



2010
Department of Geography



A Letter From The Head of the Department

Dear alumni and friends of Geography,

The world of OSU Geography improved dramatically a few months ago when we moved into beautiful, refurbished space in historic Murray Hall, at the south entrance to campus, across the street from Theta Pond (see photo on cover). After 70 years of OSU Geography we are very excited to have our own space that was configured to our needs. We are very proud of our new home and enjoyed showing it off at the Open House event this spring.

I completed my 16th year at OSU this spring (10 years as Department Head). From the perspective of 2010 it doesn't seem so long ago that we were in the old Geography building (former Home Economics East), fighting the winter chill with personal space heaters but happy enough with the patina and quaintness of our old building. We had 11 faculty members then, and terminated our offerings at the masters degree, a focus of the department since 1947. We have since moved into and out of Scott Hall, where we lived for 13 years, added the Ph.D. program in Geography, and have grown to 15 full-time faculty, the largest we have been in the history of the department.

Every faculty member in the department remains actively engaged in research and outreach activities in Oklahoma, in the USA, and around the world. In addition to a productive group of scholars in our GIS, remote sensing, and palynology and geoarchaeology laboratories, several have engaged in field research or instruction over the past two years in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arizona, and around the world in South Africa, Jordan, China, Iraq, Iran, Cyprus, Morocco, Korea, Mexico, and Brazil. Over the past year we have hosted international scholars from Iraq, Vietnam, the Netherlands, and Kazakhstan. The latter visitor, Bolat Tatibekov, is a Fulbright exchange scholar from the Institute of Economics, Ministry of Education and Sciences in Kazakhstan who is in residence in our department for 2009-2010.

Mahesh Rao, who was on our faculty for 10 years, departed in summer 2009 to join the Environmental Sciences program at Humboldt State University in northern California. We were happy to welcome Todd Fagin (Ph.D. University of Oklahoma) as a visiting Assistant Professor to replace Mahesh. In fall 2009 we also welcomed Dr. Yolonda Youngs (Ph.D. Arizona State University) as a visiting Assistant Professor to replace Jess Porter, who moved to a tenure-track position in Arkansas. Both Todd and Yolonda have proven to be excellent instructors and great faculty colleagues and both will thankfully remain at OSU for a second year. After five years of service to Geography as our senior administrative assistant, Stacey Frazier left the department to teach orientation and English classes at NOC. We were sad at Stacey's parting but happy to welcome her replacement, Ann Adkins to our Geography family.

We continue to graduate many Geography undergraduate and masters students every year, and we graduated our 5th and 6th Ph.D. Geography students in spring 2010. Another half dozen doctoral candidates appear to be queuing for 2010-2011 graduation. We are very pleased that all of our Ph.D. graduates, along with recent Environmental Science Ph.D.s from our department, have found tenure track and visiting faculty positions at the University of Mary Washington, University of Central Oklahoma, Bowling Green State University, OSU-Tulsa, Western Illinois University, and the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. In addition to our graduate students promoting geography and catalyzing many department activities through the Forum of Geography Graduate Students, we are happy to see a revitalization of the undergraduate Geography Club and the involvement of our department majors in department parties, trips, and other activities.

Several of our students, staff and faculty have earned competitive awards and special appointments since our last Zenith was published. Jon Comer was awarded the 2008 Oklahoma State Regent's Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award. Mike Larson was recognized by the College of Arts & Sciences as a 2009 Outstanding Staff award finalist at the A&S Fall Convocation. Dale Lightfoot was awarded the School of International Studies Outstanding Faculty Award for 2009 and the OSU Environmental Institute's 2010 Bud Birks Award for Outstanding Environmental Research.



OSU



Allen Finchum was a finalist for the 2010 GPSGA Phoenix Award for Outstanding Faculty Member. Reuel Hanks was recognized as the Outstanding Professor in the College of Arts & Sciences at the annual A&S awards banquet in spring 2010. Geography alumnus and former faculty member David Waits was honored by the OSU Alumni Association in September with the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award (see page 34).

Steve Stadler continues to serve a governor's appointment as the State Geographer of Oklahoma. Alyson Greiner has become the new Southwest AAG Regional Councilor, and Tom Wikle was appointed as Vice President of GTU, the national honorary society for Geography. Brad Bays has taken on the role of chief promoter and organizer of the State of Oklahoma Geographic Bee, and he moved the annual event (whose winner goes to the national Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C), to the OSU campus. Also among this group of notables, Geography junior Curtis Moss rode his bicycle almost 4,000 miles to Anchorage, Alaska during summer 2010 to inspire others to create their own adventure. Curtis used the solo trip to bring attention to OSU's National Student Exchange, a domestic reciprocal exchange program, by stopping at six of the NSE partner institutions along the way from Wichita State University to the University of Alaska.

OSU Cartography Services, directed by Mike Larson, is once again filled with undergraduate and graduate students who are gaining experience with industry and government mapping and data base projects. Ten years of NRCS soils mapping has given way to another digital cartographic program that will be funded for at least another 10 years. The AAPG-OSU Petroleum Geosciences GIS Consortium (see page 19) is centered around the production of data bases and maps to consolidate and convert to a more usable (digital) form the various paper maps, atlases and sources of data used in the global petroleum and energy industry. Bruce Battles and the Center for Applications of Remote Sensing has, likewise, been actively pursuing new research projects, most notably with the Grand River Dam Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, programs that provide new funding for the center and experience and support for the students employed by CARS.

A few months after the last Zenith was published our program underwent an external review involving a thorough assessment of teaching, research, infrastructural and organizational matters. This was a very good experience for faculty, staff, and students and we were given an "exceedingly favorable appraisal" with a "new Ph.D. program already attracting national attention," in a scholarly and collegial department with a "remarkably conducive environment for professional development."

We did not get a copy of the Zenith out last year as we were in the middle of packing up the department and moving to Murray Hall. We first moved into boxes in preparation for moving the department during the summer (the time we usually prepare the new Zenith), and later learned that there were to be delays in completing the building and our move was postponed until September, and then October. In the meantime, we did our best to work with our files and supplies in boxes, but the Zenith was, unfortunately, delayed. We have finally moved, completely settled in and decorated our new home (see page 20), and had a wonderful time celebrating this event with many of our alumni and friends during our Open House inauguration in March (see pages 21-22). And we have finally produced another volume of the Zenith to let you see what we've been up to lately. If you have not already contributed recent news to this Zenith, we hope to hear from you to learn what you have been doing. As always, we look forward to seeing you when your travels bring you back to Stillwater and Oklahoma State.

All the best,

Dale Lightfoot
Professor and Head

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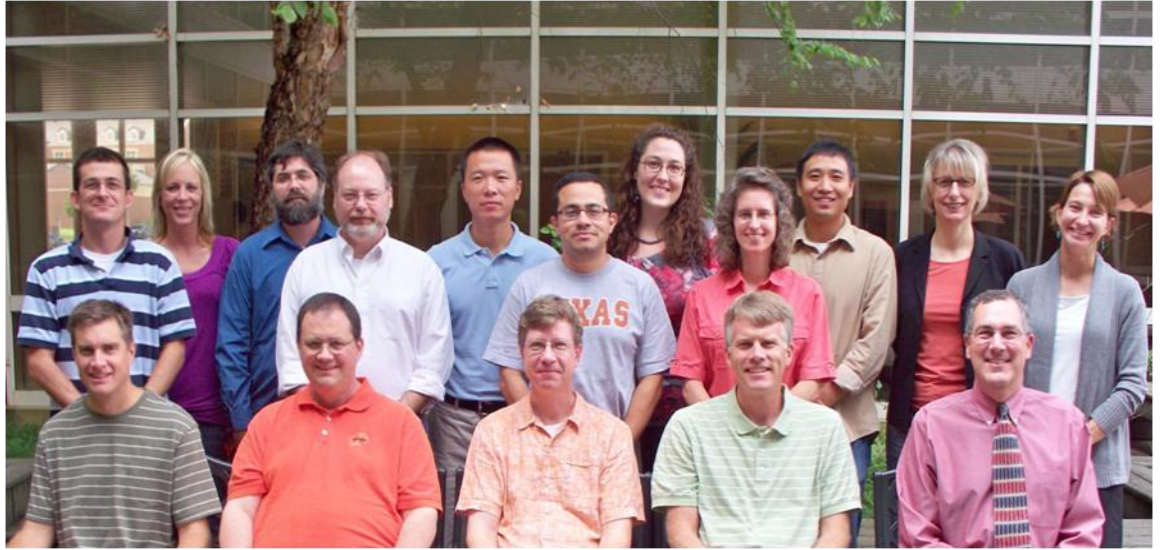
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Staff and Faculty News



Standing (L-R): Bruce Battles, Barbara Amos, Todd Fagin, Mike Larson, Jianjun Ge, Carlos Cordova, Jacqueline Vadjunec, Alyson Greiner, Hongbo Yu, Rebecca Sheehan, and Yolonda Youngs
Seated (L-R): Brad Bays, Allen Finchum, Dale Lightfoot, Jon Comer, and Tom Wikle
Missing: Reuel Hanks and Stephen Stadler



ANN ADKINS joined the Geography Department 9/1/10 to fill Stacey Frazier's vacated position. She transferred from the School of Teaching and Curriculum Leadership in the College of Education here at Oklahoma State University. Ann has been with OSU since February 2005. She moved to Oklahoma in November 2004, and she is enjoying exploring the Sooner State. Ann spent most of her life in California, but her mother and grandmother were born in Perkins, Oklahoma, and she returned to her roots almost six years ago. She married a lifelong Oklahoman in June this year, so she does not anticipate leaving Oklahoma anytime soon. Ann has two children: Daniel (25) and Christy (22). Christy presented Ann with three grandsons: Conley (4), Kaeden (3), and Deacon (2). Daniel still lives in California, but Christy and her family live close to Stillwater, so Ann gets to play with her grandsons on a regular basis (and frequently returns them home dirty or muddy since she loves the outdoors). Ann's hobbies are amateur nature photography, rock collecting, and jewelry making.

