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## INSIDE:

October  
Happenings.....1

National Lab Day ..2

CLOUD MAP.....3

OK SCAUG 2015...4

Departmental  
News .....5

Social Media and  
Geography.....6

Ping Pong Party ....7



# Geography Newsletter

October 2015

## October Happenings

On October 19, Dr. Stella Liu, Research Assistant Professor in the department, will give a colloquium titled "Making connection between people, place, and plan: A road map to manage recreation and tourism" at 3:30 PM in Physical Sciences (PS) 355

October birthdays will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 21 at 2:30 PM in the break room. Bring your favorite fall treat to share with the department.

Homecoming activities will be ramping up during the month of October, highlighted by the world-famous "Walkaround" outside Murray Hall on University Avenue the afternoon of Friday, October 23.

Finally, mark your calendars for the annual Halloween costume party, which will occur on Friday evening, October 30 at Dr. Emily Fekete's house – more details to come! Last year's top costumes below (plus a rare Waldo sighting):



## National Lab Day 2015

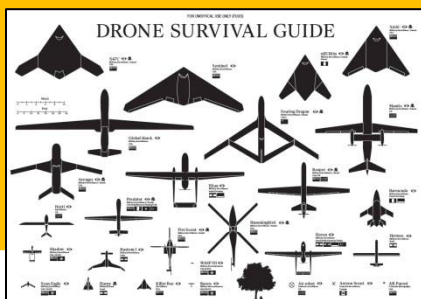
In May 2015, Dr. Amy Frazier hosted two groups of high school students for National Lab Day in the Geography Department and the Center for Applications of Remote Sensing. National Lab Day is a national effort to remedy deficiencies in the teaching and accessibility of STEM disciplines by creating engaging and developmentally appropriate laboratory exercises for middle and high school students. The high school students that visited in May learned how online mapping tools such as GoogleEarth and geospatial analyses are used by rescue and recovery operations in the aftermath of major disasters like the Nepal earthquake in April 2015, which had only recently impacted South Asia at the time and rescue and recovery efforts were still ongoing. Specifically, the students used remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), and GoogleEarth to map out collapsed buildings from a similar incident: the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. Students then toured the Center for Applications of Remote Sensing where we had our department Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) on display.



Students participating in a mapping recovery exercise to chart damage in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake.



Students posing by the Geography Department's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), which is equipped with a multispectral sensor to gather aerial imagery during flight. Dr. Amy Frazier is at left and Jean Wang, CARS Coordinator, is at right.



## CLOUD MAP

Dr. Amy Frazier is part of a multi-institution, collaborative research team that was recently awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for \$6M to study the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for meteorology and atmospheric physics. The project, Collaborative Leading Operational UAS Development for Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics (CLOUD MAP), will focus on developing and implementing UAS for weather along with their integration with sensors for atmospheric measurements on Earth.

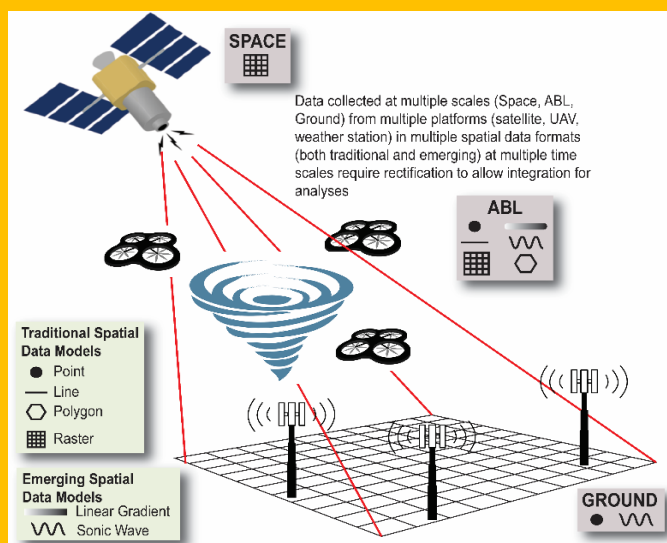
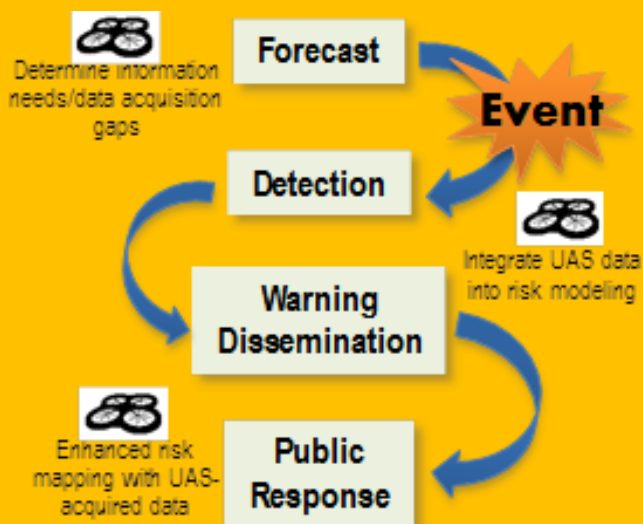


