



Geography

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Geography Newsletter

May 2018

May Happenings

Finals Week is upon us which can only mean one thing – a end-of-year wrap-up of departmental doings! We say goodbye and hello to faculty and staff, and of course graduation is near...

The department bids farewell to two colleagues. **Dr. Amy Frazier** and **Dr. Peter Kedron** have taken positions at Arizona State University and will be officially leaving us at the end of the summer. **Dr. Jackie Vadjunec** will also be away temporarily serving as an NSF officer next year.

Due to these departures, we will have two Visiting Assistant Professors next year. The search is currently underway – stay tuned!

We would like to recognize the recent retirement of main office staffer **Emily Williams** and say hello to her replacement, **Logan Stephenson**.

Graduation ceremonies are coming up, all in Gallagher-Iba Arena:

- Graduate College – Friday, May 11 @ 7 PM
- Arts & Sciences Commencement – Saturday, May 12 @ 3 PM.

There is an A&S reception at 1:30 PM on May 12 in the Student Union Ballroom – all undergraduate graduates and their families are welcome.

2018 Geography Awards Gathering

On May 4, the Awards Gathering was held in the Murray Hall Parlor to recognize:



John F. Rooney Scholarship
for Outstanding Junior
(\$1,780): **Katherine Henry**
(presented by Dr. Rooney)



Outstanding Senior:
Brooke Bastie
(presented by Dr.
Greiner)



Robert E. Norris Scholarship
for Outstanding First Year
Master's Student (\$2,500):
Lindsay King



Jerry Croft Family Scholarship
for Geographic Education
(\$1,400): **Colton Flynn**
(accepted by Dr. Frazier on
Colton's behalf)



Robert and Lucy Fite
Scholarship for Outstanding
First Year PhD Student
(\$3,000): **Maria Sol Ramirez**



Susan Shaull Medal for
Excellence in Teaching:
Thomas Craig

2018 Geography Awards Gathering (cont.)

Travel Awards for 2018-19 were also announced at the Gathering:



GTU Travel Scholarship (\$250): **Amanda Weber** (presented by Dr. Sheehan)

Robert E. Norris Scholarship for Conference Travel (\$750): **Brian Gilson** and **Amanda Weber**



Brian and Amanda plan to use the funds to attend the 2019 AAG Meetings in Washington, D.C. next April



Tweedie Travel Scholarship (\$500): **Emily Clause** (presented by Dr. Tweedie)

Alyson L Greiner Scholarship for Undergraduate Travel (\$375): **Emily Clause** and **Racine Swick**

Emily will visit Italy in May for a study abroad course titled "In the Shadow of Pompeii: Heritage Conservation in Modern Italy," where she will explore how modern Italian cities have developed around significant historic buildings, learn how archaeological sites are operated, and understand the role of historic preservation in modern society.

Racine will go to Colorado to obtain training for the field techniques associated with hands-on data collection with UAS under Dr. Frazier's NSF program.

2018 Geography Awards Gathering (cont.)

With evident trepidation Jon Comer accepted the “Sixty is Nifty” plaque on **Allen Finchum’s** behalf from the current holder, Dale Lightfoot. The award ceremony fell exactly on Dr. Finchum’s 60th birthday – May the 4th be with him...



Gamma Theta Upsilon (ΓΘΥ) Initiation

On May 4, the Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geographical Honor Society, initiated new members. Chapter President Brian Gilson (far right) inducted the new members who were present. Those inducted in 2018 were (L-R in photo):

Addison Van Zandbergen*
Krista Liesch**

Tessa Cook***
Samuel Brander *

Katherine Henry*
Andrew Price*

(not present)

* Geography/Global Studies Undergraduate

** Geography minor

***Geography Graduate Student



All photographs on pages 2-5 courtesy of Brad Bays

News From Around the Department

Dr. Brad Bays recently had a short blurb in *Inside Higher Ed* on the topic of online teaching. Dr. Bays was one of several faculty from around the U.S. who offered advice and anecdotes about teaching online courses. See the full article here:

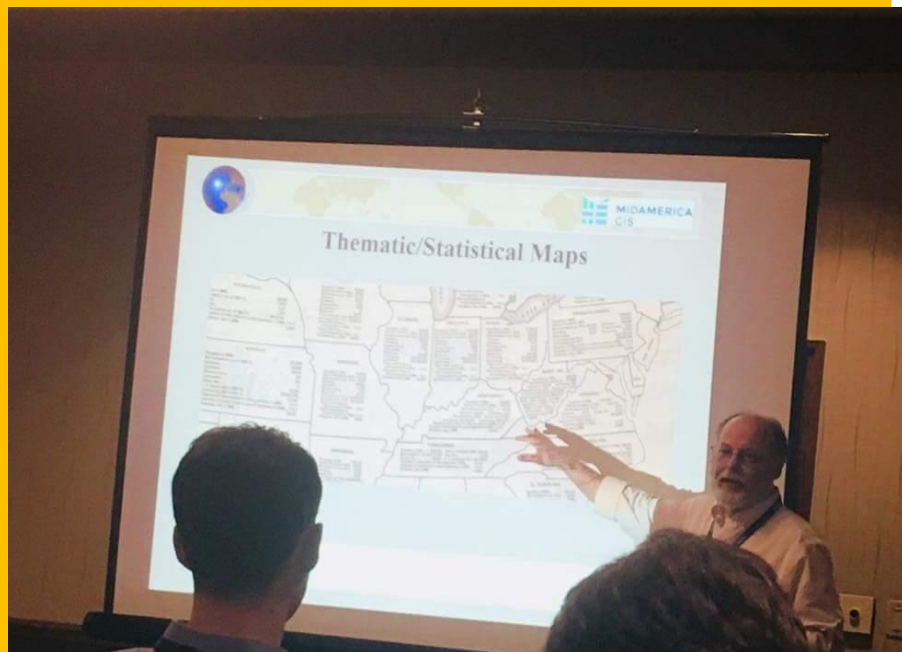
<https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2018/04/11/veteran-online-instructors-share-tips-improving-their-practices>

Jordan Brasher (MS 2016; current PhD student at Tennessee) has received a Boren Fellowship to study Portuguese and conduct his dissertation fieldwork in Brazil during the 2018-2019 school year. He will focus on the politics and performance of Confederate memory by the Confederados, a group of people descended from American Confederate soldiers who still celebrate the Confederacy in Brazil.

PhD student **Matt Haffner** (graduating May 2018) recently had a paper accepted to a special issue of *Transactions in GIS* called "A Spatial Analysis of Non-English Twitter Activity in Houston, Texas."

PhD student **Ben Hemingway** was awarded a travel grant to attend the annual meeting of the International Society for Atmospheric Research using Remotely Piloted Aircraft (ISARRA) in July in Boulder, CO where he will present his research using sUAS for atmospheric sampling. The conference will be followed by a week of flight campaigns in south central Colorado to test our systems and capture data in support of the CLOUD-MAP project.

April 23rd through 27th the Coordinator of Cartography Services, **Michael Larson**, attended the MidAmerica GIS Consortium Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Michael taught a half-day workshop *An Introduction to the Basic Cartographic Principles*. In addition, he gave a presentation *The Choropleth Map: How to Use it and Why*.



More News From Around the Department

Carlos Cordova has been nominated to a visiting scholar position (closely equivalent to the adjunct professor position in the US) at the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography at Kazan Federal University. Cordova teaches summer field seminars at the Bolgar Site, an archaeological site at the confluence of the Volga and Kama Rivers, where he also conducts research with KFU archaeologists. Kazan is the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Tatarstan. KFU is Russia's third largest university and the third oldest in Russia after Moscow and St. Petersburg universities.



Meeting and interview at the office of the KFU rector (i.e., president) with the dean, head of the department, and other officials in June 2017.

AAG 2018

Geography was well represented at AAG in NOLA April 10-14 with upwards of 30 current faculty and students in attendance, not to mention alumni. Many of the attendees are shown in the photo below. Also, several geographers were elected to leadership positions in specialty groups:

- **Don Colley** was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group.
- **Fernanda Ramirez Sáenz** was elected graduate student representative on the Human Dimensions of Global Change Specialty Group of the AAG.
- **Amanda Weber** was elected graduate student representative on the Health and Medical Geography Specialty Group of the AAG.