BARBARA AMOS just celebrated her fourth anniversary in the department as Unit Assistant. Barb is a valuable member of the office staff, and she spends a great deal of her time interacting with students, staff, faculty, and visitors to the department. Her main duties are coordinating travel, ordering textbooks, ordering supplies, and helping supervise two work study students. She began studying for a bachelor's degree in business administration in January 2009. She enjoys spending time with her kids, Samantha (21), Dillan (16), and Kyra (9). Samantha had Barb's first grandchild in September, so a lot of her time is spent spoiling her new grandson.

BRUCE BATTLES will be starting his eleventh year at Oklahoma State University in October. He manages to stay busy at work where he manages the Center for Applications of Remote Sensing (CARS) lab. At home he tries his best to keep up with his four-year old twin girls, Maggie and Mollie. Wish him luck.



OSU



Staff and Faculty News

DR. BRAD BAYS has been active in the area of historic preservation from one corner of the state to another. Brad completed a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the American Baptist Home Mission House in Tahlequah, which was accepted in July 2010. The house holds significance to Cherokee history and higher education in Oklahoma. In the opposite corner of the state Brad has been hunting old barns. Funding by the National Park Service and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OK/SHPO) directed him to undertake Oklahoma's first-ever thematic survey of historic barns. The 2009-10 survey, which employed graduate student Omar Safi, examined barns in 17 southwest and west-central counties. With the assistance of Bruce Battles and CARS, Brad used historical GIS, high-resolution aerial imagery, and GPS to determine sampling zones and conduct site visits. After logging some 8,000 miles of Oklahoma county roads, Brad recorded over 350 barns and related outbuildings between November and June. The products of the survey include photos and information files for each recorded property that will become part of the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory and a detailed report on the survey results. The report is essentially a cultural geography of Oklahoma barns, including an analysis of types, construction features, conditions, and their spatial patterns, and it will recommend further preservation efforts, such as nominating significant properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The 2009-10 survey located eastern barn types presumed to have never made it as far as Oklahoma (i.e., bank barns, Pennsylvania forebay barns), as well as types with little or no precedent in the academic literature (i.e., gable-end bank barns, square barns). During the 2010-11 academic year, Bays will survey 13 counties of northwest Oklahoma, supposedly the most Midwestern and barn-rich region of the state.



Left: Small (24' x 40'), three-level timber-supported, gable-end bank barn with cupola, in the Cordell vicinity, central Washita County (ca. 1900). Trap doors in the granary open to mangers in the south-facing basement stock pen. This notable building lies squarely within a Railroad-recruited Volga German colony. Its form follows no known Pennsylvanian precedent and may represent a direct Old World transplant.

Right: Livestock Feeder Barn (ca. 1920) painted red, covered by a "broken-gambrel" roof, Aledo vicinity, southwestern Dewey County, one of two barns surveyed containing a five-pointed star painted in the gable. The star is an American habit inherited from the Dutch, but idiosyncrasies like decoration, color, and even roof type are mostly unimportant in the study of barns, which were, except perhaps for the outhouse, the most utilitarian of American buildings.



DR. JON COMER continues to advise undergraduate Geography majors, conduct outcomes assessment, and coordinate internships in the department. Since 2008 he has had peer-reviewed papers appear in *The Professional Geographer* (with Tom Wikle) on the low power FM radio, the *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* (also with Tom Wikle) on the changing geography of religious radio, the *International Association of Hydrological Scientists Redbook Series* (with Dale Lightfoot and others) on the accuracy of groundwater monitoring systems in Uzbekistan, and *The Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* (with doctoral students Amy Graham and Stacey Brown) on the relationship between highway conditions and economic development in the Southwest. He attends AAG, SWAAG, and Applied Geography Conference meetings regularly, and went to San Francisco in November 2009 for the Regional Science Association International meetings. On the home front, one kid is entering high school in 2010, the other is graduating and moving on to OSU, and Mrs. Comer continues to enjoy teaching first grade, so he doesn't have too much to complain about.

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Staff and Faculty News

DR. CARLOS CORDOVA: Carlos E. Cordova (PhD University of Texas, 1997). Carlos is extra-busy these days –surprise. If you don't see him often is because he divides his time between his dirt lab in NRC (the bunker), the microscope lab in the 3rd floor of Murray Hall, his office in the 4th floor, the classroom, and between the OSU campus and dozens of sites in the Great Plains. He and his former student, Jess Porter (PhD OSU 2007), Jianjun Ge, and various colleagues in OSU and U of Kansas are working together on the *Paleobiomes, Paleopastures, and Paleofires*, whose objective is to reconstruct the prehistoric bison ecosystems of the Great Plains. Carlos flees to South Africa during the Christmas-New Year's break, to continue research on native grasses and megafauna, and to get away from wintry Stillwater. Carlos is currently writing two books: *Crimea: its biogeography and environmental History* and *Archives of the Land: past and modern societies and their environments*. Carlos teaches Intro to Physical Geography, Geography of Arid Lands, Biogeography, and Climate Change. Students who take his arid lands class receive the title of "Cowboy" or "Cowgirl." Those who take Biogeography become "Carnivorous Predators."

STACEY FRAZIER completed her MBA in spring 2009. One year later, she began teaching at Northern Oklahoma College in the evening. What an experience for Stacey. She enjoyed teaching so much that she has chosen to pursue her doctorate degree in Education. Not only has Stacey decided to continue her education, but she also left her post as Sr. Staff Assistant in the department in August. Stacey worked for the Department of Geography for a total of six years. She was a valuable asset to the department, and she will be missed.

DR. TODD FAGIN: Dr. Todd Fagin is embarking on his second year as a visiting assistant professor at OSU, arriving here by way of an unmentionable university located elsewhere in the state. Todd's research interests fall broadly within the realms of biogeography, landscape ecology, and GIS. More specifically, Todd's research explores the linkages between historical land cover change and current biogeographic patterns, particularly in south-central Oklahoma (Arbuckle Mountains region). Todd is keenly interested in land cover mapping methods, vegetation classification standards, and biological inventories. Towards these ends, Todd works closely with biologists and ecologists at the Oklahoma Biological Survey and is a member of the recently formed Oklahoma Land Cover Working group. Recent and forthcoming publications include an extended dissertation abstract, which appeared in the July 2010 issue of *Frontiers of Biogeography*, and a paper, accepted to *Plant Ecology*, on applying a Bayesian modeling method to estimate the probable historic distribution of select woody plant taxa. Todd recently travelled to Pittsburgh, PA, where he presented on ongoing efforts to implement the National Vegetation Classification Standard V. 2 in Oklahoma. Todd's other topical interests include GIS education and GIS applications. In regards to the former, Todd is currently collaborating with Tom Wikle on a paper related to the "instructor element of GIS instruction." As to the latter, Todd hopes to bring his GIS experience to bear on a proposed project in Cimarron County, OK spearheaded by Jacqueline Vadjunec and Rebecca Sheehan. Since joining the Department of Geography, Todd has taught GIS: Resource Management Applications, Physical Geography, and Landscape Ecology and is currently preparing to teach Cultural Geography for the first time. Todd's wife, Traci, delivered their first child, Eleanor Jane, on November 7.



OSU



Staff and Faculty News

DR. ALLEN FINCHUM: Allen Finchum has had two eventful years since the last Zenith. During this period he has continued to work with the Oklahoma SHPO on several projects, has taken on a larger roll in the Wind Power project through his participation in the ongoing EDGE project to create the new ZephyrBox online web site. Beyond activities in various funded projects, he has also continued to work on articles, his favorite being one he worked on with Jess Porter based on much of his dissertation work, and serving as the Coordinator of Graduate Studies. Allen has also attended several professional meetings: the AAG meetings in Boston, Las Vegas, and Washington, and SWAAG meetings in Norman, San Marcos, and Little Rock. He has also been able to attend the last four ESRI User Meetings in San Diego, a meeting that provides more immediately useful and applicable knowledge than any other meeting he has attended. On a personal note, Allen was able to see his son Curtis play one year of college basketball at Oklahoma Christian University (2008-09) before he transferred to OSU in 2009. Allen and his family were able to visit Tennessee to visit relatives on 2-3 different occasions, but otherwise he has spent most of his time in Stillwater since the last Zenith.

