



DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY

College of Arts and Sciences

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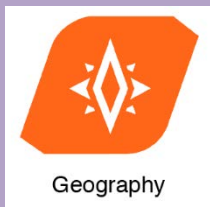
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Geography Newsletter

May 2024

Welcome!

Thanks to a very stormy, tornado-filled spring, the latest drought is being relieved, the reservoirs are full, the landscape is a verdant green, and another academic year is a wrap.

Please send pertinent news items (research, travel, social) to the editor (bbays@okstate.edu) for inclusion in our upcoming newsletters.

Important upcoming dates:

- Monday May 27 University Holiday
- Monday, June 10 (8 week) Summer Term begins
- Wednesday, June 19 University Holiday
- Thursday, July 4 University Holiday
- Wednesday, August 7 Final grades due by noon



Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

The Department celebrates our May 2024 graduates!

Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies

- Lily Chavez
- Campbell Crabtree
- Sydney Galante
- Julia Haggard
- Baylee Hart
- Perri Lewis

Bachelor of Science in Geography

- Levi Feazel
- Rachel Porter
- Jade Sullivan

Bachelor of Science in Geospatial Information Science

- Jacob Mote

Master of Science in Geography

- Emmanuel Kumi
- Saiyed Nori
- Kathy Osei

Doctor of Philosophy in Geography

- Ofuje Amune
- Brice Zoungrana

We are incredibly proud of our graduates and are excited to see how they will use their skills and knowledge to make a positive impact in the world.

2023-24 Awards and Honors

On Tuesday, April 23, the Department of Geography gathered in the auditorium of the Social Sciences and Humanities Building to recognize the scholarly achievements of a number of our undergraduate and graduate students.



Outstanding Senior

The Outstanding Senior Award was presented to **Lily Chavez**, who graduated in May with a BA in Global Studies. In her time at OSU, Lily demonstrated leadership and service as the Undergraduate Student Director of Leadership Programs and as a member of the President's Leadership Council. She earned a Certificate in Ethical Leadership and founded the Wishes for Water Foundation, which has contributed to freshwater access in Zimbabwe. Lily plans to further her education in international development.

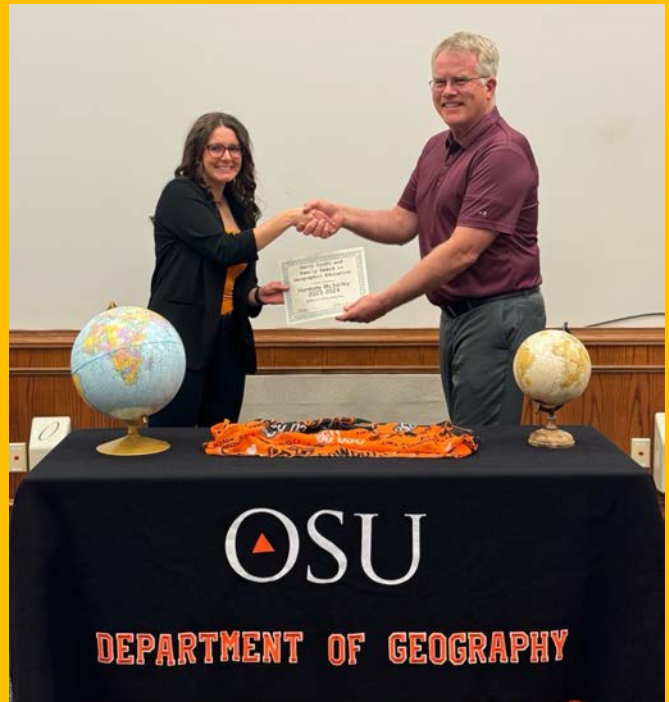
John F. Rooney, Jr. Award for Outstanding Junior

This year's outstanding Junior is **Tayyab Ghazniwal**, who is majoring in Global Studies and Political Science. An Afghan refugee, Tayyab has made the President's list every semester since arriving at OSU in 2022. His dedication extends beyond personal achievements; he began teaching in Afghanistan at 16 and currently assists fellow Afghan refugees as a translator and teaching assistant in Stillwater. With plans to pursue a Master's in Global Trade, he aspires to one day return to Afghanistan and build schools.



2023-24 Awards and Honors (continued)

The **Jerry Croft and Family Award for Geographic Education** was created to recognize students who promote geographic education. It is open to undergraduate and graduate students in Geography Secondary Social Studies Education. This year's recipient is **Harmony McSorely**, who is completing a BS in Secondary Education. Harmony emphasizes enthusiasm, relatability, and quality content in her approach and uses strategies like interactive activities and compelling questions, to inspire students' curiosity about the world.



