



## Geography

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# Geography Newsletter

May 2016

## May Happenings

Well, it has happened again – another year has raced by and we will be saying goodbye to many graduates, though some threaten (\*) to hang around to pursue the next degree in our department!

### Undergraduate Geography Degree Candidates:

Lela Berastequi	Theodore Breig
Nicholas Deyoe	Chike Etumudor
Taylor Iberosi	Morgan Johnson
Roger Nicholson	Rachel Oestmann
Catherine Shropshire*	Trenton Williams

### Master's Degree Candidates:

Elizabeth Armstrong	Jordan Brasher
Brian Gilson*	Ben Hemingway*

Graduate Hooding takes place Friday, May 6 at 7:00 PM in Gallagher-Iba Arena, while A&S undergraduate ceremonies take place the next day at 1:00 PM.

Also on May 6, Geography's own **Brooke Bastie** will be inducted into OSU's Gamma of Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in a ceremony in the Student Union Ballroom at 4:30 PM. Chapter Treasurer Jon Comer will serve as the Marshall of the Initiation Ceremony (i.e., the master of ceremonies). Brooke is the first Geography major at OSU to be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, though last year a daughter of Geography, Paige Wikle, was inducted.

## 2016 Geography Awards Gathering

On April 29, the Awards Gathering was held in the Murray Hall Parlor to recognize:



John F. Rooney Scholarship  
for Outstanding Junior  
(\$2,000): **Jaryd Hinch**



Outstanding Senior:  
**Catherine  
Shropshire**



Robert E. Norris Scholarship  
for Outstanding First Year  
Master's Student (\$1,500):  
**Emily Ellis**



Jerry Croft Family  
Scholarship for  
Geography Education  
(\$1,400): **Thomas  
Craig**



Robert and Lucy Fite  
Scholarship for  
Outstanding First Year  
PhD Student (\$2,000):  
**Colton Flynn**



Susan Shaull Medal for  
Excellence in Teaching  
(\$2,000): **Yun Zhao**

## 2016 Geography Awards Gathering (cont.)

Travel Awards for 2016-17:



Robert E. Norris  
Conference Travel Grant  
(\$350): **Matt Haffner**

Stephen W.  
Tweedie  
Travel Award:  
**Jordan  
McAlister**  
(unable to  
attend)



The Forum of Geography  
Graduates (FOGG) recognized Dr.  
**EMILY FEKETE** as the Outstanding  
Teacher for 2015-16

Awards received by students from other organizations:

- **Brooke Bastie**, a triple-major in English, Spanish, and Geography, was recognized by Mortar Board as a Top Freshman for 2015-16.
- **Emily Ellis** won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Social Sciences division of the OSU Research Symposium in February.
- **Colton Flynn** won the Gail Hobbs Student Paper Competition sponsored by the Geography Education Specialty Group at the 2016 AAG meetings.
- **Thomas Craig** has been awarded the 2016 E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Geography Education Research Grant from the NCGE.
- **Stephanie Heald** has been awarded an Oklahoma South-Central Arc Users Group (SCAUG) Scholarship for 2016. She will be recognized at the Oklahoma SCAUG Conference on September 20, 2016.

## **Gamma Theta Upsilon (ΓΘΥ) Initiation**

On April 29, the Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geographical Honor Society, initiated new members. Chapter President Keeley Heise inducted the new members who were present. Those inducted in 2016 were:

Emily Fekete\*\*\*

Colton Flynn\*\*

Audrey Franck

Jaryd Hinch\*

Robert Lucas

Katherine Nelson

Amanda Thomas

Bryn Williams

\* Geography Undergraduate

\*\* Geography Graduate Student

\*\*\* Geography Faculty Member



L-R: Emily Fekete, Colton Flynn, Jaryd Hinch, Amanda Thomas, and Bryn Williams initiated into GTU.

**GTU also recognized EMILY WILLIAMS as the Outstanding Geography Department Staff Member for 2015-16.**

## News From Around the Department

On April 18, OSU alumnus **Dr. Jess Porter** of the University of Arkansas-Little Rock gave a presentation on “Collaborative opportunities for a stand-alone geographer: Adding place to the story of Little Rock housing and race”. Dr. Porter was then feted at a local establishment after the talk.