DR. JIANJUN GE: Dr. Ge's research focuses on climate change, land/climate interactions, and remote sensing. In the past year, he published a research article in the International Journal of Climatology. The article is entitled "MODIS observed impacts of intensive agriculture on surface temperature in the southern Great Plains". Dr. Ge used satellite observed surface temperature to study the impacts of winter wheat belt in Oklahoma and Kansas on climate. He found that the wheat belt causes substantial cool anomalies in the growing season but warm anomalies after the wheat is harvested. Dr. Ge has also revised and submitted a research article to Earth Interactions journal. In this article he focuses on the impacts of wildfire in the boreal ecosystem. This past summer, Dr. Ge traveled to east and northwest China with several scientists from the U.S., Netherlands and China to study the sustainability of China's urbanization under future climate change. This research is supported by a four-year NASA grant. One of the primary objectives of this project is to simulate the climatic impacts of increasing urban area in China. Two major cities with distinct climate and geographic characteristics have been selected and visited as case studies: Shanghai and Urumqi. Most recently, Dr. Ge has been awarded a new two-year research grant from the Oklahoma Transportation Center for "Automated and Accurate Bridge Deck Crack Inspection and Mapping". As a co-PI, Dr. Ge will be responsible for analyzing bridge crack images, acquired from digital cameras carried by a robot. The findings of this research will be used to develop airborne system for accurate mapping of bridge and highway conditions.

As an enthusiastic runner, Dr. Jianjun Ge had a special 2009 and 2010. He has finished his first two half-marathons: Tulsa Route 66 in November 2009 and OKC Memorial Marathon in April 2010. His time was 1 hour 47 minutes for Route 66 and 1 hour 48 minutes for OKC Memorial. He has figured out the one minute difference is most likely related to the arrival his second son, James Liu, and frequent wakeups at night for diaper change. His plan for a full marathon is also pushed back to 2011. But he is a very happy dad and enjoys every moment of being with his two sons.

The photo to the right shows Dr. Ge at the finish line during the OKC Memorial Marathon.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. ALYSON GREINER: Alyson Greiner's work on New Deal-era murals was rewarded with the good news that five Oklahoma post offices containing murals were listed in the National Register of Historic Places following National Park Service review of her nominations. Those five post offices are in Watonga, Nowata, Hollis, Madill, and Coalgate. She presented a paper at the AAG meeting in Las Vegas on different aspects of the WPA in Oklahoma. This year she was also elected Regional Councilor of SWAAG. Meanwhile, she remains mired in managing the many nefarious details that come with textbook authorship, and work on the *Journal of Cultural Geography* has ramped up since the journal is now being published three times a year. Very happily she reports Luis Montes, her most special and significant other, was promoted to full professor of Chemistry at UCO. The two escaped to the exotic (?) location of Fayetteville, Arkansas for a very brief R&R during the summer. In anticipation of the long-awaited completion of her textbook, Alyson Greiner has been taking internet voice lessons from the town crier who announces the arrival of the year's new vintage of Beaujolais Nouveau wines by running through the streets proclaiming "Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivée!" She's deciding which route to take through campus to ensure the best acoustics when that day arrives. Okay, well, maybe not, but it got your attention and perhaps even more astonishing is that the scenario is not entirely inconceivable anymore. Anyhow, the textbook is in production and Alyson is well into the first of two to three stages of page proof review. On the home front, Luis was elected to a second (non-consecutive) term as Faculty Senate President at UCO. He is a glutton for punishment. In other news, the AAG meeting in Washington, D.C. was just grand and provided an opportunity to see some old stomping grounds and take in some new sites, sights, and sighs (we just missed the cherry blossoms but dining at the first certified organic restaurant was really neat). At the meeting Alyson participated in a fantastic session celebrating 30 years of the *Journal of Cultural Geography* and she is working with Bill Doolittle on a special issue for the anniversary, due out later this year.

DR. REUEL HANKS: The biggest event in the Hanks household during the past two years was the arrival, on January 13, 2010, of Kamila Danielle Hanks (Kami). She just turned eight months old, and already can identify the countries of Central Asia on a map (well, almost). She is growing rapidly and has passed 16 pounds in weight. She loves bright colors and being outside with either of her two grandmas observing trees, flowers, and the hummingbirds that visit the backyard. Kami is already a world traveler, having visited Rio de Janeiro and San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2009 with her mommy and daddy, who were attending conferences at which daddy was presenting papers. Mommy Oydin continues to unlock the mysteries of Miltonic prose and poetry, and is hopeful of completing her doctorate in Renaissance British Literature this year, although she has admittedly been rather distracted in recent months. When he is not playing with her, Kami's daddy Reuel works on any one of three books he is currently writing: *Handbook of Geography Terms, Themes and Concepts* (the entries for physical geography in this volume have been written by Steve Stadler), *The Historical Dictionary of Uzbekistan*, and the *Handbook of Central Asian Politics*. Reuel's most recent book, *Global Security Watch: Central Asia* (Praeger Security International) will be published in December of 2010. In 2009 he had peer-reviewed articles appear in *The Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* and *Central Asian Survey*, and at the end of this year his article *Rebuilding Afghanistan: Regional Challenges and Spatial Contingencies* will be published in a special issue of the refereed Italian-language journal *Africa e Orienti*, entitled "La crisi afgana e il suo contesto regionale" [The Afghan Crisis and its Regional Context]. In February of 2010 Reuel was elected Vice President of the POSTCOM section of the International Studies Association, and continues to work closely with many colleagues in the ISA. Besides the birth of his gorgeous baby girl, the best thing to happen to Reuel in 2010 was being chosen as the Outstanding Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences by the A&S Student Council in April of 2010.



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Staff and Faculty News

MICHAEL LARSON: November 2010 will start Michael's fifteenth year as Coordinator of Cartography Services. Although the key focus of his duties is his amazing work servicing the Geography Department, Michael continues to perform extraordinary work for faculty members from other departments on campus as well as work for various entities, large and small, off campus. The major project Michael is now involved with is the work for the Association of American Petroleum Geologists. Continuing his role as an educator, Spring 2011, will see Michael's ninth year teaching the Computer Cartography course. In addition to teaching, he continues to be involved with assisting a number of the Geography faculty with their field courses. Last fall, Michael was nominated for the A&S Outstanding Staff Award in which he placed as a finalist. He was truly honored to be nominated by his department and hopes that through his hard work and positive attitude, he represents the Geography Department, its faculty, staff and students in a professional and competent manner.

DR. DALE LIGHTFOOT: Two years have passed since our last Zenith was published and a lot of water has passed under the bridge; most of it clean and potable. I am happy to be working in our beautifully refurbished Murray Hall. I reached the 10 year mark as department head in April 2010 and, though administration threatens to pull me under, I keep my head above water by teaching classes that I love and staying active in research so I can travel and do the fun things that brought me into academia in the first place. I spent summer 2008 traveling around Tunisia for two months to survey foggara (qanat) water systems (funded by CAORC), and another month wandering by myself in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, and Tanzania (including 5 days climbing Kilimanjaro). I reached a travel milestone during this trip by entering my 100th country (Tanzania). In summer 2009 I was funded by UNESCO for a two month karez (qanat) survey project in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq. The report from this research was featured on the UNESCO website, and UNESCO produced a documentary film featuring my project.

I traveled to Puerto Rico in September 2009 for the national NCGE conference and spent much of December in Cyprus and Iran at an environmental stakeholder conference in Nicosia and giving lectures on karez refurbishment at the International Center for Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures in Iran. Tom Wikle and I filled our first study abroad course to Morocco in summer 2009 (Cultural and Natural Resources of Morocco). We returned to Morocco with another group of student travelers in May-June 2010, and after the students departed Morocco we continued on our own for another two weeks in West Africa—Mali and Burkina Faso—for some hard adventure. A groundwater research project I previously completed in Uzbekistan was published in the *International Association of Hydrological Sciences Red Book* series, and I produced additional publications for the *Proceedings of the International Conference on Groundwater and Climate in Africa* and a technical report published by UNESCO resulting from my karez survey in Iraq. In late 2009 I completed a chapter on the "Function, Distribution, and History of Old World Qanats" for an upcoming seven volume tome on the *History of Water and Civilization*. In spring 2009 the OSU School of International Studies presented me with the Outstanding Faculty Award and in spring 2010 the OSU Environmental Institute honored me with the Bud Birks Award for Outstanding Environmental Research. I continue to teach the Geography of the Middle East and a graduate seminar in International Resource Management. Tory (wife) is a proposal development specialist for the College of Arts and Sciences and recently passed comprehensive exams, defended her dissertation proposal and is nearing completion of her Ph.D. in Geography. Adam (son) is in his freshman year as a college student at OSU.

