



Geography

Geography Newsletter

May 2019

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May Happenings

May occupies only a little bit of the academic calendar but it packs a punch! Graduation season has come and gone and as a result we have many students moving on.

At the undergraduate level, the following students are slated to graduate:

Haley Best – BA, Geography

Sam Brander – BS, Geography

Josh Grundy – BS, Geography

Katherine Henry – BS, Geography; BA, Sociology

Nolan Malloy – BS, Geography

Racine Swick – BS, Geography

The following master's students in Geography are degree candidates:

Tessa Cook and **Shelby Rider** – Spring 2019

Avonlea Keenen, **Christopher Krieger**, and **Catherine Shropshire** – Summer 2019

The following doctoral students in Geography are degree candidates:

Colton Flynn – Spring 2019

Puja Jana – Summer 2019



Congratulations to all the graduates!!

2019 Geography Awards Gathering

On May 3, the Awards Gathering was held in the Murray Hall Parlor:



John F. Rooney Scholarship
for Outstanding Junior
(\$2,500): **Harrison Muegge**
(presented by Dr. Greiner)



Outstanding Senior:
Racine Swick



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



Jerry Croft Family Scholarship
for Geographic Education
(\$1,440): **Mark Mahar**



Susan Shaull Medal for
Excellence in Teaching:
Thomas Cox

2019 Geography Awards Gathering (cont.)

Travel Awards for 2019-20 were also announced at the Gathering:



Robert E. Norris Scholarship for Conference Travel (\$500 each):
Jesse Andrews (L) and Maria Ramirez Sáenz (R)



←
 Madahi plans to pursue
 a study abroad trip
 during the 2019-20
 school year.

→
 Monique plans to study
 abroad in South Africa
 this summer at
 Stellenbosch University
 for 5 weeks, earning 6
 credit hours.



Alyson L Greiner Scholarship for Undergraduate Travel (\$375 each):
Madahi Lozano (L) and Monique Walker (R)

2019 Geography Awards Gathering (cont.)

Geography students voted on the Outstanding Faculty Member award, and this year there was a tie between **Drs. Dale Lightfoot** (left) and **Jon Comer** (right). GTU president **Colton Flynn** makes the presentations.



Incoming GTU President Fernanda Ramirez Sáenz and outgoing President Colton Flynn conduct a peaceful transfer of power...

Gamma Theta Upsilon (ΓΘΥ) Initiation

On May 3, the Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon, the International Geographical Honor Society, initiated new members.

Chapter President Colton Flynn inducted the new members who were present. Those inducted in 2019 were (L-R in photo): Jesse Andrews (PhD student, Geography); Caroline E. Gonzalez (Junior, Political Science); Sarah Hileman (PhD student, Integrative Biology); Christine Giles (Junior, Global Studies), Audrey Ward (Junior, Geography); and Maria Ramirez Sáenz (PhD student, Geography).



The club also elected new officers for 2019-20. They are: Fernanda Ramirez Sáenz (President), Maria Ramirez Sáenz (Vice President), Jesse Andrews (Secretary-Treasurer).

Graduate College Awards

The Department of Geography was well-represented at the Graduate College Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 24 in the Student Union.

Colton Flynn, graduating with his PhD in Geography this semester, collected several prestigious awards:

- Named Honorary Commencement Marshall, one of only two PhD students per commencement chosen. This is the highest honor bestowed on Doctoral and Master's degree graduates at each commencement. Marshals receive a monetary award, are recognized at commencement, and lead the graduates in the processional and recessional.
- Received a Research Excellence Award representing Group IV (only one PhD and one MS per group). This program recognizes graduate students for their outstanding research accomplishments as reflected in their thesis or dissertation. Awardees receive a certificate, a Presidential Letter of Commendation, and commemorative plaque.
- Received a Doctoral Student Phoenix Award. This is the highest recognition bestowed by GPSGA on an OSU doctoral student and recognizes exemplary achievement in leadership and scholarship, community and university service, and professional involvement, especially as it relates to the OSU graduate student body. The student award winners each receive a monetary award from the GPSGA.

