



## Geography

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# Geography Newsletter

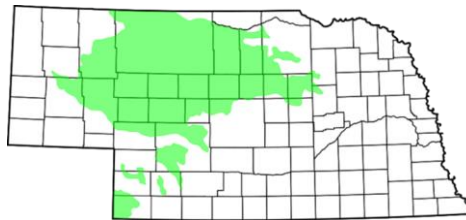
April 2017

## April Happenings

April showers have arrived on schedule to green up Stillwater, and along with spring allergies a lot of other things are in the air around the department.

There are two colloquia scheduled in April:

- Friday, April 21 – 3:30 PM in NRC 207 – **Dr. Joel Helmer** (OSU, PhD in Environmental Science, 2005), will give a talk titled “A Boot Leather Geography of the Nebraska Sandhills.”



- Friday, April 28 – 3:30 PM in NRC 207 – PhD students **Tom Cox** and **Colton Flynn** will give presentations on their research.

The 2017 Geography Awards Gathering will take place on Friday, May 5 starting at 5:00 PM in the Murray Hall Parlor. See page **10** In this newsletter for more details.

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

- Pre-Finals Week: May 1-5
- Finals Week: May 8-12
- Graduate Hooding Ceremony: May 12, 7 PM
- Undergraduate Commencement: May 13, 12 PM (A&S)
- Summer School Session 1 begins May 22
- Summer School Sessions 2 and 3 begin June 12

## Two Geography Student nab Fulbright Awards!!

Out of five OSU students who were awarded prestigious Fulbright Awards this year, two are Geography students! The Fulbright program places U.S. students in countries around the world where they act as an ambassador for the United States, work with research advisers, and learn about the people and culture. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the country's largest student exchange program, offering opportunities to students and young professionals for graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide.

**Colton Flynn** (right), a doctoral student, has been awarded a Fulbright Student Award to conduct research in Ethiopia during the 2017-2018 academic year. Colton's research focuses on the development of remote sensing techniques to predict in-field nutrition levels of grains and grasses for livestock and other agricultural applications. He will be working with the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute.



**Jaryd Hinch** a senior, has also been awarded a Fulbright Student Award. His project will assess Estonian methods of utilizing technology to bring society closer to nature. While there, he will enroll in courses that contribute to his understanding of human-environment geography. Jaryd is shown above at the College of Arts & Sciences Awards Banquet being recognized for his Fulbright by the Dean of A&S, Bret Danilowicz, on April 12.



## Student Awards and Recognitions

At the 2017 Boston AAG meetings, several students received Awards:

- PhD student **Thomas Craig** was selected as this year's winner of the Gail Hobbs Student Competition Paper, put on by the AAG Geography Education Specialty Group. In 2016, PhD student Colton Flynn was selected for this award. Great work, OSU Geographer-Educators!
- PhD student (and soon to be Dr.) **Keeley Heise** was awarded a Jeanne X. Kasperson award from the Hazards, Risk, and Disaster Specialty Group. The Specialty Group hosts one or two sessions in memory of Dr. Kasperson that include papers by students who are conducting research in the area of hazards geography. This year, there were 9 winners from around the United States and abroad.

The College of Arts & Sciences held its annual Awards Banquet on April 12 in the Student Union Ballroom. Dr. Dale Lightfoot and Dr. Emily Fekete were in attendance as outstanding students from around the college were recognized. In Geography, **Jaryd Hinch** was named the Outstanding Senior for the department. **Brooke Bastie**, who is recently back from studying abroad at Oxford for the semester, was chosen to receive the John F. Rooney, Jr. Scholarship for Outstanding Junior (an award Jaryd received last year). Brooke is a triple-major in English, Spanish, and Geography.



## 2017 GIS Day at the Capitol

Once again, the OSU Department of Geography was well represented at the 2017 GIS Day at the Capitol, the 23<sup>rd</sup> year for the event. Nine departmental staff and students were on hand to answer questions about the department's degree programs, the new BS in Geosciences degree, the new BA in Global Studies degree, the GIS certificate program, and information about our student organizations and their involvement in the department.