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Staff and Faculty News

DR. STEPHEN STADLER has now finished 30 years with the department and is looking forward to a few more. He continues teaching climatology, physical geography, and meteorology, and he is coordinator for physical geography labs.

Other than having a wonderful office in the new building, he is thankful for the specially configured space for physical geography labs: the operation has been moved from the ill-ventilated basement of Scott Hall to airy quarters overlooking Theta Pond.

For the last decade, Steve has been one of the co-directors of the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative and much of his research is related to wind--look for his wind energy chapter in an upcoming National Council for Geographic Education book. Recently, he has written the physical geography terms for Reuel Hanks' forthcoming *Handbook of Geographic Terms and Concepts*.

Steve continues as the State Geographer of Oklahoma and as a steering committee member for the Oklahoma Mesonet which has been operational since 1994.

The Stadlers still like to travel and this year's trip to the Baltic occurred when St. Petersburg, Russia was having its hottest summer in 130 years...talk about global warming. Steve's wife, Barb, continues as a tenured math instructor at Northern Oklahoma College and is busy in various organizations. His son John is a recent OSU graduate seeking a job.

DR. REBECCA SHEEHAN: Rebecca Sheehan has continued writing about New Orleans' Jackson Square and public space. Her most recent manuscript from this work, "I'm protective of this yard: Long-Term Homeless Persons Construction of Home Place and Workplace in a Historical Public Space," will appear in *Social and Cultural Geography* in late 2010. In addition to the New Orleans research, Rebecca has begun a collaborative project with Jacqueline Vadjunec and Todd Fagin in the Panhandle of Oklahoma.

Rebecca and Jacqueline have also started research on roller derby in the Bible Belt. Both of these projects have further elaboration in this newsletter. The next new work that Rebecca looks forward to includes research concerning homelessness geographies in the Great Plains region and further work in New Orleans.

DR. JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: Jacqueline's research this past year includes a continuation of her previous research interests in the Brazilian Amazon, plus some new local research as well. She has been working hard as a guest editor on a special upcoming issue for the *Journal of Cultural Geography* on *Amazonian Geographies*. Furthermore, Rebecca Sheehan, Todd Fagin and Jacqueline have been continuing their research on Land-Use and Livelihoods in Cimarron County, Oklahoma. Additionally, she and Rebecca Sheehan have been attending a lot of roller derby bouts for a new and action-packed research project in the region.

Jacqueline continues to be committed to taking students to the field. This past year, she planned several field trips with students, including a camping trip to Robber's Cave with Geography Club students, as well as two research collection field trips to Beaver's Bend State Park (Fall '09) and the Wichita National Wildlife Refuge - Medicine Park (Spring '10). Lastly, she spent time in Mexico this summer brushing up on her Spanish.



OSU



Staff and Faculty News

DR. THOMAS WIKLE: Tom Wikle completed his tenth year as Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, and his 21st in the OSU Geography Department. In addition to administrative duties, Tom remains active in research, teaching, and service.

Recently Tom and colleague Jon Comer published findings of research that examines communication systems and federal policy in *Professional Geographer* (low power FM radio) and the *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* (the expansion of translator stations operated by religious organizations). Tom also published a paper in the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Geospatial Research* and a book chapter on cartographic methods used for representing American English with colleague Guy Bailey (recently named President of Texas Tech University).

During the Fall '09 semester Tom taught a course at the Korean National Fire Academy near Seoul on the use of geospatial technologies (GIS, remote sensing, GPS) in disaster management.

The summer of 2010 was extremely busy. Traveling to Casablanca, Fez, Marrakech, and other locations, Tom and Dale Lightfoot offered to teach a course called "The Cultural and Natural Resources of Morocco" for the second time. Traveling with Tom and Dale was retired OSU Geography professor Steve Tweedie. Tom also taught "Resource Management in the National Parks" in Alaska this summer with former OSU graduate student Matt Tueth, now a full professor at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. Last year Tom became National 2nd Vice President for Gamma Theta Upsilon, the Geography Honor Society. On evenings and weekends he can be found high overhead Stillwater in a two-seat Piper Tomahawk airplane. Purchased with two partners, Tom's plane began its career in 1979 as give-away to promote the soft drink, *Fresca*. Tom's wife Missy continues to serve as Director for New Student Orientation at OSU. Their daughter Paige (17) will begin her senior year at Stillwater High where she plays on the varsity soccer team (and was first runner-up in the Payne Junior Miss competition). Starting his sophomore year of high school, their son Garrett (15) traveled with Tom to Morocco in '09.



Photo at right is Tom arriving in Mali.

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Staff and Faculty News

DR. YOLONDA YOUNGS: Dr. Yolonda Youngs joined the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University in Fall 2009. Her research interests include cultural landscapes, national parks and protected areas, nature-culture studies, public space, Historical GIS, and field methods with a regional emphasis on the American West. Dr. Youngs taught World Regional Geography and Geography of Outdoor Recreation in Fall 2009 and Introduction to Cultural Geography, Geography of Europe, and Conservation of Natural Resources in Spring 2010. She received her Ph.D. from Arizona State University's Department of Geography and her M.S. from Montana State University's Department of Earth Sciences. In the coming year (2010-2011) she will teach the same round of courses for the fall and spring semesters while continuing her research on visual representations of national parks found in historic postcards and changing ideas about nature and culture in the American West, especially the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park.

DR. HONGBO YU has been very busy with teaching and research during the past academic years. In the summer of 2008, Hongbo attended the *28th ESRI International User Conference* in San Diego, California. He co-presented a paper titled, "A space-time GIS approach to exploring large individual-based spatiotemporal datasets" with Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw (Univ. of Tennessee).



Dr. Hongbo Yu in San Diego, California, Summer 2008

In early 2009, he published a peer-viewed research paper at *Journal of Transport Geography* as a co-author. At the *2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG)* in Las Vegas, Nevada, Hongbo organized two special paper sessions on the topic of emerging research trends in time geography. Both sessions attracted a good number of audiences and were well received by peer geographers and researchers. In August 2009, Hongbo was invited to attend the *3rd ICA Workshop on Geospatial Analysis and Modeling* in Gävle, Sweden. He chaired a paper session and presented a research paper at the workshop.

In December 2009, Hongbo traveled to Wuhan, China to attend the *2009 International Workshop on GIS for Transportation*, where he presented another full research paper and served as a chair for a paper session.



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Staff and Faculty News

In the fall 2009, Dr. Yu and Dr. Shih-Lung Shaw (University of Tennessee) released an *Extended Time-Geography Framework Tools Extension for ArcGIS 9.3*, which is one of the outcomes from the NSF project they have been working on. The extension is available free of charge to the researchers and the public. Since the extension was released, it has attracted great attention and been downloaded by people from universities and private sections all over the world.

In December 2009, Jinjue Dong finished his Master's degree in the department under the supervision of Dr. Yu. Jinjue completed an interesting creative component project which focuses on providing a three dimensional visualization approach to the property related crimes data in the City of Houston on Google Earth. Drs. Finchum and Ge are the other members of his committee.

In 2009, Hongbo also provided his services to the research community. He helped review seven manuscripts and six abstracts of different research journals and conferences, including *International Journal of Geographic Information and Science*, *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*, *Journal of Transport Geography*, and *Urban Geography*. At the 2010 AAG meeting, Hongbo was elected as the vice chair of the Transportation Geography Specialty Group of AAG at the meeting. He was happy to have this great opportunity to serve the research community.

In the fall of 2010, Hongbo will start his sixth year in the Department. He still loves the friendly working environment of the department and is proud of being a member of this big family!



Dr. Hongbo Yu at the 2009 International Workshop on GIS for Transportation, Wuhan, China, December 2009

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Graduate Student News

MASTER'S STUDENTS:

Ajax Delvecki
James Dryden
Stephanie Eades
Subodh Ganta
Chris Krieger
Cary Lincoln
Matthew Meier
Matthew O'Neil
Diya Paul
Nicholas Rose
Omar Safi
Jennifer Sebesta
Melanie Skaggs
Jennifer Whitte
Daniel Wilson
Er Yue
Yun Zhao

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Leonard Bombom
Stacey Brown
Elisha J. Dung
Steven Ericson
Bryan Frenz
William Flynn
Robert Garrett
Amy Graham
Abdul Kareem Hawta Khayyat
Shireen Hyrapiet
Weiping Li
Victoria Lightfoot
Stuart McAllister
William McBrayer
Adam Payne
Siewe Siewe
Christopher Storm
Aswin Subanthore
Ramin Zamanian



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Graduate Student News

LEONARD SITJI BOMBOM from Nigeria has a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Planning and a Master's degree in Environmental and Resources Planning both from the University of Jos, Nigeria. He received a Master's degree in Geography in 2005 from the University of Northern Iowa and joined the Department of Geography here at OSU in 2006 as a Ph.D. student. He received a Certificate in GIS in 2008. Leonard's research interests are diverse but more focused on Time geography and activity pattern analysis and GIS applications in Transportation, Urban studies and environmental resources management, and Dr. Hongbo Yu is the Chair of his Dissertation Committee. In the last few years he has published papers in several journals in collaboration with colleagues in the US, Scotland, UK, and Nigeria, and he also reviewed articles for some journals. Leonard is currently a Graduate Teaching Associate [Cultural Geography (Geog 1113)] and also works for the Cartographic Services in the department.

