



Geography

Geography Newsletter

September 2016

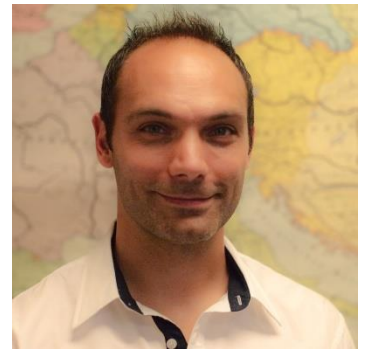
INSIDE:

- Welcome1
- A&S Convocation.....2
- New Students.....3
- Open House.....4
- Faculty Projects5
- Student Projects.....6
- Summer Travels.....7
- Study Abroad9
- Club Officers.....10
- Geo-Babies11
- Vegetarian Club.....12



Welcome New Faculty!

Peter Kedron (PhD, Buffalo, 2012) is a new Assistant Professor. His research interests are Economic and Innovation Geography, GIS, Renewable Energy, Spatial Analysis and Statistics.



Tanaz Soltani (PhD, OSU, 2015), is a new Research Assistant Professor in the department. Her research interests are Tourism, Leisure Behavior, Parks & Recreation Management, and Destination Management

September events:

Friday, September 2 @ 6:30 PM – Boomer Blast pre-fireworks cookout at the Stadler home

Monday, September 5 – Labor Day Holiday: no classes, university closed.

Friday, September 23 @ 3:30 PM – Colloquium, 207 NRC: Geography MS Alumnus Bill Richardson of Stillwater’s SST Software will give a talk titled “An Oklahoman’s Perspective on the Republic of South Africa: A View into its People and Agriculture.”

Dr. Frazier recognized at A&S Awards Convocation

The A&S Fall Convocation took place Tuesday, August 30 at the Wes Watkins Center. The Geography Department was proud to have Dr. Amy Frazier recognized as a recipient of the A&S Faculty Council Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence. Each year one recipient in each of three college areas (Social/Behavior Sciences, Arts/Humanities, Natural/Mathematical Sciences) is chosen from “junior” faculty (in third through seventh years at OSU) nominated by their departments. To date Amy is the 5th Geographer to receive the Social and Behavioral Sciences award (Lightfoot 1997; Bays 1999; Cordova 2002; Vadjunec 2014), but we’re sure she’s not the last...



Amy Frazier receiving her plaque from Dean Bret Danilowicz



Allen Finchum (right), chair of Arts & Sciences Faculty Council and emceeding the Convocation, announcing Amy's award

“New” Graduate Students

Kathryn Wenger completed her MS in Geography in 2015 and is now pursuing a Ph.D. She is interested in utilizing mixed methods to study disaster governance and resilience. She loves to travel and go hiking.



Fernanda Ramirez Saenz completed her MS in International Studies in May and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in the department



Ben Hemingway completed his MS in Geography in May and is now pursuing a Ph.D. His research is focused on the analysis and visualization of the atmospheric boundary layer through remotely sensed data captured from unmanned aerial systems (UAS).



Brian Gilson completed his MS in Geography in May and is now pursuing a Ph.D. Brian spent the summer in beautiful Bloomington, Indiana attending an intensive language program at Indiana University.



Emily Ellis completed her BS in Geography with a minor in Soil Science and the GIS Certificate in December 2015 and is now pursuing an MS in the department.



Catherine Shropshire completed her BA in Geography and GIS Certificate in May and is now pursuing an MS in the department



“New” because they all obtained a prior degree at OSU before matriculating into their current programs

Geography Mentors Program

Jaryd Hinch is working on his B.S. in Geography with a minor in Art History. His areas of interest/research include necrogeography, specifically Ponca Tribe cemeteries, the spread of preventable diseases in California due to people not vaccinating, and the effectiveness of Estonia's digital society, "e-Estonia," with foreign exchange students. (The e-Estonia topic is his Fulbright project proposal, which he hopes to be doing next academic year.) His hobbies include giving violin lessons/learning new solos, apparel assembly, and assuming more campus leadership roles than his time physically allows! (Jaryd is President of Geography Club this year, Vice-President of the Asian-American Student Association, and is running for President of GTU).



