



Geography

Geography Newsletter

August 2019

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Summer Happenings

Welcome back! A relative lack of news and a tardy editor means this newsletter is more of a monthly wrap-up than a look ahead. The semester has started and all the pre-semester meetings have come and gone, so let's take one long, lingering look back at Summer 2019...

We had a small flurry of graduations among the graduate student ranks:

Robert Garrett successfully defended his dissertation on July 11. Title: "Moving from the Global North to the Global South: Understanding Self-Initiated Expatriation to Bangkok, Thailand." Committee chair: **Dr. Rebecca Sheehan**.

Gustavo Ovando Montejo successfully defended his dissertation on July 19. Title: "Landscape Examination of Urban Configuration through the application of Spatial Metrics." Committee chair: **Dr. Jon Comer**.

Puja Jana successfully defended her dissertation on July 22. Title: "Indus, the Blue Gold: Rethinking the Transboundary Water Distribution between India and Pakistan." Committee chair: **Dr. Dale Lightfoot**.

MS students **Catherine Shropshire** and **Avonlea Keenen** are also summer graduates. Congrats to all!

CART Services Summer Workshop

This summer, the Department of Geography participated, for a third year, in the “Unidos Program/United We Can Campus Visit, 2019”. Michael Larson, with the help of Geography students Fernanda Ramirez, Thornton Raskevitz, Connor McKeaigg, and Matthew Burton, hosted a couple workshops showcasing some of the high-tech tools used in the field of Geography.



Digital Mapping Technologies for a Changing World

What will you do in this workshop?

Do you ever use GPS on your phone, online maps to calculate directions, or just like looking at maps? In this workshop we will learn about geography and work hands-on with mapping technologies. We can use these tools to study population distributions and change, determine where to site a new retail store, locate an ideal field to plant a crop, and much more.



*Unidos Se Puede/
United We Can
Campus Experience
2019*

Meeting Times

Wednesday, July 10th
9:30 – 12:30 pm

Thursday, July 11th
9:00 – 12:00 pm

Speaker:

Michael P. Larson

Location:

MUR 301



Geography

Faculty Summer Travels

The Stadlers cruised across the North Atlantic from Rotterdam to Boston via Scotland, Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland, St. Pierre and Miquelon, and Nova Scotia. It was a trip that had great cultural and physical geography aspects and was much cooler than staying in Oklahoma. Pictured are the Stadlers (below left) in Prince Christian Sound which transects southern Greenland. Did you know St. Pierre and Miquelon (below right) are an overseas collective of France, the last vestige of France's North American holdings, and are within sight of Newfoundland? The population is at about 6,000 and the French maintain their fishing rights on the Grand Banks to the south.



