



Geography

Geography Newsletter

November 2016

INSIDE:

- November Happenings1
- Conferences 12
- Denton Days3
- Conferences 24
- Department News5
- Halloween 20166
- Homecoming 2016 ...7
- Physical Geography Field Trip8
- Tallgrass Prairie Field Trip10



November Happenings

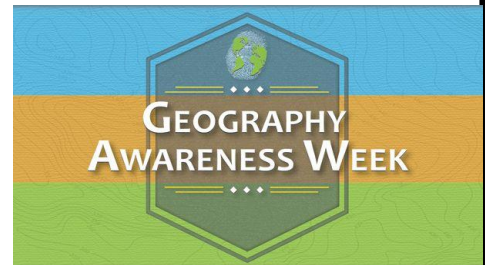
The weather may not be cooperating, but November is here and that means the fast dash to the end of the semester. As usual there is a lot going on around the department:

There are two colloquia coming up:

- November 11: Andrew Hall, Charles Sturt University, Australia, "Remote Sensing Image Analysis in the Era of Very High Resolution Data: Applications in Plant Phenology." 3:30 PM, NRC 207
- November 18: Jordan McAlister, PhD Student, will talk about his travels in China in Summer 2016 supported by the Tweedie Travel Scholarship. 3:30 PM, NRC 207.

Next week (Nov. 13-19) is Geography Awareness Week

"Explore the Power of Parks"



Stay tuned to emails and departmental bulletin boards for activities...

Samayita Bandyopadhyay will defend her dissertation proposal on Monday, November 21 at 9:00 AM in the Keso Room. OSU faculty, staff, and students are all welcome to attend.

As a reminder, Wednesday, November 23 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, not that we need it!).



Faculty/Student Conference Travel 1

OSU was very well-represented in Denton, Texas on October 20th and 21st at the SWAAG Geography Conference. In addition to being a conference sponsor and having a table to promote our program (see photo on next page), those giving presentations were:

- Robert Garrett, PhD student: “Syncretic Landscapes: Bangkok's Spirit Houses as Everyday Spaces of Non-Formal Sacredness”
- Matt Haffner, PhD Student: “GIS-based Modeling of Tornado Siren Sound Propagation in Stillwater, Oklahoma”
- Yun Zhao, PhD Student: “How Urban Form Rejects High-Speed Rail: A Focus on High-Speed Rail Proposals in the United States”

Session organized and chaired by Dr. Adam Mathews:

- Dr. Adam Mathews: “Assessing Relationships Between Spaceborne Radar and Airborne Lidar in the Estimation of Urban Built-Up Volume: A Project Overview and Preliminary Results”
- Colton Flynn, PhD Student: “Simplified Object-Based Method for Building Footprint Extraction using Lidar Data”
- Gustavo Ovando, PhD Student: “Exploring Spatial Relationships Between Lidar-Derived Building Volume and Work-Home Population”
- Emily Ellis, MS Student: “Ideal Methods for Identifying Vegetation in the Urban Environment: A Study of Oklahoma City, 2006”

Session organized and chaired by Dr. Steve Stadler:

- Jaryd Hinch, BS Student: “Pushback from Oklahoma Wind Farms: Socioeconomic Factors for Negative Response to Wind Turbine Farms”
- Dr. Peter Kedron: “The Impact of Related Industries on the Emergence of New Industries: Insights from Renewable Energy”
- Dr. Steve Stadler: “Wind Power Runs Afoul of Oklahoma”

Session organized and chaired by Dr. Amy Frazier:

- Dr. Amy Frazier: “Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Severe Weather: Challenges and Opportunities for Geographic Information Science”
- Ben Hemingway, PhD Student: “Examining the Effect of Image Overlap on Structure from Motion (SfM) Generated Point Cloud Densities”

Scenes from Denton



OSU students Fernanda Ramirez, and Yun Zhao (left) and Emily Ellis and Colton Flynn (below, alongside OU student and Cuba trip participant Sarah Garfinkle) participated in the second ever SWAAG World Geography Bowl as part of teams pieced together with other programs around the region.



Below, the OSU group on the Denton Courthouse Square, our table (bottom left) and in the van on the way down I-35 (bottom right). We think that is Dr. Mathews at the wheel...



(L-R) Matt Haffner, Emily Ellis, Jaryd Hinch, Colton Flynn, Emily Fekete, Adam Mathews, Yun Zhao, Fernanda Ramirez, Gustavo Ovando, and Robert Garrett. We have no photographic proof Drs. Frazier, Kedron, or Stader actually attended...