Illustration of the multi-scale correlation issues that arise when data are collected from multiple platforms (e.g., satellites, UASs, and ground-based weather stations).



Integrated Warning System for disseminating risk and warning information and how UASs can contribute to improving the process.

Dr. Frazier is leading two teams of researchers as part of this endeavor. The first team is focused on investigating the GIS multi-scale correlation issues occur when data collected from multiple platforms (e.g., satellites in space, UAS in the atmospheric boundary layer, and ground stations on Earth), at different spatial and temporal resolutions, and in different spatial data formats (raster vs. vector) need to be integrated in order to perform modeling and analyses. These scale issues must be rectified before data can be used for these activities to ultimately improve forecasting and risk assessment. The second task is focused on the rapid dissemination of risk information acquired by the various data sources to multiple stakeholders (e.g., emergency managers, first responders, the public, etc.). As part of this task, we will determine what information is needed by the various stakeholder groups, how that information can be acquired via UASs, how to integrate that data into the risk modeling process, and ultimately how to best disseminate this information to the public. Both tasks rely heavily on GIS, remote sensing, and geospatial analytics.

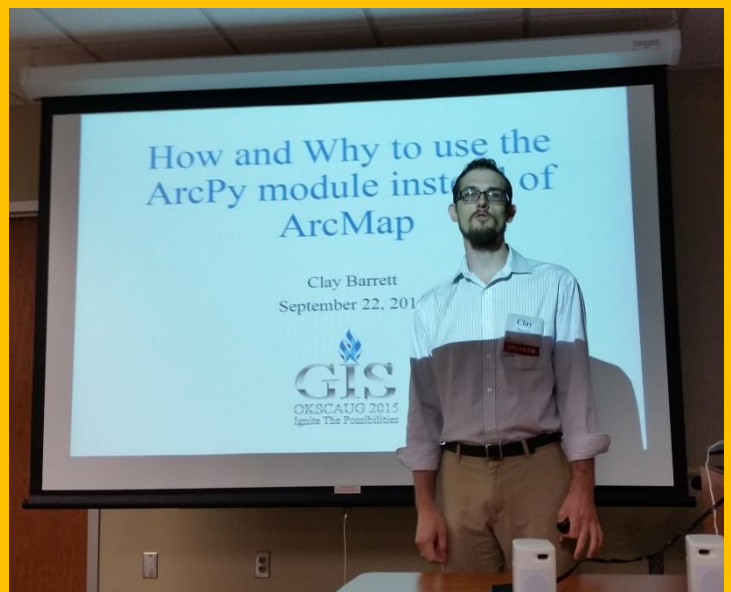
## OK SCAUG 2015

The Department of Geography was well represented at this year's Oklahoma Chapter of the South Central Arc Users Group (OKSCAUG) on September 22. In attendance were (see group photo) Drs. Stella Liu and Nicky Wu from the Resource Management Plan GIS Group; Michael Larson, Clay Barrett and Lauren Wood from OSU Cartography Services; Jing Wang from CARS and geography graduate student Carson Bode (not pictured in photo).



Also, Lauren Wood was acknowledged for receiving the 2015 OKSCAUG Scholarship.

