



Geography

Geography Newsletter

April 2016

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April Happenings

The 2015-16 school year is going down to the wire, but many things are “happening” around the department...

A colloquium is scheduled for April 18 at 3:30 PM in 207 NRC. The speaker, Dr. Jess Porter of the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, received his PhD from OSU Geography in 2007 in the first cohort of doctoral graduates we produced. The title of his presentation is “Collaborative opportunities for a stand-alone geographer: Adding place to the story of Little Rock housing and race”.



The International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party will be held on Friday evening, April 22 at Tom Wikle’s home starting at 7 PM. Sponsored by the department’s Gamma Theta Upsilon chapter, this is a chance to sample exotic beverages and cheeses from around the world. Bring an entry for any (or all) of the categories for judging and plain old eating. Prizes for the top wine, beer, and cheese are likely!

The 2016 Geography Awards Gathering will take place on Friday, April 29 starting at 5:00 PM in the Murray Hall Parlor. See page 3 In this newsletter for more details.

As the semester winds down, here are some important dates to remember:

- Pre-Finals Week: April 25-29
- Finals Week: May 2-6
- Graduate Hooding Ceremony: May 6, 7 PM
- Undergraduate Commencement: May 7, 1 PM (A&S)
- Summer School Session 1 begins May 16
- Summer School Sessions 2 and 3 begin June 6

News From Around the Department

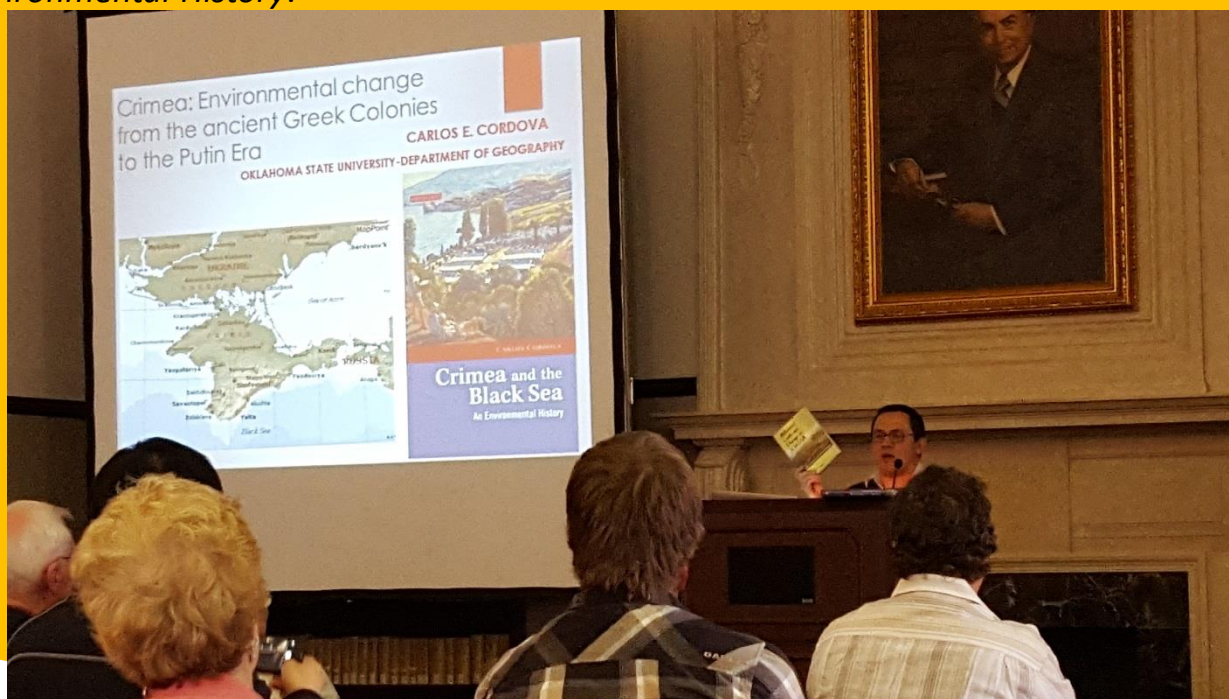
OSU Geographers were busy working and playing in San Francisco late last month. Besides their many poster, paper, and panel presentations:

- Colton Flynn was the winner of the Gail Hobbs Student Paper Competition sponsored by the Geography Education Specialty Group (GESG). His paper was titled "An Experiential-Based Learning Method Aiming to Improve Spatial Awareness."
- Jordan Brasher was elected to one of two graduate student representative positions on the Cultural Geography Specialty Group (CGSG) board.

Thomas Craig has been awarded the 2016 E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Geography Education Research Grant from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE).

Amanda Weber has been extended a conditional offer of employment from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). She has tentatively been selected for an intelligence position with a focus on human geography. She plans to finish her PhD before moving on to the position with NGA.

Carlos Cordova was the featured speaker for the 8th Annual "Plants, People & Beyond" Lecture on April 8 at the Edmon Low Library. The series is hosted by the Oklahoma State University Library and Department of Plant Biology, Ecology and Evolution each spring. Carlos gave a presentation titled "Crimea: Environmental change from the ancient Greek Colonies to the Putin Era" based on his recent book *Crimea and the Black Sea: An Environmental History*.