STACEY RENEE BROWN, Doctoral Candidate (5th Year), grew up in Healdton, OK. She holds a BS in Geography from Oklahoma State, MA in Geography from University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and she has two years corporate experience at the Walgreen Corporation (Deerfield, IL) researching how accessibility to doctors and healthy food can influence health in Oklahoma City neighborhoods. Stacey currently works as technical support for GIS labs and research assistant for Dr. Tyson Ochsner in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences on a new water atlas for the state of Oklahoma.

JAMES DRYDEN is a second year Master's student from Plano, Texas. He graduated with a B.S. in Meteorology from the University of Oklahoma in 2008. James' research interests include atmospheric science, climatology/climate change, renewable energy, and Geographic Information Systems.

JASPER DUNG obtained a BS in Geography from the University of Jos, Nigeria in 1989, and an MS in Environmental and Resources Planning from the same University in 1992. He proceeded to the United States in 2001 and obtained an MA in Geography from the University of Northern Iowa in 2003. He is currently a 6th year graduate student here at OSU pursuing a PhD in Geography. Jasper's main interests are GIScience/remote sensing applications in watershed modeling, environmental issues related to resource conservation and management, land use change and climate change, soil science and agriculture. His research thus far has focused on understanding the impacts of land use and environmental dynamics on sustainable agriculture and its wider implications for natural resource management. Results of some of these studies have been published as journal articles and book chapters. His dissertation is titled: *Estimating Potential Carbon Sequestration in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Tracts in the Central High Plains (CHP) of the United States* and examines long term trends in carbon sequestration in CRP tracts in the CHP region of the U.S. In the past few years he taught two lower division courses in the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University, including Physical Geography and World Regional Geography. He also taught the lab sections of Physical Geography, GIS, Remote Sensing, and Cartography. On a personal note, Jasper reports that, "I have enjoyed my stay here in Oklahoma, and especially in the Department of Geography, a place I call home away from home." After graduating, he plans to work in the U.S. for a year or two and then move back to Nigeria to teach at his hometown university, the University of Jos. He hopes to develop collaborative research on his return home with some of the faculty at OSU, especially Drs. Lightfoot and Greiner who have shown tremendous interest in Africa.

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Graduate Student News

STEVEN ERICSON is a third-year PhD student from Marietta, GA. He has a master's degree in sports administration from Georgia State University, and owns a bachelor's degree in journalism also from Georgia State. Steven's research interest include urban, sport, and cultural geography.

WILLIAM FLYNN is a sixth-year Ph.D. student residing in New Braunfels, Texas. He received a BM degree in classical guitar performance in 2000 from California State University, Fullerton and also completed the Master of Applied Geography (MAG) degree, with an emphasis in GIS/Cartography, at Texas State University in 2001. William has been working since March 2009 as the Public Services Technology Project Manager for the City of San Marcos, Texas, is also an Adjunct Professor of GIS at Lone Star College in Houston, and is a GIS curriculum developer for the San Antonio-based company Geospatial Training. In August 2010, William was certified as a GISP (Certified GIS Professional). In addition to GIS, William's interests include quantitative methods and music geography. His dissertation topic is a geographic study of contemporary/smooth jazz. William and his wife, Rachel, were blessed with the birth of their first child, Charlotte Adele Flynn, on April 9, 2010.

ROBERT GARRETT is a 2nd year Ph.D. student with an MS in International Studies (OSU 2006) and a BA in History (OSU 2001). He is interested in Travel, Language Study, Music, Reading, and Blogging. He is currently a GTA teaching World Regional Geography.

AMY GRAHAM is a second year Ph.D. student. She received her Master's degree in Geography in 2009 from Oklahoma State University and her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology in 1996 from the University of Oklahoma. Her research interests include historical and cultural geography and quantitative methods. She is currently a GTA teaching Introduction to Cultural Geography.

SHIREEN HYRAPIET is a 5th year PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography and the recipient of the department's 2009-2010 Susan Shaul Medal for Excellence in Teaching Geography. Originally from Kolkata (Calcutta), India, Shireen received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Loreto College, Calcutta and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. Her Master of Science degree is in Fire and Emergency Management Administration from Oklahoma State University. Her research interests are broadly in Cultural and Urban Geography and Cultural and Political Ecology with a regional emphasis on South Asia. Shireen's dissertation focuses on the hand-pulled rickshaw profession in Kolkata (the only city in the world to have a sizeable fleet of human-powered transportation) as the government plans to ban the vehicle without rehabilitating the pullers. Potentially, a quarter of a million people could be affected by a ban on the profession, and Shireen is exploring the consequences. Besides her academic life, Shireen is currently the President of the International Student Organization Oklahoma State University, the umbrella organization for more than 30 area clubs which span the globe.



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Graduate Student News

HAWTA KHAYYAT is a Ph.D. student working on his dissertation: Modeling Wind Energy Potential in Iraq using Geographic Information Systems – GIS, and he expects to graduate in 2012. His research interests include GIS modeling, GIS for natural resource management, and renewable energy (wind power).

WEIPING LI is originally from China, and she is currently a Ph.D. candidate in geography. She obtained her master's degree in Computer Science from Oklahoma State University in 2000. Her research interests include spatial modeling and analysis, image analysis, GIS, and application of various geo-technologies in environment and renewable energy related studies.

TORY LIGHTFOOT is a 6th year Ph.D. student, and she received her B.S. in Education and MBA from Oklahoma State University. Tory is currently working on her dissertation which involves studying relationships between home sales prices in Midtown Tulsa and neighborhood walkability.

CARY LINCOLN is a second year master's student. He received a bachelor of arts in geography from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg Virginia. He plans to write a thesis about the unique geography of the Outer Banks barrier islands of North Carolina. He is currently a TA working for the GIS labs. In May Cary will return to the Northern Virginia area to get married in July. He was awarded the South Central Arc User's Group (SCAUG) graduate student scholarship and to show his appreciation he is presenting a poster at the Oklahoma SCAUG conference September 2010. The poster is about the internship experience at Fort AP Hill over the summer during the National Boy Scout Jamboree.

STUART E. MCALLISTER is a 3rd year Ph.D. student with a M.A. in History from OSU. He is researching alcohol production and consumption and power relations in nations that were once ruled by the Ottoman Empire. Stuart spent the summer actually doing archival, field, and participatory research in Athens, Istanbul, and Cairo. His travels took him to various wineries, breweries, distilleries and numerous pubs. Stuart's other interests include geopolitical concerns, particularly those involving the IRA and PLO.

MATT MEIER is a second year masters student and received his B.S. in geography in 2005 from Fort Hays State University along with a minor in Spanish. His interests include natural resource management, human/environmental interaction, and cultural studies. Matt is currently an RA working on the Zephyr Box project for the Oklahoma edge initiative. He hopes to graduate sometime next spring with his masters degree and get a job working for a federal agency such as the B.L.M or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Matt enjoys long walks on the beach, is a cancer, distrusts the French and Gypsies and has a fear of maps, small places and Kleenexes.

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Graduate Student News

DIYA PAUL is a first year Masters student. She received her Masters in Social Work from Delhi University in 2002, and worked in rural India thereafter. She was initially involved with Natural Resource Management and ecological studies in South India, after which she was a part of a project assessing the vulnerability and adaptability of communities to climate change. In addition, she has taught environmental studies, and has completed a number of freelance projects. At the crossroads of deciding whether conservation, communities or research was her calling, she decided to combine all three and pursue Geography! She is currently a TA for World Regional Geography.

ADAM PAYNE is a fourth year Ph.D. student. He received his masters in history from the University of Central Oklahoma. He is currently a GTA for Introduction to Cultural Geography.

NICK ROSE is a second year MS student, is originally from the Greater Cincinnati, OH area, and he received his BA from Morehead State University in Morehead, KY. Nick's research interests are on Appalachia and the region's relationship with the coal industry both socially and economically. He also has an interest in GIS and the health geography.

JENNIFER SEBESTA is a second year master's student. She received a bachelor's in geography and a bachelor's in liberal studies in 2008 from Oklahoma State University. Her interests include cultural geography, cartography, and urban geography. Her research is currently focusing on local food systems within Oklahoma. Jennifer is a TA for GEOG 1113.

SIEWE SIEWE is a second year PhD student, and his research interests include deforestation and degradation, climate change, remote sensing and GIS, human dimensions of global change, and cultural and political ecology. He has a Master of Science in geography from OSU (2007) and a Bachelor of Science in geography from the University of Buea, Cameroon (2003). Siewe is currently a TA for Geog 2343 and Geog 4353, classes taught by Dr Ge and Dr Finchum ,respectively. His favorite quotes are John 3:3, Romans 10:9-10 and Matthew 7:7.