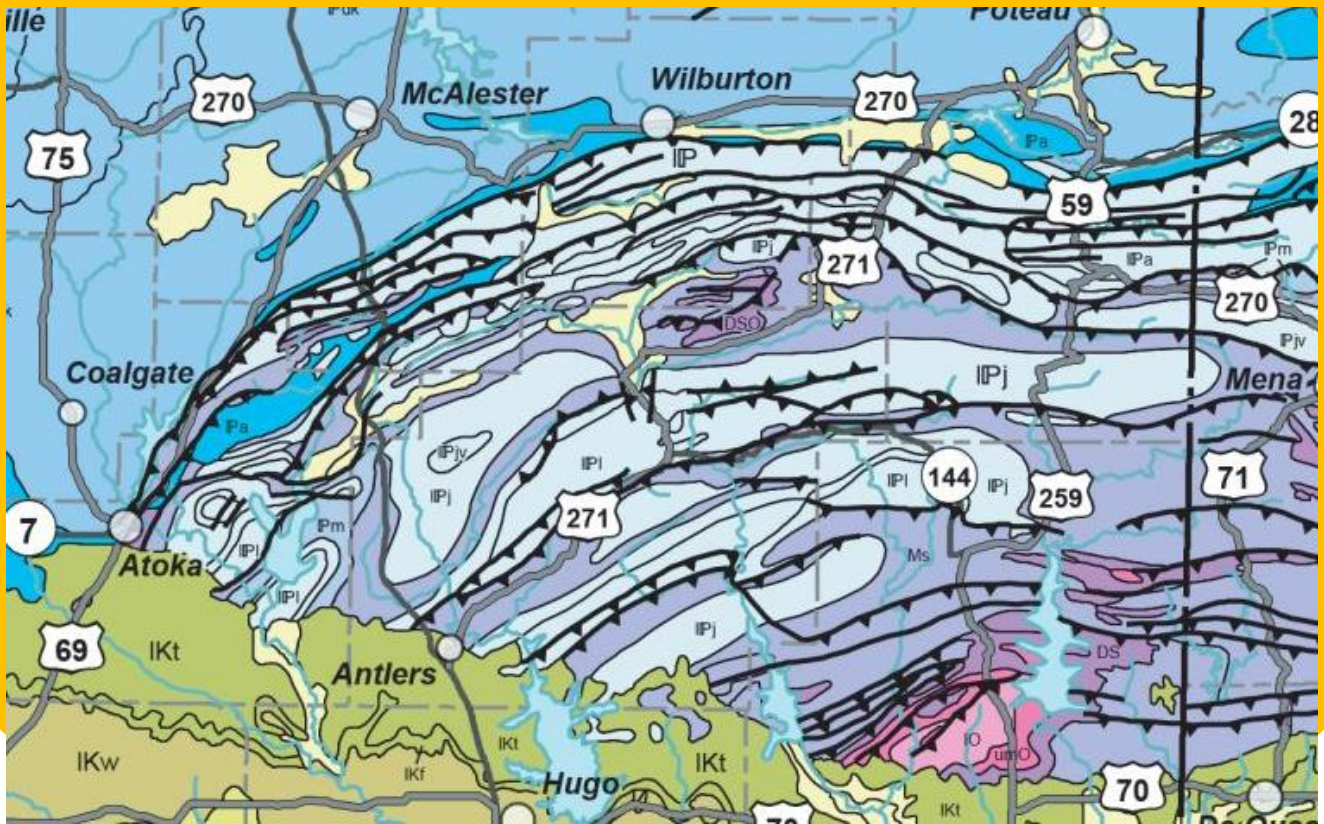


Pictured in the photo (L-R): Hank Yang, Sierra Travis, Jean Wang, Lauren Wood, Hayden Harrison, Michael Larson, Clay Barrett and John Hall. Not pictured, Austin Boardman.

GIS Day #24 is slated for March 6, 2018 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor rotundas.

## Cartography Services News

The spring has been an exciting time for OSU Cartography Services. We have seen the Geological Highway Map Series: MidContinent Region completed at the start of the year become a printed product available on the market. This map was published in March 2017. There are three additional regions currently in production, the Texas region map was printed last summer, and hopefully we will get to a chance to work on the final four of the series. Much of the work we do for the OSU-AAPGF Consortium, funded by the Boone Pickens Digital Geology Fund, deals with resources utilized by American Association of Petroleum Geologists for production purposes, however the Geological Highway Map series is a publication made for public consumption and available on the [AAPG's bookstore website](#). The images presented here are samples of the figures made by OSU Cartography Services. These images are painstakingly recreated from scans of the original map by student employees under the supervision of the GIS Specialist, verified for accuracy, and reformatted for print. These are combined with the text portions by a partner before being sent to the AAPG for printing. The example included is from the main map of major tectonic features and surface rock types around the Ouachita Mountains. Other elements of the map like stratigraphic charts indicating the geologic profile for various sub-regions, the tectonic region and fault feature map, and a cross section profile following major highways across the region are currently hanging in the north wing of Murray Hall. If you wish to see the full published map or for more information about OSU Cartography Services, see **Michael Larson** in 319 MUR.



## Faculty-Student Research

The GEOG 6910—Topics in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Studies—class instructed by Dr. Adam Mathews conducted some fieldwork on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at OSU's UAS airfield east of Stillwater. Interdisciplinary teams of graduate students from Geography, Geology, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Integrative Biology, and Plant and Soil Sciences captured aerial imagery and GPS data to generate 3D models for analysis.



Dr. Tom Wikle (above) joined the fun testing a quadcopter. At right, students Nathan (GEOL; left) and Geoffrey (MAE; right), are shown here capturing GPS data for ground control.