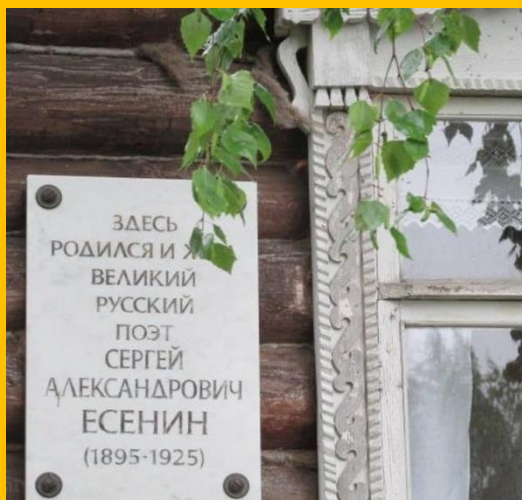
Geography Open House

On Tuesday, August 16, the department hosted an open house in the Murray Parlor to celebrate our new B.S. in Geospatial Information Science as well as to promote the department generally. Many thanks to **Dr. Emily Fekete** for organizing the event and providing photos.



Faculty Projects and Travel

In May, **Carlos Cordova** took another literary tour to Russia, here Konstantinovo, Ryazan Province. The Konstantinovo village is the birthplace and home of the famous Russian poet, Sergey Yesenin (1895-1925). He wrote a lot about nature around his village, so it was worth seeing the area near the village, despite the rain.



Carlos Cordova is also the geographer of the project Azraq Marshes Archaeological and Paleoecological Project (AMAPP) funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and led by paleoanthropologist April Nowell (U. of Victoria). The team has been obtaining information through excavation of a former oasis and lake shoreline in the Jordanian Desert. One of the team's discoveries was recently published in *Journal of Archaeological Science* and has gone viral. The importance of the discovery is that *Homo sapiens* was not the first one to have a varied diet and a sophisticated strategy for hunting and butchering. The tradition goes back to previous hominins (*H. neanderthalensis*, *H. heidelbergensis*, and perhaps *H. erectus*).



Stone Age tools reveal how our ancestors prepared duck, rhino and horse meat up to 250,000 years ago

- Scientists claim to have found the oldest animal protein on stone tools
- The tools found in the deserts of Jordan had traces of horse and duck
- Unknown human ancestors used the tools to butcher animal carcasses
- Researchers claim they were likely *Homo erectus* or *Homo heidelbergensis*

Tools solve Stone Age mystery: Cavemen were smarter than we thought

By Ian Christensen, CNN

AM ET, Wed August 10, 2016

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journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jas>

Middle Pleistocene subsistence in the Azraq Oasis, Jordan: Protein residue and other proxies

A. Nowell ^{a,*}, C. Walker ^b, C.E. Cordova ^c, C.J.H. Ames ^{a,d}, J.T. Pokines ^{a,e}, D. Stueber ^a, R. DeWitt ^f, A.S.A. al-Souliman ^h

