to capitalize on new opportunities and respond to the changing needs of Oklahomans and society to provide Oklahoma schools, university, industries and businesses, and those in the surrounding region, with the highest caliber professionals in the field of geography.