The **Robert E. Norris Memorial Scholarship** is presented to the outstanding first-year graduate student in the Department of Geography. This year's recipient is **Katelyn Cooke**, a PhD student from the University of Virginia and the University of Oklahoma. Katelyn is known for her enthusiasm, leadership, and taking her research beyond the classroom. In her first year she has established her committee and has already represented the department at a professional conference while conducting a literature review for her dissertation proposal.

2023-24 Awards and Honors (continued)

The Susan Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching is presented to recognize excellence in teaching and dedication to the department characterized by Susan Shaull, a long-time senior unit assistant. This year's recipient is **Katelyn Cooke**, who began working for the department as a physical geography lab TA in the Fall before taking on two lecture sections of GEOG 1114. Katelyn also demonstrated leadership and an ability to innovate by spearheading an all-day outreach effort to assist McCloud Public Schools, and she has been an enthusiastic leader on the physical geography field trips.



Congratulations to those who received one or more of the department's travel scholarships and fellowships awarded this year:

Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship

Manon Mowery – (English + Global Studies)

Stephen W. Tweedie Travel Fellowship Award

Manon Mowery – (English + Global Studies)

Robert E. Norris Conference Travel Awards

Benjamin Binney

Katelyn Cooke

Ehsan Foroutan

Ny Aina Rakotoarivony

Una Yu

2023-24 Awards and Honors (continued)

Galante Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

Sydney Galante, who recently graduated with a BA in Global Studies and History, has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, America's oldest and most distinguished academic honorary society. Election to membership in Phi Beta Kappa acknowledges that one has attained high scholarly distinction and possesses the potential for a lifetime of learning and outstanding achievement.

Congratulations Sydney!



New Members of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)

(left to right)

Saiyed Nori (MS 2024, GEOG)

Cameron Wingfield (GSIS Senior)

Jacob Mote (BS 2024, GSIS)

Erin Templeton (GTU President)

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Initiates New Members

At the April Awards Gathering, Erin Templeton, President of Gamma Theta Upsilon, proudly inducted three new members into Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international honor society for Geography. To be eligible for GTU, students must complete at least three geography courses, maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3, rank in the top 35% of their class, and have completed at least three semesters or five quarters of college coursework.

Congratulations to the new members for their outstanding academic achievements!

2023-24 Awards and Honors (continued)

Osei Receives AAG Water Resources Specialty Group Student Paper Award



May MS graduate **Kathy Osei** received the **Award for Best Master's Paper** at the 2024 sessions of *Untapped: Fresh Voices in Water Resources Geography*, sponsored by the Water Resources Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers (AAG). Her paper, "Assessing the Influence of Climatic Variables on Long-term Seasonal Evaporation Trends of Reservoirs in Urban Oklahoma: Implications for Sustainable Resource Management," highlights her research in sustainable water management. Kathy has been accepted to the PhD program at the University of Georgia. Congratulations, Kathy!

News from around the Department

Undergraduate Research Symposium

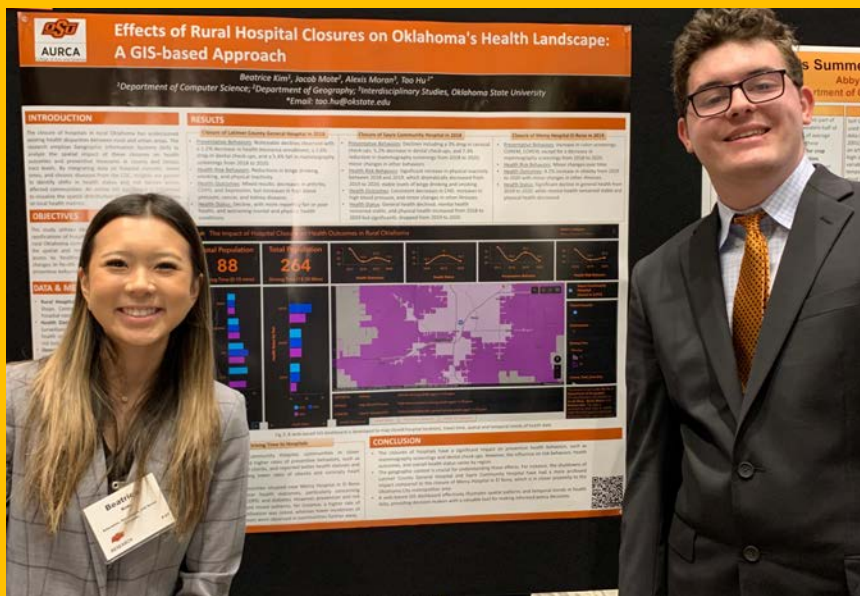
OSU's annual Undergraduate Research Symposium was held on Tuesday, April 16th at the ConocoPhillips Alumni Center. The Symposium allows undergraduates from all academic disciplines to present their research to the entire campus community. It is a dynamic platform for students, faculty, and community members to explore a broad range of scholarly and creative endeavors. Additionally, the event emphasizes the integral relationship between research initiatives and classroom learning.