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The Washington Post

Speaking of Science

This 250,000-year-old tool was used to butcher a rhinoceros

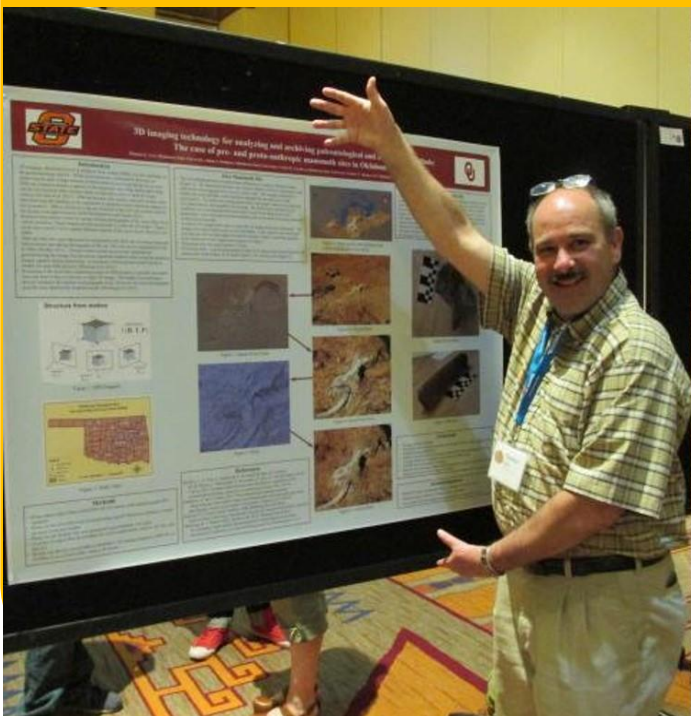
By Sarah Kaplan August 9

Student Projects

Colton Flynn is here at work in the soils lab, Ag building, getting help from Yun Zhao, Emily Ellis and Carlos Cordova. Colton collected samples of teff from a field near Hydro, Oklahoma, and is seen here measuring chlorophyll. Photo provided by Carlos Cordova.



Tom Cox presented a poster at the American Quaternary Association in Santa Fe, NM, in early July. From there he went directly to dig a bone layer in Harper County, Oklahoma. His poster is displayed on the wall of the south wing of Murray, 3rd floor. Photo provided by Carlos Cordova.



Summer Travels

Jordan McAlister writes: “We had a lovely time in the People’s Republic of China for a bit over a month from mid June to late July. While there, I visited six provinces from the east to the west including Beijing, Hebei, Shaanxi, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Xinjiang. In Ürümqi, Xinjiang I delivered a lecture at the Chinese Academy of Sciences on the United States National Park Service. Soon after, Jida and I took an extensive tour of the Tian Shan Range and the Tarim Basin with highlights at Silk Road UNESCO World Heritage Sites like the Kizil Thousand Buddha Caves, the Lost City of Yar, and the Karez (qanat) Museum in Turpan. It was very special to see the karez systems of Central Asia, after having been introduced to these underground canals by Dr. Lightfoot in Morocco in 2014. Additionally, it was fun to meet up with an old Oklahoma State Department of Geography alumni, Junlong Liu in the ancient Chinese capital city of Xi’an. While there we visited the Ming City Walls, the Great Goose Pagoda, the Terracotta Army, and Hua Shan (one of Taoism’s five sacred peaks). Outside of these places, some other personal favorite destinations included Beijing’s Forbidden City, the Great Wall, Shanghai’s Bund District, and the Foreign Concession district of Tianjin. It was a terrific introduction to Chinese culture, and I cannot wait to return to Asia. I am so thankful to the Tweedie Family for funding my travels.”



Summer Travels (cont.)

Matt Haffner writes: "I presented a paper at the 'NSF Workshop on Geospatial Data Science in the Era of Big Data and CyberGIS' at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in late July. My paper (co-authored with Adam Mathews) was titled 'A multidimensional topology for crowd-sourced geographic information'.

I was able to talk with Michael Goodchild for a bit, tour the world's first CyberGIS supercomputer (I think it's the first), and tour the fastest university supercomputer used for open research." (photos below)



Study Abroad

CUBA: An Interest Meeting for Cuba Study Abroad will take place at Hideaway Pizza on Tuesday, September 13 @ 7:00 p.m. Information about the course (with a slide show) will be provided, along with free pizza and drinks.

Geography faculty members Dale Lightfoot and Tom Wikle will lead a spring break course in Cuba on March 11-18, 2017. The Environment and Heritage of Cuba course is designed to fit many interests in a broad range of resource, environment, culture and heritage topics. We are working with a company that focuses exclusively on educational exchanges to Cuba to create an up-close and personal experience with the country. This is an ideal time to visit Cuba as things are changing quickly. Growing interest in Cuba has advanced the deadline for securing a place in this course, in order to guaranteed the same great hotel locations we have enjoyed on past trips. The cost of the trip is \$3,489, which includes tuition and fees, round-trip airfare to/from Miami, ground transportation, overnight lodging, breakfast (daily), some dinners, guides, and entrance fees. The credit price includes 3-hours of OSU graduate or undergraduate tuition.