Faculty/Student Conference Travel 2

OSU was somewhat less-well represented at the 39th annual Applied Geography Conference October 26-28, but then again Louisville, Kentucky is a rather dangerous place to visit. Nonetheless, Jon Comer attended and presented as well as OSU PhD Alumna (2011) Dr. Stacey Brown of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, and MS Alumnus (2016) and current University of Tennessee PhD Student Jordan Brasher:

- Jon Comer: "Trends and Implications of Oklahoma's Shifting Voter Registrations"
- Stacey Brown: "Hospital Utilization for Respiratory Disease in St. Louis, MO-IL, USA"
- Jordan Brasher: "Applying Critical Race and Memory Studies to University Place Naming Controversies: Toward a Responsible Landscape Policy"



Some scenes from the Applied Geography Conference: Jon Comer and Stacey Brown at their session, an old railroad bridge (the Big Four Bridge) converted to a pedestrian bridge from Louisville to Jeffersonville, Indiana, and a strange sighting in Jeffersonville...

Departmental News

Dr. Reuel Hanks and PhD student Brian Gilson both recently gave talks as part of the Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies lecture series. Dr. Hanks gave a presentation on November 4 titled “Encountering the “Debated and Debatable: Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, AND Regional Security COMPLEX THEORY,” while on October 7 Brian (below) gave a talk titled “Azerbaijanism: Created History or Historical Creation?”



PhD Students Amanda Weber and Yun Zhao were both interviewed for the GPSGA Fall Newsletter about their experiences receiving GPSGA travel funds:

“I am a PhD student in the Department of Geography. I attended the annual meeting of American Association of Geographers (AAG) in San Francisco April 2016 and presented my dissertation work. Thanks to the active participation of FoGG (Forum of Geography Graduate student) in GPSGA, I am eligible to apply for travel reimbursement. GPSGA offers to offset my conference expenses. The application process was smooth: Enyue (Phoenix) Huang, who was the treasurer of GPSGA at that time, sent out multiple emails to keep me informed of my application status. I ended up getting \$500 through my bursar account, which covered the majority of my expenses. I highly recommend every graduate student to take advantage of this precious opportunity.” Yun Zhao

“I am a PhD student in the Department of Geography. In the spring of 2016, I presented my research and co-organized a panel on historic spatial epidemiology at the American Association of Geographers annual conference. The travel grant I received from the GPSGA substantially offset the costs to attend the conference; without those funds it would have been difficult. The process to apply for funding is simple which is greatly appreciated, as this was the second time I have applied and received funding. I look forward to applying for the travel grant for Spring 2017 and have had a wonderful experience with GPSGA.” Amanda Weber

Halloween Party 2016

The Halloween Party was Saturday, October 22, at the home of Dr. Emily Fekete. Many guests were ghosts and hence not seen, but we did get a few:



Best costume winners above: Dr. Emily Fekete, Keeley Heise, and Catherine Shropshire.

Waldo was found here and there, and apparently Time Lords and Starfleet Officers get around more than mere mortals, Pokémon trainers, or even Eastern Goddesses.



Homecoming Tailgating 2016

On Saturday, October 29 the department hosted an alumni homecoming tailgating event outside Old Central on campus. The Cowboys upset undefeated West Virginia, and geographers old and new had a grand time.



Physical Geography Field Trip

The semesterly excursion into the wilds of western Oklahoma, otherwise known as the GEOG 1114 (Physical Geography) Field Trip, went off without too many hitches. The Monday group got to peer inside a wind turbine thanks to the amazing negotiating skills of the newsletter editor, and the weather was decent all three days October 10-12.



Becoming muddy boots (tennis shoes and sandals, really) geographers in the Cimarron River basin



It's a long way to the top of a wind turbine! Did the editor climb all those steps? He's not telling...



Physical Geography Field Trip cont.



Watching the dune buggies at the Little Sahara State Park



Trekking up the Glass (Gloss) Mountains

Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

On November 5, Carlos Cordova led a one-day field trip to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve with a small group students from his GEOG 4053 Biogeography and GEOG 4083/5083 Grass-Dominated Ecosystem courses. This interesting place is rarely visited by state people, but it is a very important remainder of the original grassland ecosystem that covered vast areas from Texas to southern Minnesota. It is also one of the few places where you can see the bison ecosystem managed with fire in a matter similar to the way it was done by the Native Americans.



Geography students Maddison Mayer and Tom Cox at left, Kayla King front right and Dr. Cordova in the bright yellow shirt that nicely matches this page background.

[Click for Map](#)

