



DEPARTMENT OF  
**GEOGRAPHY**

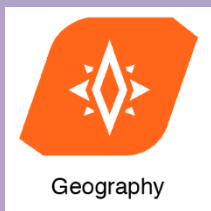
College of Arts and Sciences

INSIDE:

Welcome Back.....1

News from Around  
the Department.....2

New Graduate  
Students .....4



Geography

# Geography Newsletter

August 2021

## Welcome Back!

Here we are, Fall 2021 is underway and we are striving to get through with some sense of normalcy. Thus, we have news to share and events coming up.

Our graduate student organizations have held elections and selected officers for the 2021-22 year:

### GTU election results:

- President: Brice Zoungrana
- Vice President: Clayton Lucas
- Treasurer: Belem Carrasco Galvan
- Historian: Gabby Boyd

### FOGG election results:

- President: Erin Templeton
- Vice President/Secretary: Stephanie Grace
- Treasurer: Katrina Ward
- Principal Delegate: Jackie Msovela
- Representative: Kira Ehrnsberger

### Important dates for Fall 2021:

- Monday, September 6 – Labor Day Holiday (no classes and university closed)
- October 14-16 – Joint AAG regions meetings plus Applied Geography Conference, online and on site in OKC
- November 22-26 – Fall Break and Thanksgiving Holiday, no classes (university closed Nov. 25-26)

## News from around the Department

**Dr. Hamed Gholizadeh** received a NASA award to monitor grassland plant diversity using airborne and spaceborne imaging spectroscopy.

**Dr. Tom Wikle** published an article in *Chronicles of Oklahoma* that describes a 1927 air race from California to Hawaii that took place shortly after Charles Lindbergh's famous flight across the Atlantic. Named the Wooloroc, the winning aircraft was sponsored by Oklahoma oilman Frank Phillip and named after his Bartlesville, Oklahoma ranch.

**Dr. Brad Bays** secured a contract for federal FY22 to update and revise historic preservation planning documentation for the commercial properties of downtown Stillwater. Funding for the project is provided by a grant from the National Park Service (NPS) Historic Preservation Fund, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OK/SHPO), and a matching grant from the OSU College of Arts & Sciences.

**Dr. Thomas LaVanchy** is working with undergraduate **Caitlin Brooks** in the GUMP program.

Recent publications by Dr. LaVanchy:

Romano, ST, J Nelson-Nuñez, and **GT LaVanchy**. (2021). Rural Water Provision at the State-Society Interface in Latin America. *Water International*. doi:10.1080/02508060.2021.1928973

**LaVanchy, GT**, MW Kerwin, GJ Kerwin, and M McCarroll. (2021). The optics of 'Day Zero' and the role of the state in water security for a township in Cape Town (South Africa). *Water International*. doi:10.1080/02508060.2021.1946763

Adamson, JK, **GT LaVanchy**, B Stone, JA Clark, SJ Dykstra, and MJ Taylor. (2021). Geological and hydrogeological assessment of the Brito Formation: Municipio de Tola, Nicaragua. *Hydrogeology Journal*. doi:10.1007/s10040-021-02360-w

## Departmental News (cont.)

New Ph.D. student **Ny Aina Rakotoarivony** received a \$10,000 Delores and Jerry Etter Research Scholarship to detect an invasive alien plant in grasslands using remotely sensed data. Ny Aina will be working with **Dr. Gholizadeh** on this project.

The Summer 2021 RMP-GIS team visited the following parks for field data collection: Sand Springs, Sequoyah State Park, Sequoyah Bay, Keystone State Park, Osage Hill State Park, and Quartz Mountain State Park. Pictured below (L-R): Fernanda Ramirez, Ofuje Amune, Chad Brazeel, and Zach Carnahan. **Dr. Hank Yang** supervised the team.



## New Graduate Students



**Emma Riddle** is a first-year master's student from Chaska, Minnesota. Last spring, she graduated from Wheaton College (IL) with a BS in Environmental Science. Her research interests include human-environment interactions, environmental justice, and indigenous ecological knowledge. Her passions were largely shaped by her time spent living in rural villages throughout Thailand learning from a variety of minority people groups about how they care for the land.

**Erin Templeton** is a new PhD student. Her research interests are in cultural/human geography including migration, gender, and geographies of religion. Erin earned her Master of Arts degree in Geography at the University at Albany, State University of New York in Spring 2021. She is a former Fellow on Women & Public Policy at the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society at Rockefeller College, University at Albany, SUNY. Erin earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography at the same institution, and an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from State University of New York Schenectady (Schenectady County Community College).



