

Oklahoma
State
University



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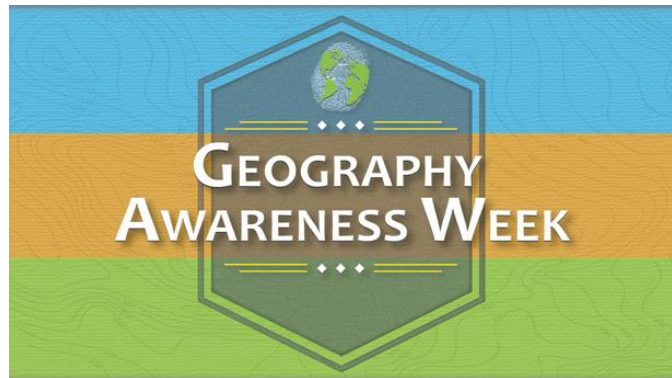
Geography Newsletter

November 2013

November Happenings

November means colder weather, Thanksgiving Break of course, and finals just around the corner!

Most importantly, the week of November 18-22 is **Geography Awareness Week** (were you aware?). The Geography Club, FOGG, and GTU are staffing a table at the Chi-O clock between the Union and Classroom Building from 10-2 that week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Please sign up for a slot if you haven't already, and if you are in the area stop by and visit with your colleagues as they spread the word about Geography as a major and career!



As a reminder, Wednesday, November 27 is a student holiday (no classes) but the university is still open for business. Thursday and Friday are university holidays and everything is shut down for the 4-day weekend (including heat!).

Finally, the departmental Christmas party (with Dirty Santa gift exchange) and potluck dinner is being hosted by Dr. Lightfoot on Friday, December 6, at 6 PM. Maps will be available in the Geography Office.

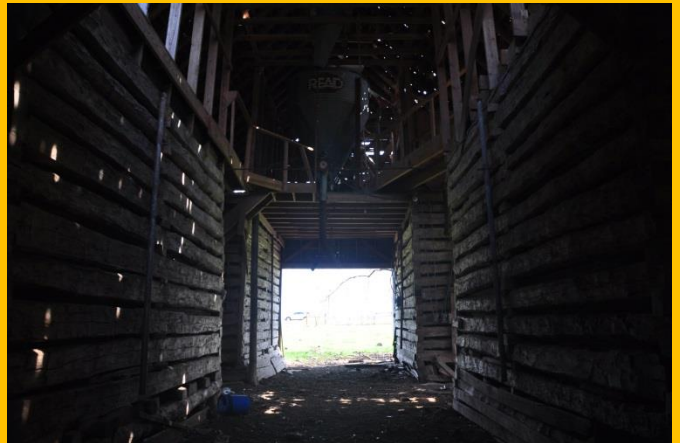
Historic Preservation

The OSU Department of Geography has long been involved with historic preservation of culturally important sites in Oklahoma by documenting and applying for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) recognition. Surveys must be performed to identify, record, and evaluate resources for NRHP eligibility and to aid in local/statewide planning efforts. All survey information is incorporated into the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI).

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has begun two survey projects this fall to add to its collection of important resources that are led by OSU Geography Faculty:

- Brad Bays is conducting the fifth and final phase of the statewide barn survey. This final phase will cover the southeastern portion of the state and includes eleven counties.
- Alyson Greiner is conducting a thematic survey project using archival research to identify specific buildings and other property types associated with significant women in Oklahoma history. She will then conduct on-site verification that each property identified by the archival research is extant.

Both projects were identified as priorities in the SHPO's annual Historic Preservation Fund grant application to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for FY 2013 and the work will be completed by September 2014.



Barn nominated for National Register in Marshall County, OK (near Kingston, just north of Lake Texoma)

Additionally, on October 17 Bays' National Register of Historic Places nomination of the James H. Bounds Barn, Kingston vicinity, Marshall County, Oklahoma was unanimously approved by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Committee and forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. for listing.

Faculty Conference Travel

- Brad Bays presented a paper titled “New England Extended to the Southern Plains: The Three-Bay English Barn in Oklahoma” at the annual conference of the Pioneer America Society | Association for the Preservation of Artifacts and Landscapes in Utica, New York, October 11.
- The Geography Department had several individuals attend the annual meeting of the Southwest Division of the AAG (SWAAG). The meeting was held in Nacogdoches, TX, October 24-25, and presentations were given by the following:
 - Brad Bays: “The Imprint of the Middle West on the Built Landscape of Rural Oklahoma.”
 - Steve S(t)adler: “Turbines and Place: A Tale of Two Oklahoma Wind Farms.” (At least we think it was Steve – check the program!)

Also:

- Alyson Greiner served as a panelist for a session titled “Career Development in Academic Geography.”
- Rebecca Sheehan serves as Secretary for SWAAG.
- Jon Comer presented “Localism and American Broadcasting in the Age of Satellite Television” (written with co-author Tom Wikle) at the Applied Geography Conference in Annapolis, MD, on October 31.
- Brad Bays presented a paper titled “Barns of Northeastern Oklahoma” at the annual Fall Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science at Cameron University in Lawton on November 8. He also participated in a panel discussion on emerging technologies in distance education at the OAS.
- Don’t forget – AAG registration deadline (April 8-12, 2014 in Tampa, FL) is **DECEMBER 3, 2013**.

Halloween Party 2013

The departmental Halloween Party was Friday, November 1, at Dr. Amy Frazier's (new) home. Do you recognize anyone? Sightings included Heidi, Carmen Sandiego, a wizard, and the three witches from Macbeth?



Winner of the "lamest" costume...

