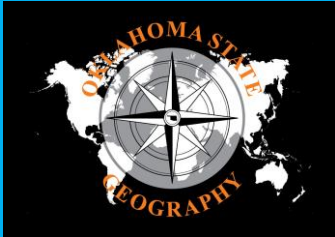


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Geography Newsletter

May 2015

May Happenings

Awards:

- **Matt Haffner** (PhD student) was recently awarded a \$1,500 South-Central Arc Users Group (SCAUG) Scholarship.
- **Lauren Wood** (MS student) was awarded a \$500 OK-SCAUG Scholarship.
- **Emily Ellis** and **Nick Deyoe** (undergraduates) each received an inaugural SST Software Scholarship.

Jon Comer was nominated for (but did not win) the OSU Outstanding Graduate Coordinator Award, which he did win in 2013. He greatly appreciates the nomination.

Events:

Andrea Gaughan of the University of Louisville gave a colloquium presentation on May 4 titled "The Nexus of Human, Climate and Natural Resource Systems at Regional to Global Scales."

A departmental soccer match is scheduled for noon on Thursday, May 7, immediately west of the Atherton Hotel.

Spring Defenses:

Siewe Siewe successfully defended his dissertation, titled "Deforestation: Impact on carbon stocks, biodiversity and the effects of conservation policies on the people and forests of the Korup National Park (KNP) in Cameroon", on April 3.

Clay Barrett, **Gustavo Ovando**, and **Jennifer Sebesta** all successfully defended their theses on April 17. Congrats!

Study Abroad:

Drs. Jon Comer and Tom Wikle are taking students to Budapest, Krakow, Prague, and Vienna from May 18-29 to study modern-day Eastern Europe.

2015 Geography Awards Gathering

On May 1, the annual Awards Gathering was held in the Murray Hall Parlor.

Recognition Awards for 2014-15:



John F. Rooney Scholarship for Outstanding Geography Junior (\$2,000): **Ava Keenen**



Outstanding Senior:
Emily Ellis



Robert E. Norris Scholarship for Outstanding First Year Master's Student (\$2,000):
Jordan Brasher



Jerry Croft and Family Scholarship for Geography Education (\$1,300): **Thomas Craig** (L) with Jay and Anne Marie Croft



Robert and Lucy Fite Scholarship for Outstanding First Year PhD Student (\$2,000) AND Susan Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching: **Matt Haffner**

2015 Geography Awards Gathering (cont.)

Travel Awards for 2015-16:



Alyson L Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship (\$500): **Ryan Conner**



Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Award (\$250 each): **Keeley Heise (L) and Nick Deyoe (R)** with Dr. Tweedie



Robert E. Norris Conference Travel Grants (\$500 each): **Stephanie Heald, Jordan Brasher, Thomas Craig, and Elizabeth Armstrong.**



Robert E. Norris Field Research Grants (\$1,500 each): **Brian Gilson (L), Samayita Bandyopadhyay (R), and Thomas Craig (not shown).**

Gamma Theta Upsilon (ΓΘΥ) Initiation

On May 1, the Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geographical Honor Society, initiated new members. Dr. Thomas Wikle, co-advisor of the chapter, and President Keeley Heise inducted the new members who were present. Those inducted in 2015 were:

Elizabeth Armstrong**
Alexandra Comer
Brian Gilson**
Avonlea Keenen*

Lela Berastequi*
Bailey Divis
Michael Hall
Maddison Mayer*
Amanda Weber**

Jean Christensen
Audra George
Ben Hemingway**
Sara Skiba

*** Geography Undergraduate**

**** Geography Graduate Student**



L-R: Amanda Weber, Sara Skiba, Avonlea Keenen, Ben Hemingway, Brian Gilson, Lela Berastequi, and Elizabeth Armstrong initiated into GTU.

GTU also recognized MICHAEL LARSON as the Outstanding Geography Department Staff Member for 2014-15.

The Forum of Geography Graduates (FOGG) recognized JON COMER as the Outstanding Teacher for 2014-15.

International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party

On April 10 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.