If you would like more information about this opportunity please contact Dale Lightfoot (d.lightfoot@okstate.edu) or Tom Wikle (t.wikle@okstate.edu). If you are committed to joining the course (for credit or no-credit) we need to hear from you soon and you must pay your first deposit October 15.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL: An Interest Meeting for Spain and Portugal Study Abroad will take place at Hideaway Pizza on Thursday, September 15 @ 7:00 p.m. Information about the course (with a slide show) will be provided, along with free pizza and drinks.

Geography faculty members Jon Comer and Tom Wikle will lead a course through the Iberian Peninsula May 23-June 3, 2017. The course is designed to fit many interests in a broad range of historical, political, cultural, and economic topics. The cost of the trip is currently \$3,935 for students under 23 and \$4,415 for those 23 and over and covers round-trip airfare to/from OKC, ground transportation, overnight lodging, breakfast (daily), some dinners, guides, and entrance fees through the travel company Explorica: <http://www.explorica.com/Comer-6908>. Students wishing to earn credit in GEOG 4600 (undergraduate) or 5700 (graduate) pay an extra \$650 to OSU for tuition and insurance. GEOG 4600 carries general education (I) credit and (S) credit is pending approval.

If you would like more information about this opportunity please contact Jon Comer (jon.comer@okstate.edu) or Tom Wikle (t.wikle@okstate.edu). If you are committed to joining the course (for credit or no-credit) we need to hear from you soon as places are filling up and price increases happen every other month or so.

Student Club Officers and Plans

Forum of Geography Graduate Students (FOGG) is planning on doing some tailgating, arranging some colloquium speaker sessions, and doing our usual mock conference presentation sessions. Officers for 2016-17 are:

President - Matt Haffner
Vice President/Secretary - Colton Flynn
Treasurer - Tom Cox
Principle Delegate - Robert Garrett
Alternative Delegate - Aswin Subanthore
Faculty Representative - Thomas Craig



Geography Club (Undergraduate) is planning for an upcoming bowling event (September 14), softball game (TBA), Halloween party (October 22), Geography Awareness Week Activities (November 14-18), and t-shirts. Officers for 2016-17 are:

President – Jaryd Hinch
Vice President – Hayden Harrison
Treasurer – Kayla King
Secretary – Joel Bjornson



Geography

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) annually sponsors the International Beer, Wine, and Cheese party every spring, is involved with Geography Awareness Week in November, and is holding elections this Friday for 2016-17 officers:

President – Brian Gilson or Jaryd Hinch
Vice President – Amanda Weber
Treasurer – Tom Cox
Secretary – Audrey Franck
Historian – Nick Rose



Geo-Babies

The Geography Department is having a baby boom!



Harper Lennox Bryant Finchum was born February 13, 2016, grandson of Drs. Allen and Tanya Finchum. He obviously is ready for life at OSU in his orange polo and Dockers (right). He makes his home in Edmond.



Jacob Cole Stadler (right) was born to Steve and Barb Stadler's son, John, and his wife, Audrey, on May 10. Jacob is happy and healthy and lives with his parents in Jenks, Oklahoma. The grandparents are very happy and can't get over to Jenks often enough.



"Hello, I am Margaret Bai Rose (below). I am three months old and would like to say hi to all my family and friends in the OSU Department of Geography. "





OSU Vegetarians and Friends Club

Join us for group dinners and potluck lunches this semester!

Friendly to all diets and lifestyles

For more information, contact Tim Alland at tim.alland@okstate.edu

**Group
Dinner @
Café 88**

Friday, Aug. 19th
6:30 PM

**Potluck Lunch
on the 3rd Floor
Lounge of
Murray Hall**

Friday, Sep. 2nd
12:00 – 1:00 PM

**Group
Dinner @
Chipotle**

Friday, Sep. 16th
6:30 PM

**Potluck Lunch
on the 3rd Floor
Lounge of
Murray Hall**

Friday, Sep. 30th
12:00 – 1:00 PM