← Graduate student version of "hobo"

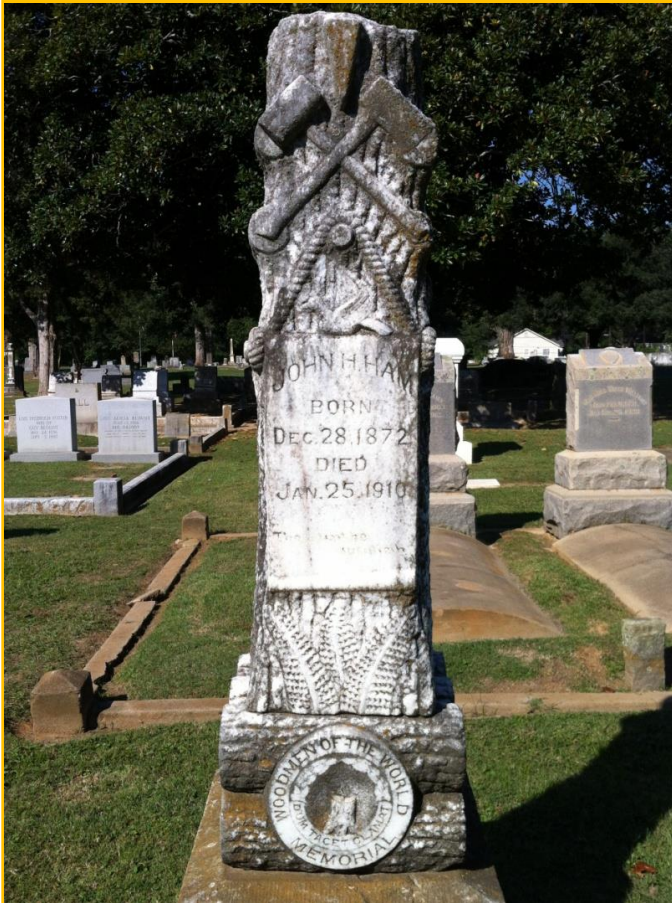


Who was that masked zebra?

Spotlight on Faculty Research

Dr. Alyson Greiner has long studied graveyards, headstones, and burial practices under the heading “necrogeography”. Her trip to SWAAG afforded the opportunity for cemetery exploration in Nacogdoches, among the oldest towns in Texas.

Oak Grove Cemetery, which has formally been used as a burial ground since the 1830s, provides a glimpse at contemporary and historical burial practices. Here are a few of the highlights. Photos and text courtesy Alyson Greiner.



This is the familiar tree trunk monument of the Woodmen of the World, an insurance company which used to provide grave markers for its policy holders. As interesting, however, is the use of (concrete) mounding on the graves of the husband and wife in the plot directly behind this one. Mounding and burial in family plots, distinguished by the curbing, are common in Southern cemeteries.

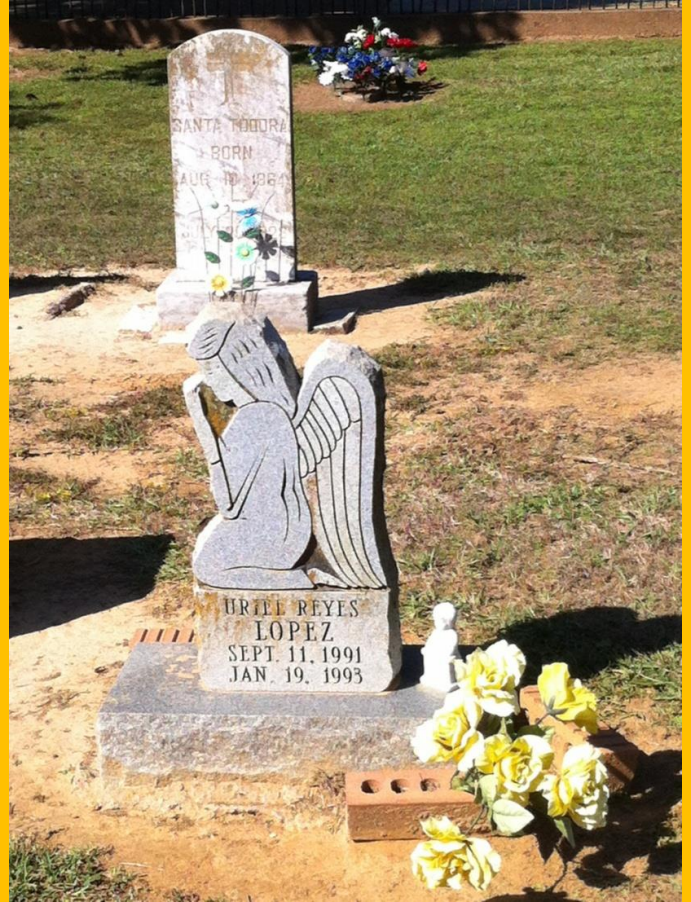


Simple elegance. This gravestone recalls one theory for the origins of the term “gravestone,”— the practice among Jews of leaving a stone at the gravesite to commemorate their visit.

Spotlight on Faculty Research (cont.)

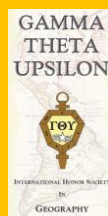


A mailbox stands to collect the greetings of visitors to the Clark family plot. Reminding us that cemeteries are for the living as well as the dead, an inscription at the top of the mailbox reads, "Say hello to Gracie, she would love to hear from you. Just a note will do."



The standardization of grave markers makes this a relatively uncommon example of an effigy stone. A brick provides a makeshift vase. Note also the metal flowers on the grave just behind this one..

Don't Forget! Geography Awareness Week is November 18-22!



Please sign up for the campus information table to be staffed November 18-20, 10 AM to 2 PM.