Best Wines: **1st place – Shannon Comer**

2nd place – Luis Montes

3rd place – Jeremy Henning



As rare as a Bigfoot sighting – Jon Comer (L) judging wine! Thomas Craig and Jordan Brasher round out the vino triumvirate!



All photographs on pages 5-7 courtesy of Samayita Bandyopadhyay

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

Best Cheeses: 1st place – Lauren Montalbano

2nd place – Stella Liu

3rd place – Nikki Wu



Judges Amy Frazier, Palvih Bhana, and Nick Rose doing Gouda work. No one was allowed to try any samples though – that’s nacho cheese, it’s mine!



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

Best Beers: 1st place – Luis Montes
 2nd place – Amy Frazier 3rd place – Ben Hemingway



Judges Jeremy Henning, Tom Wikle, and Nathan Smith hop to their duties; there's barley any room at the table for more samples!



OSU visits Cuba

Thirteen OSU students and several non-student, university-affiliated participants (including Drs. Tweedie and Stadler) traveled with a Department of Geography study abroad course during spring break. This student group included two of our own: doctoral student Jordan McAlister and geography major Lauren Montalbano. The course was organized by Dale Lightfoot and Tom Wikle. Themes of the course centered on environment and heritage and organized visits were made to historic sites in Old Havana, a visit with an urban architect involved in the historic preservation and re-development of the city, cultural sites associated with the syncretically fused religions of Catholicism and Santeria, an organic farm cooperative, a visit with the environmental planners and community organizers for the Metropolitan Park of Havana, a UNESCO Biosphere reserve and eco-community, and traditional life in the tobacco and sugar producing areas of rural, western Cuba.

If you are interested in sharing in this experience, we will return to Cuba next spring break (March 12-19, 2016) for another adventure. Contact Dale Lightfoot or Tom Wikle for details.



In addition to structured activities, there was much free time for exploration and informal education, and lots of good music (and dancing). Cuba, we learned, is a fascinating place undergoing an experiment in communi-capitalism, much like China began implementing—slowly but surely—in the 1980s-1990s (complete with dual local+tourist currencies like China had in place until the early-1990s). The prevailing mood in Cuba today is clearly, palpably one of optimism. The time capsule element is still very much there but change (privatization, entrepreneurship, links to others through tourism and business) is already underway. Things are getting better, but no one knows exactly how this will all shake out. It is a grand experiment in compromise, and still in progress.

OSU visits Cuba (cont.)



Che Guevara on the side of an elementary school, Las Terrazas, Cuba



Old American cars, Havana, Cuba

All photos on pages 8-9 courtesy of Dale Lightfoot

Physical Geography Field Trip

The GEOG 1114 field trip has become a tradition for instructors and TAs. This spring the trip was led by Dr. Carlos Cordova and Tom Cox on Wednesday, April 14, and by Dr. Steve Stadler and Nick Rose on April 15. The weather cooperated with the team this time. Stops included the Glass Mountains (actually a series of mesas and buttes), the Cimarron River floodplain in Woods County, the Little Sahara Dunes State Park, Alabaster Cavern State Park, and a wind farm in Dewey County. Thanks to Dr. Stadler for organizing the GEOG 1114 labs and the field trip.



Photos courtesy of Carlos Cordova

OSU alumna leads trip to India

Shireen Hyrapiet (Ph.D. 2012), Instructor of Geography, Oregon State University, led a trip from March 13-29, 2015 for that OSU's Geoclub to her native India (Shireen is at far right in the photo in front of the Taj Mahal).



Chand Baori stepwell in Abhaneri, Rajasthan



Taj Mahal



Dauladhar Range in Dharmshala, North India

Parks and Recreation



Geographers hit the volleyball courts several times in April for some fun.

Several Geographers participated in a “Fun Timers” League, winning 4th place. Regulars (above) Nick Rose, Jordan Brasher, Adam Mathews, and Mike Larson savor their “victory”. Throughout the season Ladan Ghahramani, Kimberly Johnson, Lauren Wood, and Yun Zhao filled in as subs.



Geography Club hosted an end-of-year cookout at Boomer Lake on May 2. Kudos to president Nathan Smith (R) for organizing the event and cooking!