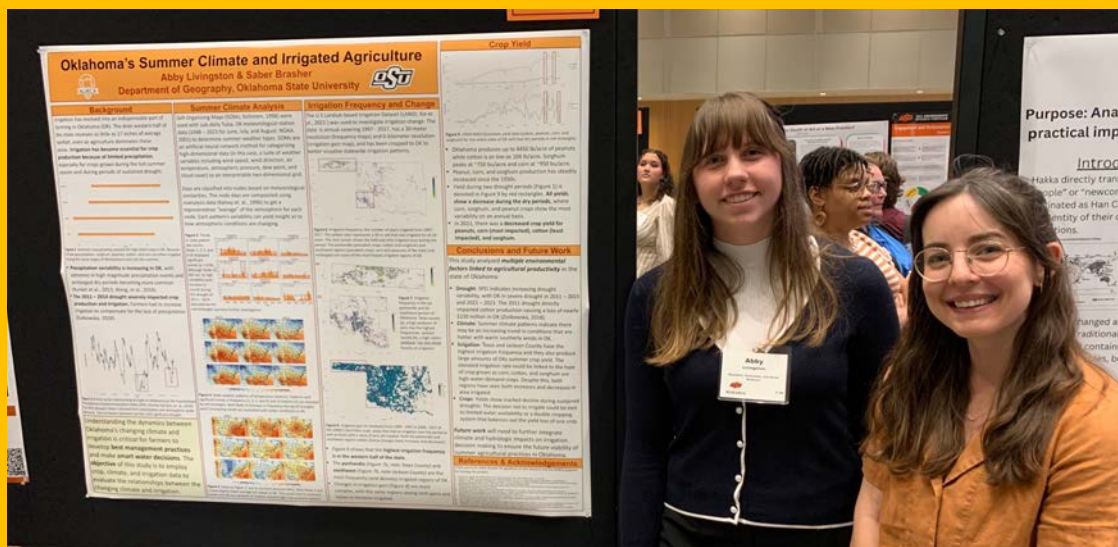
Eddy Iyonsi (Geology) presents “DroughtChat: Connecting Online Voices to Real-World Drought,” under the guidance of **Dr. Yuting Zhou**.

News from around the Department (continued)

Undergraduate Research Symposium (continued)



Beatrice Kim (Computer Science) and Jacob Mote (Geospatial Information Science) present “Effects of Rural Hospital Closures on Oklahoma’s Health Landscape: A GIS-based Approach,” supervised by Dr. Tao Hu.



Abby Livingston (Environmental Science) presents “Oklahoma’s Summer Climate and Irrigated Agriculture,” supervised by Dr. Saber Brasher.

News from around the Department (continued)

Sheehan Highlighted in *Research on Tap*

On Monday April 15th Professor Rebecca Sheehan provided a Research on Tap talk with OSU Vice President for Research Kenneth Sewell at Stillwater's Iron Monk Brewery titled "Why Do Protests about memorials in Public Spaces Matter?: Geographers to the Rescue."



Dr. Sheehan described her research on contested memorials and public spaces in New Orleans, Montgomery, and Birmingham, and discussed her idea of regenerative memorialization. There was a large audience and lively discussion followed. You can watch Dr. Sheehan's talk at: https://insideosu.com/shows?video=1_p1pfg8m2

News from around the Department (continued)

Junior Day at Gallagher-Iba Arena

"Junior Day" is an event designed for high school juniors who are prospective OSU students. It is an opportunity to visit campus and learn about majors, campus life, and the overall student experience at OSU.



Drs. Bays, Comer, and Zhou represented the Department at this year's Junior Day, greeting around 1,500 high school juniors and their families from Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. Attendees were captivated by Dr. Zhou's video display featuring a set of Landsat image time series showing examples of land cover and land use change from around the world.

News from around the Department (continued)