PhD candidate **Ben Hemingway** shared the inaugural Oklahoma State University Holistic Science Prize, in which CAS doctoral students are recognized for multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, or holistic research contributions. Winners receive \$2,000, a certificate, and a nifty lapel pin.

PhD candidate **Puja Jana** served as a Graduate College Ambassador for a second year. Ambassadors are volunteers who are passionate about OSU, excited about their graduate student experiences, and eager to share their insights with future graduate students.

News From Around the Department

PhD student **Gustavo A. Ovando** (right) won 3rd place in the 2019 SCAUG poster competition with his poster titled “Spatio-temporal and morphological analysis of urban expansion: An approach using spatial metrics”.



Jordan Brasher (MS 2016; current PhD candidate at Tennessee) recently published a magazine article in [The Conversation](#) about his dissertation research on the long, strange relationship that Brazil has with the United States Confederacy.

Manager of Geospatial Systems and Cartography Services **Michael Larson** (MS 2003) has been profiled by the College of A&S in a short article (and video) you can access [here](#).

Undergraduate double major **Katherine Henry** (BS Geography, BA Sociology) was hooded by Dr. Jon Comer at the Honors College hooding ceremony on Sunday, April 28. Dr. Comer was first reader and Dr. Carlos Cordova was second reader for her thesis entitled “Anthropogenic Influence on Climate Change Induced Drought in the American Southwest.”

On Friday April 26, the department held a colloquium in the *ConocoPhillips Geography Career Spotlight* series with **Dr. Jim Thatcher**, University of Washington-Tacoma, who gave a talk titled “Computation and Hydropower: Mapping the contours of a digital political ecology of the Pacific Northwest.” A reception after was held in the student union.

As part of this funding from ConocoPhillips, we were able to award the inaugural **ConocoPhillips GIS Certificate Enhancement Scholarship** for \$1,000 to undergraduate major Diane Johnson.

More News From Around the Department

The Geography Department was involved in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Oklahoma State University and Kazan Federal University (Tatarstan, Russia). The signing took place at the School of Global Studies and Partnerships on April 17, 2019. Signatories included Dean Randy Kløver for OSU and Dr. Ayrat Sitdikov and Dr. Ramil Karutdinov for KFU (below, right).

Present from KFU were Leonid Vyazov and Julia Salova (below, center). **Drs. Carlos Cordova** and **Alyson Greiner** were present at the signing ceremony (below, left).

The partnership includes exchanges of students and faculty as well as collaboration in courses abroad, including Russian language courses.

That same day Dr. Leonid Vyazov gave a lecture at the Geography colloquium. The lecture covered a study of archaeology and geoarchaeology of the forest-steppe region of the Middle Volga Region, a project in collaboration with Carlos Cordova.



Conservation of Stillwater Resources

On Friday evening and Saturday morning of April 26-27, students in **Dr. Brad Bays' Conservation of Natural Resources class (GEOG 3053)** met at Stillwater's Sanborn Lake to donate about 25 man hours of their labor to collect refuse from the trails and lake's edge. The mess was collected, photographed for assessing types of litter and likely sources, sorted into recyclables and non-recyclables, and disposed of properly. Sanborn Lake, which is located just east of the Stillwater airport, was constructed during the early 1920s as

Thomas Lake Park. For most of the 20th Century it was the base of one of the most active chapters of the Izaak Walton League, a conservation organization established in 1922. For the last two decades the lake has been the annual site of the Sanborn Lake Nature Camp, a children's educational day camp dedicated to instilling science-based environmental awareness through hands-on experiences with wildlife, insects, reptiles, fish, and natural ecosystems.



Geography Club Events

Geography Club sponsored two year-end events. On Saturday, April 27, they held a cookout at Boomer Lake Park, and on Saturday, May 11 they held a graduation party in the Murray Hall Parlor for friends and families of 2019 graduates. Scenes from the cookout...



Geography Club Events (cont.)



Final Scenes of 2018-19



MS degree candidates (L-R) Shelby Rider, Catherine Shropshire, Ava Keenen, and Tessa Cook at Graduate Commencement, May 10, 2019