Geography Newsletter

February 2019

Geography

INSIDE:

February Happenings

February is the shortest month, which explains why this newsletter is coming out late? But we shall strive to do better and tell you about upcoming events for the rest of the month:

Tuesday, February 19 – 3:30 PM – Keso Room: PhD Candidate **Colton Flynn** will defend his dissertation titled "Predicting Nutrient Content, Plant Health, and Site Suitability: A Case Study of *Eragrostis tef*." The defense is open to the public.

Thursday, February 21 – 6:30 PM – MUR 341: Geography Club will have a screening of the animated film "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" for its first Movie Night of the year.

Sunday, February 24 – 11:59 PM: Geography Club spring t-shirt deadline: https://osugeographyclub2019.itemorder.com/sale

Thursday, February 28 – 6:00 PM – Student Union Suite 1600: Dr. Dale Lightfoot will lead a discussion about "Arab Culture" in an event sponsored by the OSU Arab Student Association.

Research Week is February 18-22 at OSU, and this year there are a lot of events scheduled – including "Celebrating Authors" which will include Carlos Cordova with his new book *Geoarchaeology*.

Geography Undergraduate Mentors Program (GUMP)

BS student Racine Swick submitted this report about her 2017-18 research project as part of the department's GUMP program:

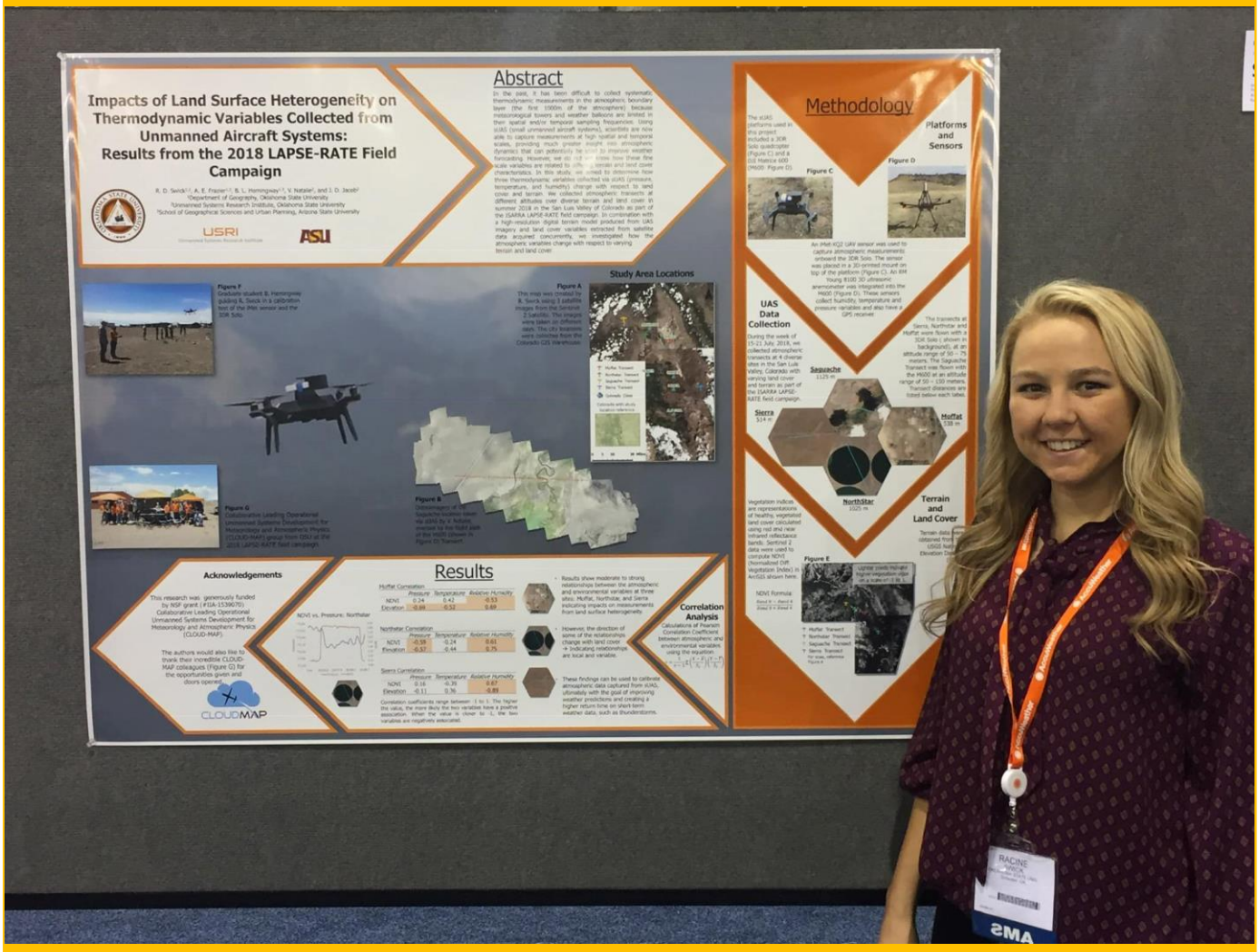
"The GUMP experience changed my life. This program enables undergraduate students, passionate about research, to work closely with a faculty member and gain hands-on experience in a field they are excited about.

Through the weeks of July 16th through the 21st, 2018, I was a part of this program with Dr. Amy Frazier. This internship involved me in an organization called CLOUD-MAP that was in conjunction with multiple universities such as The University of Oklahoma, University of Kentucky and University of Nebraska. CLOUD-MAP utilizes atmospheric data collected from UAV's to better predict the weather.

The entire trip was a great learning experience. Dr. Frazier and her colleagues opened my eyes to field practices, data collection, and technical expertise I could not have gotten with any other group. Being hands on and collecting the data, created a want to expand my physical geography knowledge. After the trip, I was able to look at the data and begin to understand the difference in the atmospheric layers.

I have two favorite attributes that I take away from this program: the first is that through this experience I was able to better understand a subject that didn't understand in the classroom. Through my research we utilized NDVI as a comparison to our atmospheric variables. In the classroom, I was unable to wrap my head around the concepts, however, through perseverance and a lot of research, I know understand it better than I ever thought possible. The second take-away is that, this experience has opened so many doors for me. I am now a research assistant to a fellow CLOUD-MAP team member, I was able to attend the AGU conference in Washington DC as a co-author on Dr. Frazier's poster, and I have made many life long friends along my journey."

Geography Undergraduate Mentors Program (cont.)



"The week before classes resumed (January 6-10, 2019), I presented my findings at the 99th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) in the Student GIS Poster session in Phoenix, Arizona. GUMP has taught me to push my limits as a scientist, to have patient endurance when it comes to research, and to never limit my ability to break my own boundaries. I intend to apply to many graduate schools and continue my education into the field of Planetary Science."