Matt Haffner, Emily Ellis, and Dr. Adam Mathews' manuscript entitled 'GIS-based modeling of tornado siren sound propagation: refining spatial extent and coverage estimations' was recently accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*. The paper utilizes GIS to examine tornado siren sound propagation in Stillwater using varying weather scenarios. This work was first presented by Matt Haffner as a poster at the SWAAG Regional Meeting in the fall of 2016. The paper can be downloaded here: <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2017.04.004>.

## Departmental Potpourri

More senior students and faculty might remember Kelsey Smith, a work-study for several semesters in the main office. Well, she is now officially Dr. Kelsey Smith, having received her Doctor of Chiropractic from Parker University in Dallas. She seems pretty happy about it! Congratulations, Dr. Smith!



On Friday, March 31, Drs. Steve Stadler, Allen Finchum, and Jon Comer served as officials at the State of Oklahoma Geographic Bee in Norman, as they have done for many years. Stadler and Comer were moderators for their respective morning sessions, while Finchum served as judge alongside Stadler. Keeping up a tradition, Comer's room finished the morning session first out of the five different preliminary rooms (20 students each – 100 make the state finals). So maybe he does talk a little fast...

Each state winner advances to the National Geographic Bee, held May 14-17, 2017 at the National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

## International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party

On March 31 the annual International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party was held at Dr. Wikle's home. Always a popular departmental event, this year was no exception and much merriment was had, except the Editor was otherwise engaged and missed the affair 😞



Wines: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Rebecca Sheehan,  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Palvih Bhana, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Jaryd Hinch.

Worst wine – Kimberly Johnson.



Cheeses:  
1<sup>st</sup> place – Barbara Stadler,  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Tory Lightfoot,  
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Tom Wikle.

Worst cheese – Amanda Weber.





# International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party (cont.)



Beers: 1<sup>st</sup> place AND 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Barbara Stadler, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Emily Fekete.

Worst beer – Amy Frazier.



## 2016-17 Awards Gathering

On May 5, 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:

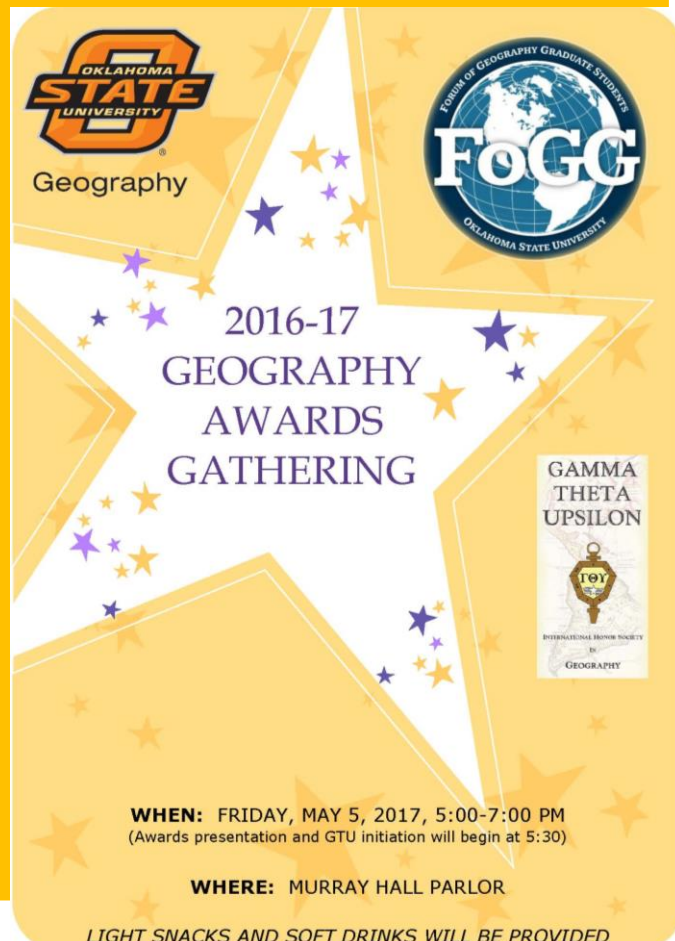
### 2016-17 Recognition Awards:

- John F. Rooney, Jr. Scholarship for Outstanding Junior (\$2,300)
- A&S Outstanding Senior
- Robert E. Norris Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> Year MS Student (\$2,500)
- Robert and Lucy Fite Scholarship for Outstanding 1<sup>st</sup> Year PhD Student (\$3,000)
- Jerry Croft and Family Award in Geographic Education (\$1,500)
- Susan Shaul Medal for Excellence in Teaching (plaque)

### 2017-18 Travel Awards:

- Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship (\$350)
- Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Scholarship (\$500)
- Norris Conference Travel Awards (\$500 each)
- Norris Field Work Award (\$1,500)

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.



**2016-17  
GEOGRAPHY  
AWARDS  
GATHERING**

**WHEN:** FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017, 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