MELANIE SKAGGS is a first year Master's student. She completed her bachelor's degree in May 2010 at Oklahoma State University. Her research interests include the usage of GIS in the energy industry and public transit in small urban areas. Melanie has already completed internships with energy companies Conoco Phillips, Chesapeake and Samson; however, once she has completed her Master's degree she would like to move into the government sector. She is currently a teaching assistant for Geography 1114. Melanie is also an active member of Collegiate 4-H and currently has the privilege of serving as the chairperson of the Collegiate 4-H National Action Board.



OSU



Graduate Student News

CHRISTOPHER STORM is a fourth-year doctoral student from Tampa, Florida. He earned a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science at the University of Southern Mississippi. His academic interests include teaching, quantitative geography, economic geography, and the geography of sport. Storm was the recipient of the 2009 Susan Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching Geography at OSU. He is currently teaching Earth Science and Microeconomics at Northern Oklahoma College.

ASWIN SUBANTHORE is a fourth year Ph.D. student. He received his M.S. Geography degree in 2005 from Oklahoma State University. His interests include urban and cultural geography as well as immigration and transnational studies. Aswin plans to seek a tenure-track faculty position after graduating. He is currently a Graduate Teaching Associate instructing physical geography labs. Before returning to OSU, Aswin taught a summer geography course for Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth and upper division geography classes at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee for three years.

JEN WHITTE is a second-year Masters student, and she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Environment Science with a minor in Geography from OSU Research activities, and she is currently finalizing ideas and gathering literature for her thesis. She plans to examine soccer in the U.S., specifically the MLS and how it has evolved through time. Jen is currently a TA for the Physical Geography courses and is taking Dr. Finchum's Urban Geography class. She is also interested in philosophy and the mind.

ER YUE is a second year master student who received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nanjing University of Information Science and Tech, China. She is interested in examining invasive plants in Oklahoma, and she is a research assistant working with Dr. Ge on image analysis of bridge cracks.

RAMIN ZAMANIAN is a fourth-year PhD student. He received his Master of Arts degree in Geography from Louisiana State University in 2007. Ramin's research interests involve studying the role of nature in Brazil's Santo Daime religion. He is currently a Graduate Teaching Associate, instructing Geog 3743: Geography of Latin America and Geog 2253: World Regional Geography. Ramin is a Graduate Student Representative for the Association of American Geographers' Cultural Geography Specialty Group (CGSG). He is also Co-Coordinator of the CGSG's Landscape Photography Exhibit at the national AAG conferences. He has recently reviewed two books on Latin American topics for the *Historical Geography* journal and the *Material Culture* journal.

YUN ZHAO is a second-year master student. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 2009 from Nanjing University of Info, Sci & Tech in China. He is interested in transportation geography with Dr. Yu, particularly in the field of vulnerability analysis in road network. He is currently an RA working for the ZephyrBox project.

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Cartography Services

This past year has once again been very busy for all of us at Cartography Services. As usual, we have spent most of our time split between several key working areas; the major cartographic projects, map design and compilation work (for both departmental and non departmental clients), large format printing, and education and outreach. The largest of the projects being overseen by Cartography Services is the work for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. This year starts the second year of this multi-year funded project. The AAPG work will be comprised of many smaller projects that vary in nature and complexity; from the Vectorization of the Stratigraphic Atlas of North & Central America to the Geology of Ethiopia and the Australia Geologic Framework. The AAPG project will be a large endeavor that will consume a lot of time and effort, but will return invaluable experience for the students working at Cartography Services. Cartography Services currently employs nine student workers (five graduate and four undergraduate students), and has employed an additional twelve undergraduate or graduate student employees over the past two years. Cartography Services would like to acknowledge and thank the following students for their hard work and service: Heather Anderson, Leonard Bombom, Alex Comer, Jasper Dung, Steven Ericson, Subodh Ganta, Kyle Gibson, Norah McNeil, Sam Moershel, Phil Pahl, Chelsea Plunkett, Joshua Rich, Jennifer Sebesta, Siewe Siewe Siewe, Eli Hines, James Hollan, Adam Lightfoot, Ryan Mathis, Melanie Skaggs, John Stadler, and Christopher Storm.

New Consortium engages Cartography Services in long-term projects: For 10 years OSU Cartography Services and Mike Larson worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to convert the paper soil maps of Oklahoma to digital soil maps. Many of our undergraduate and graduate students were employed by this project and benefitted from the internship experience. With this long-term project completed in 2008 the level of activity in Cartography began to diminish until agreements were signed with AAPG that will ensure a productive work schedule and at least another decade of valuable work experiences for Cartography Services student employees.

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), supported by Boone Pickens, recently partnered with Oklahoma State University to expand the AAPG world database and mapping service for the petroleum and energy sector. The Boone Pickens Digital Geology Fund will provide \$9.7 million support for the AAPG-OSU Petroleum Geosciences GIS Consortium, a partnership between the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Departments of Geography and Geology at Oklahoma State University. This consortium will provide to the international community a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) petroleum database that will offer comprehensive coverage of the world to enhance database accessibility and mapping capabilities for the energy/petroleum sector. Coverage will include an extensive range of thematic projects including a global oil and gas fields database (including unconventional hydrocarbons) and a global database of geological (tectonic, structural, geophysical, geochemical, stratigraphic, sedimentological, and paleontological) information as it relates to petroleum exploration and production. Eventually the database may be expanded to include groundwater, wind power, meteorological, environmental, and socio-geographic data as it relates to energy. The database will provide a unique international resource, provide a vehicle for the support of academic and technical studies, and create a center of expertise for OSU. Cartography Services, coordinated by Mike Larson in the Department of Geography, will generate all of the new digital cartographic and GIS database products produced by the Consortium.



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Center for Applications of Remote Sensing

It has been an active year for the CARS Lab. Bruce Battles and his team of student staff finished a five-year wetland delineation project working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Currently, the CARS lab is working with the Grand River Dam Authority on building a dock management system for Grand Lake.

Departmental Move

After 13 years in Scott Hall the OSU Geography Department joined five other social science and humanities departments in newly renovated Murray Hall located on the southwest corner of Monroe and University Avenues. Constructed in the 1930s as a women's dormitory, Murray Hall was renovated over a three-year period. Whenever possible, original features of the building were retained during the renovation process. The department occupies the entire 3rd floor and the northwest portion of the 4th floor. New departmental space includes two GIS labs, a large and well-equipped teaching lab for introductory physical geography, research facilities for remote sensing (CARS), and space for the OSU Cartography Service. All furniture in the building is new and access to computer labs is provided by card swipe. Two shared conference rooms can be used for seminars and meetings. In addition, faculty and students are enjoying the *Keso Seminar Room*, named in honor of the first head of the OSU Geography Department. The Keso Seminar room houses the Donald Hecock Library and photographs of all current and former faculty and staff. For the first time, undergraduate students (Geography Club) have their own office in the department. Other shared spaces include a break room on the 3rd floor and a parlor and catering kitchen located on the 1st floor. During the building's renovation a 142-seat lecture theater was added on the west side of the building. Please consider visiting Murray Hall so we can give you a tour of our wonderful new home!

Geography Club

The Oklahoma State University Geography Club was given a new life by Dr. Vadjunec this year. The club started with a simple brainstorming meeting (involving free pizza!) and from there several interesting events and trips helped the undergraduates become familiar with their classmates and be more involved within the department. In the fall semester the Geography Club and GTU went on a camping trip to Robber's Cave. This was a great time to build friendships with fellow classmates and professors outside of the classroom. In November during National Geography Awareness Week the Geography Club and FOGG decided to build a poster showing where some of our department's student and professors travel for their research. It also showed a diagram of all the different areas of study within the discipline of geography. Students volunteered to talk to people and present the poster in a popular area of campus. This was a great success sparking many interesting conversations about geography! In late March during the



Geography Open House and Alumni Event the geography club hosted a GPS geocaching event. There was a scavenger hunt built by the club that included 12 hidden items or tasks spread across the campus. The Geography Club has become a great way for undergraduates to become more involved in the geography department and on the OSU campus. The office in Murray hall has become a great location for students to work and hangout within the department. *Written by Daniel Wilson*

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2010 Department Open House

Geography Open House and Alumni Event

In celebration of our new home in Murray Hall, the Department of Geography hosted an Open House and Alumni Event on Friday, March 26, and Saturday, March 27, 2010. This was an opportunity for our alumni to come together to visit one another and to see what our faculty, staff, and students are doing with the department now. Many of our faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students helped to organize and lead events.