2015-16 Awards Gathering

On April 29, the annual Geography Awards Gathering will take place in the Murray Hall Parlor. Light refreshments will be served starting at 5:00 PM, with the Awards Ceremony starting at 5:30 and Gamma Theta Upsilon inductions immediately thereafter. Nearly \$10,000 of awards and scholarships will be distributed:

2015-16 Recognition Awards:

- John F. Rooney, Jr. Scholarship for Outstanding Junior (\$2,000)
- A&S Outstanding Senior
- Robert E. Norris Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding 1st Year MS Student (\$1,500)
- Robert and Lucy Fite Scholarship for Outstanding 1st Year PhD Student (\$2,000)
- Jerry Croft and Family Award in Geographic Education (\$1,400)
- Susan Shaul Medal for Excellence in Teaching (\$2,000 and plaque)

2016-17 Travel Awards:

- Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Scholarship (\$350)
- Norris Conference Travel Award (\$350)

Other awards and honors earned by students, staff, or faculty (on campus or off) will be recognized, so if you received some type of award or scholarship in the past year, please let [Jon Comer](#) know so he can add it to the list to be announced at the Gathering.



**2015-16
GEOGRAPHY
AWARDS
GATHERING**

WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016, 5:00-7:00 PM
(Awards presentation and GTU initiation will begin at 5:30)

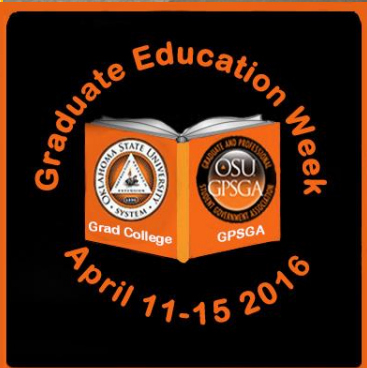
WHERE: MURRAY HALL PARLOR

LIGHT SNACKS AND SOFT DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED

Graduate Education Week 2016

April 11-15 was Graduate Education Week at OSU. Many events were sponsored to both celebrate student research and recognize all involved with graduate education at OSU. On Thursday evening, Geography was one of 15 programs on campus to present student research posters at the Cowboy Graduate Student Research Gala in the Starlight Terrace. VP for Research Kenneth Sewell gave the keynote address.

In addition to Matt Haffner, Nick Rose, and Keeley Heise shown below with our display, faculty members Brad Bays, Jon Comer, Emily Fekete, Amy Frazier, and Adam Mathews also helped staff the event. Many thanks to all for coming out to help with the event.



Graduate Defenses

Spring is usually a busy time for student defenses, and this year was no different:

- Ben Hemingway successfully defended his creative component on March 28 and is set to receive his MS degree in May. He will enter the OSU program as a graduate research associate in the summer.
- Jordan Brasher (below right) successfully defended his thesis on April 15 and will also receive his MS next month. Jordan is heading home to the University of Tennessee this fall to pursue his PhD.
- Brian Gilson (below left) also successfully defended his thesis on April 15 and will receive his MS at the end of the semester. He begins his doctoral studies here at OSU in the fall.



Keeley Heise and Yun Zhao (right) are now doctoral candidates (ABD as we say) after successfully defending their dissertation proposals on March 2 and April 11, respectively.

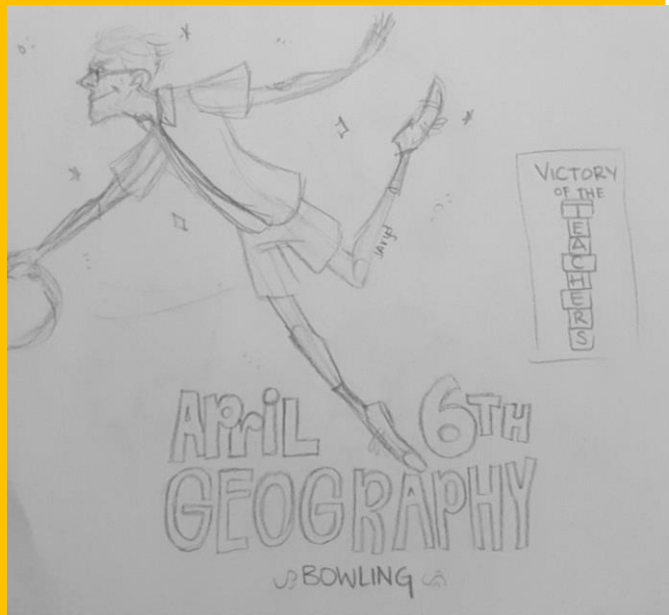
Dr. Finchum introduced a new pedagogical device for use at defenses...



Bowling

On April 6, the sort-of-annual Bowling Competition took place between the Faculty and Staff Team (FAST) and the Amalgamated Student Squad. FAST pinned the students early and often, and while the students tried to split before the final frame, FAST talked turkey and took possession of the trophy by averaging 116 pins per person (averaged across 7 players for 2 games) versus a 96 average for the students. Mike Larson led FAST with the high game (164) and 2-game average (147), while Alyson Greiner was close behind averaging 137. Nicky Wu, Tom Wikle, Adam Mathews, Emily Fekete, and Jon Comer rounded out FAST.

Teddy Breig led the student team (113) with Ava Keenen, Jaryd Hinch, Keeley Heise, Lauren Wood, Hayden Harrison, and Nick Rose.



Scenes from the Bay Area



Napa Valley



Incoming faculty member Peter Kedron with Tom Wikle and Adam Mathews

Jordan, Kim, and Stephanie visited Yosemite National Park