Views (below) of Reykjavik from the Perlan

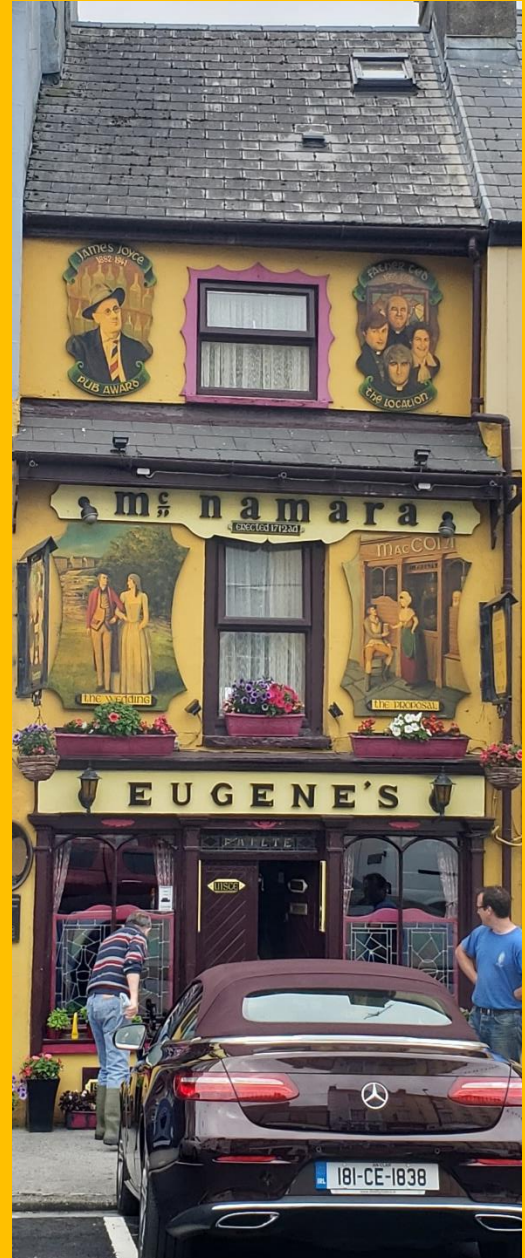


Faculty Summer Travels (cont.)

The Comers again spent two weeks in Ireland in late June/early July. Unlike last year, when they circuited the entire island, they were less ambitious this year, spending nearly all of it in County Clare (west coast) in Spanish Point. They did go back to Cork and Cobh for a day, revisited the Cliffs of Moher, (above and below), and took in a border collie demonstration, plus drove to the end of the Loop Head Peninsula and its lighthouse..



Sunset on Spanish Point (above);
Caherconnel Ring Fort herding dog demonstration (below).



Ennistimon

Faculty-Led Study Abroad

Jon Comer and Tom Wikle led their fairly-annual study abroad trip (GEOG 4600/5700) in 2019, once again exploring new countries. Jon and Tom departed a week early, on May 28, and made their way to Belgrade, Serbia. During their pre-excursion they also visited Sarajevo, Bosnia; Zagreb, Croatia; and Ljubljana, Slovenia, as well as Plitvice Lakes National Park in Croatia.

They then flew to Rome to meet the arriving students, and toured Rome for a few days. En route to the port of Bari, they toured Pompeii, and then ferried over to Durrës, Albania to disembark and continue their trip. They had a few hours in Tirana, spent a night in Budva, Montenegro and visited the port town of Kotor, and then overnighted near Dubrovnik and toured the walled city the next day. The last two days of the trip were spent getting up to and across the island of Hvar, spending a night there and touring the city, before retracing their steps back to the Dubrovnik area for one last night before flying home on June 13 via Frankfurt, Germany.



Bullet holes are still visible on many buildings in Sarajevo



Belgrade Fortress



St. Mark's Church, Zagreb

Faculty-Led Study Abroad (cont.)



Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia



Ljubljana Castle, Slovenia



Novo Mesto, Slovenia



Welcome to Tirana!



Lake Bled, Slovenia

Faculty-Led Study Abroad (cont.)

Walls of Dubrovnik



To get to Hvar from Dubrovnik, we had to pass through the Neum corridor, a sliver of territory on the coast possessed by Bosnia. Then a ferry took us to the eastern end of Hvar (Sućaraj), and finally a winding 2-hour bus ride across the 41-mile length of the island to the city of Hvar on the western tip.

Hvar



Kotor, Montenegro



RMP-GIS Team

On August 20, the RMP-GIS research team met to plan for the upcoming year and to strike a pose. Team members include (L-R) MS student **Nicole Pauley**, PhD student **Fernanda Ramirez Sáenz**, Manager of Geospatial Systems and OSU Cartography Services **Michael Larson**, undergraduate student **PJ Smith**, MS student **Thornton Raskevitz**, and GIS Specialist **Hank Yang**.

RMP-GIS stands for the Resource Management Plan-Geographic Information Systems Project now housed in the Department of Geography. The RMP-GIS project conducts and updates resource management plans for Oklahoma State Parks, and completed 6 updates and 1 new plan in 2019 (so far).

All current resource management plans can be found at:

<http://geog.okstate.edu/resources/projects/rmp-gis>