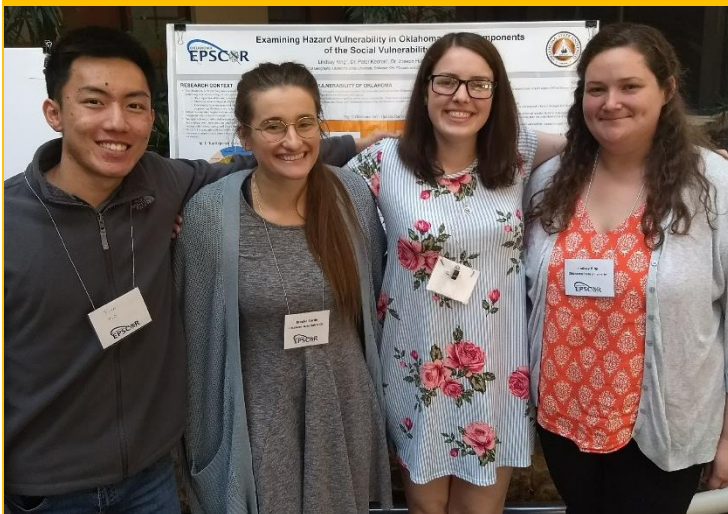
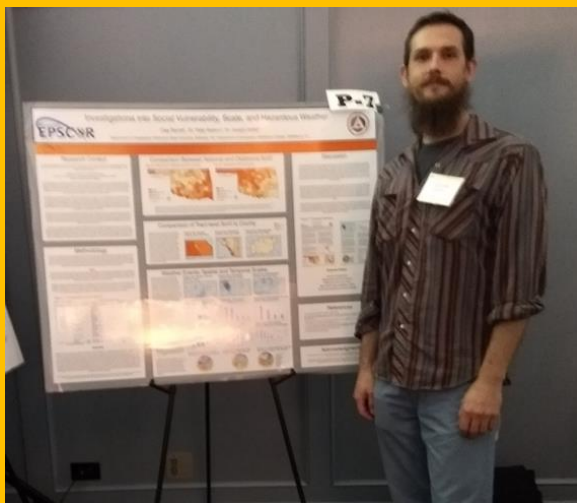
Upcoming AAG meetings:

- Washington, D.C. – April 3-7, 2019
- Denver – April, 2020
- Seattle – 2021
- Stillwater – 2022 (just kidding, it's NYC)
- Motown? – 2023
- Tropical locale? – 2024

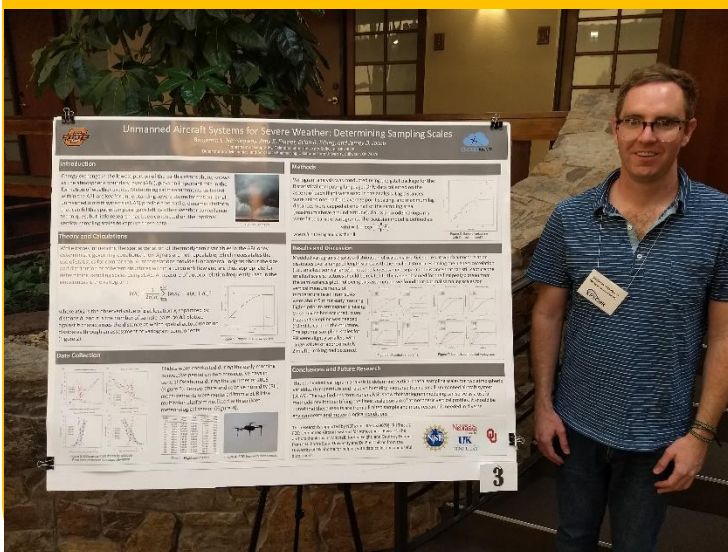


SCAUG and EPSCoR 2018

GIS Specialist **Clay Barrett** attended the 28th Annual SCAUG (South Central Arc User Group) Conference in San Antonio to present a poster over EPSCoR research findings titled Investigations into Social Vulnerability, Scale, and Hazardous Weather. While networking with other Arc users he got to see other ways ESRI products are being used, experience the famed river walk, and was technically not kicked out of the Alamo, just barred entry. Next year's conference will be in Tulsa, a much more manageable commute for interested parties.



The annual Oklahoma NSF EPSCoR State Conference was attended by a group of faculty, staff, and students led by **Dr. Peter Kedron**, most of whom have been working on his EPSCoR grant researching socio-ecological systems and their adaptability to climate variability. Principal Investigator Kedron and Co-Investigator Dr. Joseph Holler (Middlebury College) gave a talk outlining the highlights of findings so far and an outline for the final phase of the project. Master's student **Lindsay King** also presented a poster based on these findings. Undergraduate student employees **Finn Yip**, **Brooke Bastie**, and **Kayla King** (top left, with Lindsay King at far right) were in attendance to see how their efforts integrated with other research efforts within the EPSCoR program. PhD student **Ben Hemingway** (bottom left) also presented a poster of his dissertation research. GIS Specialist Clay Barrett attended for the free lunch.



International Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party

On April 20 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.



Wines:

- 1st place – Jon Comer
- 2nd place – Kim Johnson
- 3rd place – Amanda Weber
- Worst wine – Shelby Rider



Cheeses:

- 1st – Steve Stadler
- 2nd and 3rd – Sean Thomas
- Worst cheese – Kim Johnson
- Dishonorable mention – Jon Comer for moldy Fontina

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



Beers:

- 1st – Barbara Stadler
 - 2nd – Sean Thomas
 - 3rd – Tom Wikle
- (the host always Wins something!)



Worst beer – Jesse Andrews



The hardest job of all – judging!