Clay Barrett gave a presentation titled "How and Why to Use the ArcPy Module Instead of ArcMap" (right) and Carson Bode gave a presentation based on his thesis titled "Spatial Clustering of False Ring Anomalies in *Juniperus Virginiana* of the Oklahoma Crosstimbers".



## Departmental News

MS Student Brian Gilson was invited to give a guest lecture (more of a seminar discussion) at his alma mater, East Central University, at the Department of Cartography and Geography. His talk was on "maps as a source of inquiry" for a 3000 level Geography of Oklahoma class. The discussion centered around the Delorme atlas of Oklahoma and he explored the maps/gazetteer through the question "why." Students especially seemed to engage with and enjoy the discussion of toponyms and the associated stories behind them. He enjoyed it and it was an opportunity to reconnect with that department and to promote OSU Geography. Pictured at right are Dr. Marco Micozzi (L) of ECU and Brian (R).

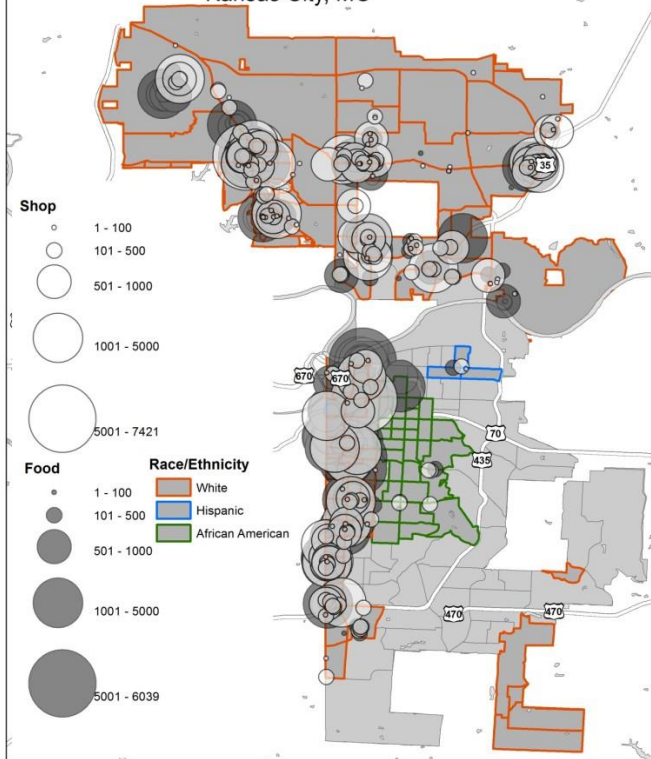


On Sept. 11, 2015, 25 alumni were honored at the OSU College of Arts & Sciences 2015 Distinguished Alumni awards dinner. For the first time, an alum from each of the college's 24 departments was honored as a 2015 A&S Distinguished Alumni. Representing Geography was former faculty member and alumnus (MS, 1988) David Waits, founder of SST Software in Stillwater, shown at left receiving his award from Dean Bret Danilowicz.



## Social Media and Geography

Food, Shop and Service Venues by Number of Users and Race/Ethnicity in Census Tracts  
Kansas City, MO



Dr. Emily Fekete was recently interviewed by the American Geographical Society about her research, in an article titled "Race and (Online) Sites of Consumption" (see map at left). You can read the article at:

<http://americangeo.org/race-and-online-sites-of-consumption-interview-with-emily-fekete/>

Dr. Fekete has also set up a departmental Twitter feed at @GeographyOSU and maintains the departmental Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/OSUgeog>

Please submit news and events to her for posting and distribution through these outlets.

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PHOTOS

OSU Geography Department 20 hrs

Do you have news to share with the OSU department of geography? Send us a message and we'll get the word out!

Like Comment

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OSU Geography Department 20 hrs

Native American Day was last Friday, September 25th. To recognize this event, here is a map of distribution of linguistic groups in North America in 1650.

## Dr. Sheehan's Ping Pong Party

Sunday, September 27 was a fine, sunny day for some yard games, snacks, and drinks at Dr. Rebecca Sheehan's house. We hope she continues the tradition soon!



Undergraduate Taylor Iberosi and Dr. Emily Fekete play some "bad" minton.