Gamma Theta Upsilon Trip to Turkey Mountain

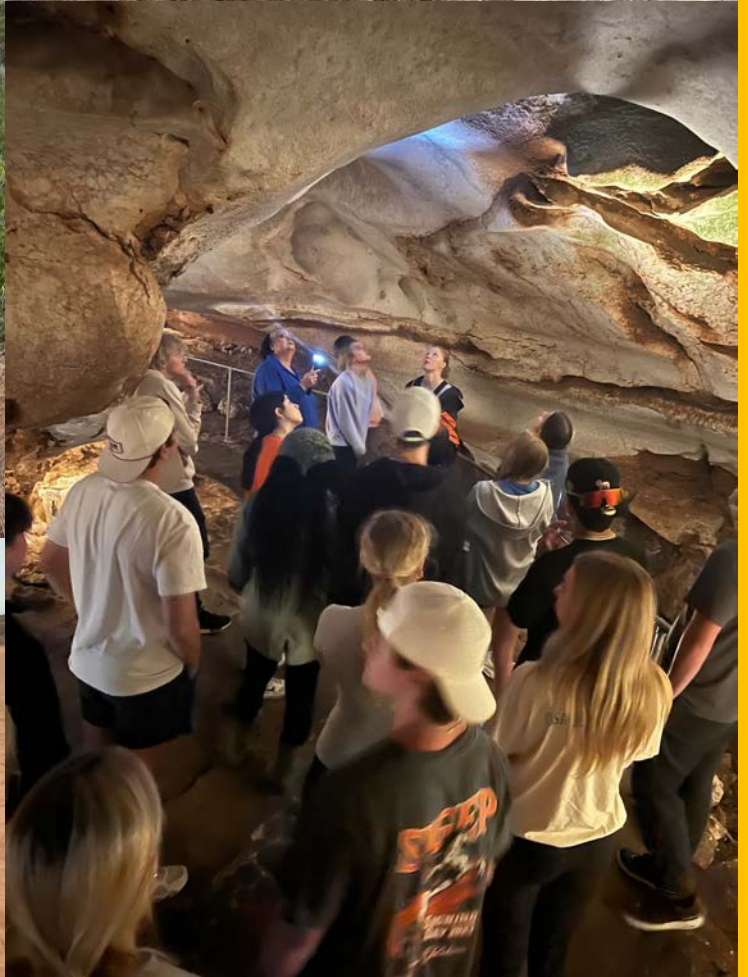


On Saturday, April 13, **Gamma Theta Upsilon** organized an outing to the **Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area** in South Tulsa. Spanning 738 acres, Turkey Mountain was designated as part of the National Recreation Trail System in 2016. Its 20 miles of trails weave through a section of sandstone bluffs and old growth Cross Timbers woodland, offering hikers panoramic views of the Arkansas River and downtown Tulsa. Thank you to GTU President **Erin Templeton** for organizing the trip!

News from around the Department (continued)

GEOG 1114 Field Trip Digs Deep into Adventure

On April 9th and 10th, the semiannual Physical Geography Field Trip rolled through northwest Oklahoma with busloads of undergraduates.



The trip examined the Glass Mountains, the Cimarron River, Little Sahara sand dunes, and the Karst features at Alabaster Caverns State Park.

News from around the Department (continued)

Ten-Pin Geographers Strike Again



The Geography Bowlers are on a roll, steadily gathering momentum with each game. On May 9th, sixteen showed up to claim three lanes for an evening of spirited fun. They sent balls hurtling down the lanes, notching strikes, spares, and the occasional gutter ball, until the alley shut down for the evening. Thank you to **Dr. Rory Hill** for keeping the Ten-Pin fun going!

Scholarship

Faculty Papers Delivered at Honolulu AAG

In mid-April, five members of the Geography faculty presented research findings at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Honolulu:

Dr. Jonathan Comer, "Investigating Health Outcomes and Health Factors." In Predicting Health Outcomes. 17 April 2024.

Dr. Alyson Greiner, "Oklahoma Pioneer Women Revisited." In Spatial Approaches to Applied Memory and Heritage I (16 April).

Dr. Reuel Hanks, "Ethno-nationalism in Karakalpakistan: Is a Territorialized Identity Emergent?" In Regional Minorities, Territorial Autonomies and Sovereignty in Global Context. 20 April 2024.

Dr. Tao Hu, (Paper Session Organizer and Chair), "Beyond Conventional Proximity Metrics: Using Smartphone User Mobility to Unveil Health Access Disparities." In Geospatial Data Analytics for Public Health. 20 April 2024.

Dr. Thomas Lavanchy, "Recycling water: A good idea for Cape Town?" In Household Water Insecurity Experiences Research Intersections 2: Latin America and Asia.

Graduates

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 !



(left to right)

Brice Zoungrana, Ph.D.

Kathy Osei, M.S.

Ofuje Amune, Ph.D.

Emmanuel Kumi, M.S.

Hello Summer!

Hill Awarded Grant for Archival Research in Canada

Dr. Rory Hill has been awarded a grant from the Société Jersiaise to support his archival research in Canada in July. Congratulations, Dr. Hill!

Ehsan Foroutan to Attend I-GUIDE Summer School

Ehsan Foroutan, Geography PhD student, has been selected to attend the 2024 I-GUIDE (NSF Institute for Geospatial Understanding through an Integrative Discovery Environment) Summer School, "Leveraging AI for Environmental Sustainability," at the University Consortium for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) campus in Boulder, Colorado, from August 5-9. I-GUIDE is led by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in collaboration with other universities. Congratulations, Ehsan!



Spectacled Spectacle

Three geographers were among the hundreds of others who came out to experience the rare celestial event of an almost-total eclipse on April 8th.