The celebration kicked off with a golf outing at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. That evening Professors John Rooney, Steve Stadler, and Tom Wikle hosted an evening of reunions and music (by Edgar Cruz) at Joseppi's Italian Kitchen. More activities took place all day Saturday including GPS and geo-caching events, lunch at Hideaway Pizza, a tour of the OSU campus and the newly renovated Murray Hall, dedication of the Keso Seminar Room and commemorative plaque, and an evening social with presentations and music (by On the Doss) in the Murray Hall parlor.

The turnout was good for every event and we had a great time. Old friendships were rekindled and new acquaintances were made. We had alums attend from as far away as Germany, though most were from a five state region around us. We had six of the "kids" of the first faculty members in Geography (from the 1940s) also in attendance. It was fun to recognize them and have them with us.

During the Saturday evening event a special presentation was given by Alyson Greiner on the history of the OSU Department of Geography, followed by a presentation by Dale Lightfoot on the present department and future goals. Special recognition was offered for Lucy Fite, wife of Bob Fite, and the children of our first department faculty members, including Priscilla Fite (daughter of Bob Fite), Phillip and David Winslow (sons of David Winslow), and Kaye Keso Thorne, Larson Keso and Shirley Keso Andersen (children of Edward Keso). Special awards were made for Julie Adams, Mark Gregory, Bob Springer, and Ricky Jones, alumni who have engaged the department in a significant way to enhance activities, funding, and opportunities in teaching or research. Staff and faculty friends who have retired from the Department of Geography were also recognized with awards, including John Rooney, Steve Tweedie, George Carney, and Gayle Maxwell.



Left: Kathy Winslow, wife of David Winslow with Lucy Fite, wife of early Geography faculty member Bob Fite. In the background are Brian Frenz, Chris Berry, and Mark Gregory.



Above: Priscilla Fite, daughter of Bob Fite, and David Winslow, son of early Geography faculty member David Winslow.

Right: Dale Lightfoot and Tom Wikle (back row) and Alyson Greiner (center) with Gerrie and LaRoy Shaull, the parents of Susan Shaull who was a key staff member and integral part of our department for 20 years.



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2010 Department Open House



Left: Rebecca Sheehan (right) with kids participating in the geocaching event (C.J. Frazier and Sheridan Battles).



Right: Susan and Mark Miller (M.S. 1972) with Tory Lightfoot at one of the geo-caching stops west of Murray Hall.



Left: Jackie Vadjunec and Jess Porter (Ph.D. 2008) enjoying breakfast in Murray Hall before the start of the GPS for Kids activity.



Right: John Rooney and Steve Tweedie surveying the crowd of geographers and friends at Joseppi's during the Friday evening social.



Above Left: Steve Tweedie and Ted Goudge (Ed.D. 1987) in the parlor of Murray Hall.



Above Right: Current doctoral and masters students Chris Storm, Stacey Brown, and Jen Witte).

Right: Former students Brent Payne (M.S. 2005), Jennifer Spencer (M.S. 2000), and Darla (Fagin) Hugaboom (M.S. 2001). Jennifer Spencer traveled the farthest to attend the event; she came from Germany where she currently lives.



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Certificates in GIS Earned

FALL 2008:

Tatsuru Kimura
Weiping Li
Karen Ray

SPRING 2009:

Rebekka Biven	Samuel Moershel
Julie Carey	Daniel Slovacek
Clay Langley	Michael Slovacek

SUMMER 2009:

Brian Martin
Kelsey Moore

FALL 2009:

Alston Hicks
Jinjue Dong

Bachelor's Degrees Earned

SPRING 2008:

Benjamin Bishop	Brittany Miller
Tim Collver	Curtis Pope
Jimmy DeMoss	Quentin Weder
Mark Fisher	

SUMMER 2008:

Josh Rich
Jennifer Sebesta

FALL 2008:

Heather Anderson	Kyle James
Timothy Epley	Tatsuru Kimura
Jacob Flowers	Cameron Meyer
Charli Haynes	Daniel Slovacek
James Hollan	Michael Slovacek

SPRING 2009:

Holly Alcott	Samantha Lofton
Rebekka Biven	Samuel Moershel
Jordan Haggard	Kelsey Moore
Eli Hines	Matthew Summers
Clay Langley	

FALL 2009:

Alston Hicks	Ryder Spahr
Kailey Hall	Ryan Knuth
Chaya Mascioletti	Jeremy Popejoy

SPRING 2010:

Jeffrey Burdge	Melissa
Nicholas Esker	VonAschen
David Hogg	Daniel Wilson
Melanie Skaggs	Peter Wood

SUMMER 2010:

Kyle Gibson



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Master's Degrees Earned

CREATIVE COMPONENTS:

Majunu Seran, "Oklahoma City Navigator—Web Based Geospatial Tool." Summer 2008
Dr. Allen Finchum (Advisor)

Balaji Pannerselvam, "Web based GIS Mapping and Query Tool for Hispanic Population in United States." Spring 2008. Dr. Allen Finchum (Advisor)

Jinjue Dong, "Visualizing Property Related to Crimes in the City of Houston on Google Earth." Fall 2009. Dr. Hongbo Yu (Advisor)

G. Subodh Kumar, "LEED-ND and New Urbanism in the U.S. and the Distribution of LEED—certified or registered Buildings in Europe) Spring 2010. Dr. Alyson Greiner (Advisor)

THESES:

Bill Barber, "Trust, Mutual Benefit, and a Long-Term Perspective: Examining a Possible Solution to Normalizing Russo-Japanese Relations and an Agreement on the Kurile Islands Dispute." Fall 2007. Dr. Joel Jenswold (Advisor)

Brad Rogers, "Morphology of fixed sand dunes for paleowind reconstruction in northwestern Oklahoma." Fall 2007. Dr. Carlos Cordova (Advisor)

Siewe Siewe, "Change Detection Analysis of the Landuse and Landcover of the Fort Cobb Watershed." Fall 2007. Dr. Mahesh Rao (Advisor)

Jeff Liles, "A Historical Geographical Assessment of Bison Hunting on the Southern Great Plains, 1870-1880." Spring 2008. Dr. Carlos Cordova (Advisor)

William Price, "The Representation of Indigenous Peoples in the Destination Images of Australia and New Zealand: A Geographical Analysis of Tourism Websites." Spring 2008. Dr. Alyson Greiner (Advisor)

Kim Stapleton, "Using GIS to Incorporate Population Characteristics in Exploration of Potential Radioactive Waste Routes in Oklahoma." Spring 2008. Dr. Hongbo Yu (Advisor)

Samuel Dent, "The Latinos of Tulsa: Their Place in Space and Patterns of Migration." Summer 2008. Dr. Alyson Greiner (Advisor)

Julie Carey, "Stopping the Spread: The Effectiveness of Policies in the Mississippi River Basin Aimed at Preventing the Spread of Zebra Mussels." Spring 2009. Dr. Dale Lightfoot (Advisor)

Amy Graham, "Measuring the Spatial Dimensions of Poverty in Oklahoma." Summer 2009. Dr. Jonathan Comer (Advisor)

Alston Hicks, "Discovering Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Traffic Accidents in Stillwater, OK. Fall 2009. Dr. Allen Finchum (Advisor)

Brian Martin, "The Evolution of Central Places Over Time: An Analysis of the Changes within the Towns of North Central Oklahoma." Summer 2009. Dr. Allen Finchum (Advisor)

Kelly Stiller, "The Viability of South American Regional Integration: National Identity in Integration Process." Summer 2010. Dr. Reuel Hanks (Advisor)

Ph.D. Degrees Earned

DISSERTATIONS:

David Brockway, "The Impact of a General Aviation Airport on Surrounding Land Use Patterns: Richard Lloyd Jones Jr. Airport." Fall 2007. Dr. Thomas Wikle (Advisor)

Whitney Durham, "The 1920 Treaty of Sevres and the Struggle for a Kurdish Homeland in Iraq and Turkey Between World Wars." Summer 2010. Dr. Reuel Hanks (Advisor)

Stephen O'Connell, "Access, Discourse, and Cultural Landscape Change: The Case of National Park Communities Along the Crater Lake Highway in Jackson County, Oregon. Summer 2010. Dr. Thomas Wikle (Advisor)

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Geography Colloquia

SPRING 2008:

Dr. Brad Bays, Oklahoma State University, “Serving and Observing: Globalization and Milieux in the Guatemalan Highlands.”

Ricky Jones, Tanner Consulting, “Urban Planning From a Geography Perspective.”

Dr. Will Focht, Director, OSU Water Resources Research/Institute Environmental Science Program, “Exploring the Connections between Environmental Science and Geography.”

William Price, Oklahoma State University, “The Representation of Indigenous Peoples in the Destination Images of Australia and New Zealand: A Geographical Analysis of Tourism Websites.”

Samuel Dent, Oklahoma State University, “The Latinos of Tulsa: Their Place in Space and Patterns of Migration.”

FALL 2009:

Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Mahmood, University of Technology, Iraq, “GIS and Remote Sensing Center at UOT-Baghdad: A Fruitful Result of Cooperation with OSU.”

Dr. Carlos Cordova, Oklahoma State University, “Opal Phytoliths for Paleobiomes, Paleopastures and Paleofires: Research with the South African National Parks.”