**Dale Lightfoot** has been selected by International Studies and Outreach for the 2015-2016 Outstanding Faculty Study Abroad Leader Award, presented at the President’s Leadership Recognition Ceremony in April 2016. The award recognizes faculty who are dedicated to furthering the internationalization of OSU by providing excellent faculty-led study abroad programs. Dr. Lightfoot has led study abroad programs since 1995 in Mexico-Guatemala-Honduras, Morocco (multiple trips), and has twice traveled with students in Cuba. He recently created and led a workshop for Planning Study Abroad Courses that was offered to OSU educators. He will offer another study abroad course to Cuba, with Tom Wikle as co-instructor, during spring break 2017.



## News From Around the Department (cont.)

**Brian Gilson** has received Title VIII funding (US State Dept.) to attend Azerbaijani language training at Indiana University-Bloomington this summer. It is an 8 week program through the IU Summer Language Workshop.

**Matt Haffner** was featured in the OSU High Performance Computing Center (HPCC) Spring 2016 Newsletter. The blurb talks about his research, which he will present at AAG in Boston 2017 (supported by a departmental travel grant; see page 3) in a poster titled "Conquering Big Spatial Data: Towards a New Philosophy in Geographic Information Science"

## OSU HPCC & Twitter

### Matt Haffner, OSU Geography



OSU geography graduate student Matt Haffner is one of an emerging group of social scientists who is using high performance computing in the course of his research.

Matt's academic interests broadly include Urban Geography, Geographic Information Science and the Geoweb.

For his dissertation, Matt is receiving roughly 8GB of raw data from Twitter each day. Using a series of scripts in Cowboy, he parses out and organizes the information he needs. He looks at this new data for patterns in urban areas related to mobility, content, etc. and compares this to socioeconomic variables in the region.

## Vegetarians and Friends

### Potluck

In The 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Break Room of Murray

At noon



## Earth Day

April 22

Enjoy Friday, April 22, with the Vegetarian and Friends Club to celebrate Earth day!  
All are welcome to attend!  
Questions? Email [tim.alland@okstate.edu](mailto:tim.alland@okstate.edu)

**Dr. Jackie Vadjunec** is the advisor for the newly-formed OSU Vegetarians and Friends Club, which had its first event on Earth Day (April 22) with a potluck. Even the meat-a-tarian Editor came to visit and sample the foods.



## International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party

On April 12 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.

However, there was much controversy in the competitions. **Thomas Craig's** victory in the Cheese category was protested by the Editor, whose Merlot Cheese should have taken honors in both wine *and* cheese classes. As usual, host **Tom Wikle** won the Wine category for something like the 20<sup>th</sup> year running. Finally, **Steve Stadler's** winning beer was the *least* international item possible, from Stillwater's own local brewery (though it is good beer).



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



Winner for Best Cake:  
The Editor





## Geography Club Officers

Outgoing 2015-16 Officers : Ava Keenen (President), Catherine Shropshire (Secretary), Lela Berastequi (Treasurer), Taylor Iberosi (Vice-President):



Incoming 2016-17 Officers: Hayden Harrison (Vice-President), Jaryd Hinch (President), Joel Bjornson (Secretary), Kayla King (Treasurer):



## End-of-Year Cookout

On April 30, the Geography Club sponsored our now annual end-of-year cookout at Boomer Lake. Hot dogs were grillin', real dogs were chillin', and lots of corn-holing and Kan-Jamming were all happening. Special thanks to the Kevin and Emily "Freck" for cooking and bringing the Games.



Geography Club adopts feral black cat

## Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

So many events, so little time – but the Editor sees and attends it all. Every Saturday geographers (and anyone else who showed up at the Colvin Center at 10 AM) played indoor soccer. Best part, there are juice pouches afterwards...



On April 28 the department held a baby shower for **Yanxia Wu** and **Nick Rose**, who are expecting Margaret Bai Rose some time in May. Many gifts of either the pink or Monkey variety (2016 is the Year of the Monkey, after all) were opened, mainly by an eager Nick!