**Minoarimanana Ny Aina Rakotoarivony** has just started her research and studies at OSU. Her research focuses on the application of Geospatial Technologies, including Remote Sensing, in the detection of invasive plant. She graduated as an Environmental Engineer in Hungary and as an Agronomist Engineer mainly focused on Environment-Territory and Development in Madagascar. She is a multidisciplinary person, who always likes to learn and share knowledge from/with others.

## New Graduate Students (cont.)

**Wenqi Liu** is a new Ph.D student. Her research interest is in landcover change and climate feedback of anthropogenic landuse transition, which is focused on the human-energy-water interactions on landsurface. Strong interests in man-land relationship prompt her to observe and explore various process on land surface. She earned my master's degree in land resource management from Northeast Agricultural University in China. In her spare time, she likes reading books, listening to band music and playing sports such as hiking and running.



**T M Junaid Bashar** completed his bachelor in Urban and Regional Planning at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology in 2019 and is now in the MS program in the department. His research interests include GIS and remote sensing applications in urban and regional analysis. In his free time, he enjoys watching sports, playing sports, especially outdoor sports. He loves his family and He likes to spend time with friends.

**Joseph (Joe) Frimel** began attending Oklahoma State University in the fall of 2021. Originally from Wildwood, Missouri, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Missouri-Columbia prior to his arrival in Stillwater. His primary interest revolves around ethnic, national, and regional identities of Eastern Europe. Particularly, Joseph focuses on these identities in Latvia and the Russian Federation. Outside of geography, he is known to be an avid hockey fan



## New Graduate Students (cont.)



**Katrina Ward** (she/they) is an artist, designer, photographer, organizer, and quilter based in Oklahoma. They grew up in rural Indiana and spent a lot of time thinking about how the places we're from shape our lives and choices. She will be focusing on cultural geography in the MS program, and exploring how capitalism impacts memory and memorialization, and embodiment in geographic practices. Their undergrad education was completed at the University of Oklahoma in Visual Communication and Art History, and she's excited to cross disciplines into geography.

**Sanchita Budhathoki** is a new MS student in the Geography program. Her research interest is in land use and land cover change and the use of machine learning and remote sensing technologies in the field of natural resources. She completed her undergraduate degree in forestry from Kathmandu Forestry College under Tribhuvan University in Nepal. In her free time, she likes reading books, listening to music, and going for a hike.



**Kira Ehrnsberger** is a new master's student at OSU in fall 2021. Her current research interests include historical and cultural geographies of the middle and northern Great Plains and the upper Midwest. She developed her academic interests after taking a U.S historical geography course as a sophomore at Ohio University. She was a Pathways intern with the National Park Service the following summer, which helped her discover a love of listening to people tell their stories. After graduating with a Geography, BS and a History, BA from Ohio University in spring 2021, she spent the summer as a ranger in North Dakota at Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

## New Graduate Students (cont.)

**Ehsan Foroutan** began his PhD program the fall of 2021. He is interested in Urban growth modeling, uncertainty modeling, disaster management, spatio-temporal modeling, location-allocation Problems, and GNSS. He received his bachelor's in Surveying and Geomatic Engineering from University of Isfahan, Iran, in 2009 and his Masters in Geospatial Information System from the University of Tehran in 2012. In his master's thesis, he used remotely sensed data for modeling urban growth using artificial intelligence tools such as genetic algorithms, fuzzy logic and integrated them with cellular automata. After graduation, he worked in a construction project, taking the responsibility of the head of surveying engineers in a company that implemented Isfahan Subway rail installation. He also was working as GIS expert at the Spatial Department of Isfahan Municipality ICT Organization from 2016-2021.



**Jackie Msovela** is from Tanzania, East Africa. She started attending OSU in fall 2019 as a master's student in the global studies department. Her research interests are in human-environment interaction specifically in environmental justice, policies and water security. She has a passion in environmental justice because she thinks every human being has a right towards potable water. Therefore, she would like to conduct research on water security in some of the developing countries in Africa, study their policies, identify problems, challenges and gaps that those countries face and contribute towards finding solutions to water scarcity. She got her bachelor's degree in Environmental Health Science from East Central University Ada Oklahoma, master's from OSU and is now pursuing a PhD in the Department.