SPRING 2009:

Brandan Lowden, Oklahoma State University, “A Spatial Interaction Model of College Basketball Player Movement.”

Dr. M. Prabhakar, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, “Detection of Pests and Diseases for Precision Crop Management Using Remote Sensing Techniques—An Indian Perspective.”

Dr. AbdulRazzak Ziboon, University of Technology, Iraq, “The State of GISciences in Iraq: Successful Collaboration between Two Universities.”

FALL 2009:

Joshka Wessels, Sapiens Productions, “Combining Film and Human Geography: Qanats in the Middle East.”

Dr. Yolanda Youngs, Oklahoma State University, “Nature Revised: Popular Media and Visual Representations of the Grand Canyon.”

SPRING 2010:

Dr. William Wyckoff, Montana State University, “On the Road Again: Montana’s Changing Landscape, 1920-2005.”

Dr. Greg Gleason, University of New Mexico, “Fire Breaks, Battle Lines and Bridges: U.S. Foreign Policy in a New Key.”

Dr. Diane Rochealu, Clark University, “Gender, Culture, Nature and Networks: Moral and Political Ecologies of Indigenous, Feminist, Campesino and Conservation Politics.”

Dr. Bolat Tatibekov, Institute of Economics, Almaty, Kazakhstan, “Spatial Dynamics of Labor Migration in Contemporary Kazakhstan.”



OSU



Edward E. & Olive W. Keso Seminar Room

Edward E. Keso was the first Head of the Department of Geography after it was established as a separate department. Dr. Keso's specialties were cultural geography and natural resources. He was the first to offer a college course on the subject of conservation in Oklahoma. Dr. Keso served as Head from 1946-1955 and remained on the faculty of Geography until 1965.

Larson Keso, the son of Edward Keso and a former graduate and long-time supporter of OSU, recently donated funds to the Department of Geography (via the OSU Foundation) to establish the Olive W. and Edward E. Keso Seminar Room in Murray Hall. This funding allowed us to purchase new board room table and chairs and substantially upgrade the quality and appearance of our seminar room before moving into our new spaces in Murray Hall.

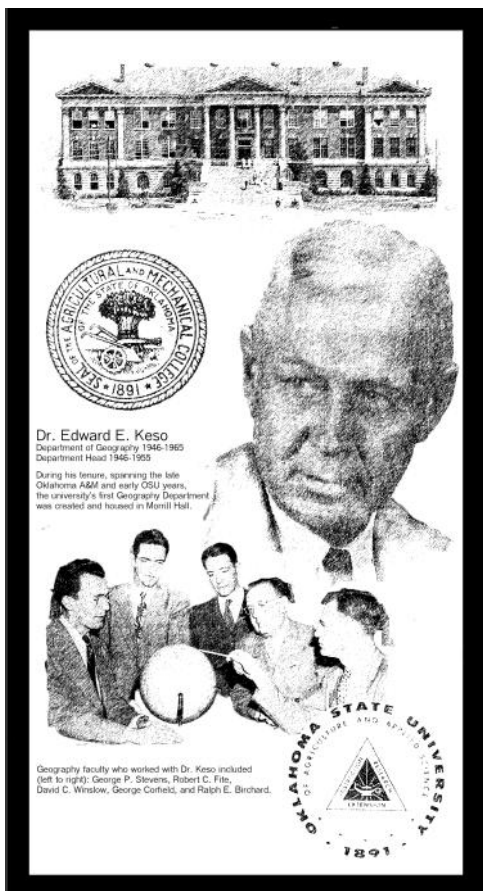
A separate donation by Larson Keso allowed for the creation of a bronze plaque to commemorate Edward Keso, the first group of Geography faculty, and the establishment of the Department of Geography. This plaque, designed and cast by The Crucible art foundry (the same foundry that created the kneeling cowboy commemorative statue in Gallagher-Iba arena) is mounted just outside the central parlor on the first floor of Murray Hall.

Below: Design template for the bronze commemorative plaque honoring Dr. Edward Keso and the other five founding faculty members of the Department of Geography (George Stevens, Robert Fite, David Winslow, George Corfield, and Ralph Birchard).



Above: The Department of Geography Keso Seminar Room in Murray Hall

Below: The children of the late Olive and Edward Keso (shown in portraits) are, from left, Kaye Keso Thorne, Dr. Larson Keso, and Shirley Keso Anderson.



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Geographers in the Field

Ghosts of the Past or Relics of the Future? A Geographical Analysis of the Hand-Pulled Rickshaws of Kolkata

Shireen Hyrapiet's research is a study of the hand-pulled rickshaws of Kolkata, India which is the only known human form of transportation still in existence in the world. The rickshaw pullers are an economically, socially and politically marginalized group because they are impoverished and as members of the informal sector, they are often not afforded the same legal status as other city dwellers, as a result they are not considered full-fledged citizens of Kolkata. Recently a ban has been placed on the profession because it causes traffic congestion, it is an inhuman practice, and it tarnishes the image of the city. She is exploring the rickshaw issue from three different, yet vital angles. First, I am exploring the discourse pertaining to how rickshaws have traditionally been represented and how their symbolism has created, maintained, and transformed the city of Kolkata. Second, I am investigating the discourse surrounding the ban and its focus on the image of the city as a reason for rickshaw removal. And third, I am investigating the issue from an urban political ecology perspective, pertaining to the lack of an environmental discourse, forms of resistance and grassroots movements, and the role of the state and non-class factors in the assessment of how power functions. In each of these three respects, I am assessing the social consequences that are likely to impact the persons employed in the profession, and the people who use their services when the rickshaws are officially banned in the city. A population of approximately a quarter of a million people could potentially be affected by the rickshaw ban.



Above: Interviewing rickshaw pullers at a location in south Kolkata.



Above: Attempting to feel the weight of the vehicle and strength required to pull an empty rickshaw.

Right: A rickshaw puller carries two male passengers in south Kolkata



Below: Interviewing rickshaw pullers off-duty on a Sunday afternoon.



Below: A rickshaw puller carrying his load of foam mattresses.



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Geographers in the Field

South American National Identity in the Integration Process

Kelly Stiller Titchener's master's thesis research took her to the highland Andean country of Bolivia. For two summers (2008 and 2009), Kelly traveled across the Bolivian country, from La Paz to Cochabamba, Sucre to Santa Cruz, Uyuni to Potosi, Oruro to Copacabana, surveying citizens on their knowledge of regional integration efforts happening across South America. Researching identity transformation with regards to these regional integration efforts, Kelly found the most Bolivians were willing to concede some elements of national identity and sovereignty to a supranational entity, an important first step in any integration effort.

A highlight of the Bolivian trips was a four day trek across the Salar de Uyuni (the world's largest salt flat) and the five colored lakes of south western Bolivia. Another favorite of the trips was an extended stay on Isla del Sol, on Lake Titicaca, Bolivia.



Spirit Houses in Thailand

Robert Garrett studied Thai in Chiang Mai, Thailand over the summer of 2010 . He enrolled in an intensive language course at Payap University and spent 3 hours in the classroom and around 3 hours outside of the classroom studying Thai every day.

While in Chiang Mai, Robert conducted preliminary research for his dissertation, by collecting information about Thai Spirit Houses (San Phra Phum). Thai Spirit Houses are small shrines (typically miniature houses) that are believed to house spirits that protect or look over a place. Spirit houses are mostly found outside or next to businesses or homes, but they can be found near any man made structure (shopping malls, restaurants, apartments, government buildings, etc.) People offer gifts and often pray to the shrines or spirit of the shrine. Usually people will request good luck or protection from the spirits. Spirit houses are located throughout S.E. Asia, but there are regional differences in the style or variety of spirit houses that can be found.



Photos above: Spirit Houses in Chiang Mai



While in Thailand, Robert also visited numerous temples (wats) and traveled throughout the northern region, which is very mountainous when compared to other regions of Thailand. Throughout the summer, he made a concentrated effort to take many pictures, and on a few occasions had the opportunity to speak with monks at the temples about Buddhism, Spirit Houses, and spirituality.

Left: Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep

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Geographers in the Field

The Cultural and Natural Resources of Morocco 2009 and 2010

Dale Lightfoot and **Tom Wikle** directed a summer study abroad course in Morocco in 2009 and returned to Morocco with another student group in 2010. Students attended from OSU and several universities around the U.S. on both trips and had an opportunity to meet with resource specialists, historians, village cooperatives, and the local people of Morocco. The course exposes participants to the culture and society of Morocco, practical resource management concerns in a developing country, provides a historical perspective on the evolution of landscape and culture in Morocco, and provides experience traveling abroad. Course topics include traditional and modern water management, marine and mineral resources, recreational resources, and the preservation and interpretation of architectural and cultural resources from Neolithic, Roman, Islamic, and French periods of Morocco's history. The field course route includes traditional oases,

small villages, modern cities, coastal plains, high mountains, and Sahara desert.



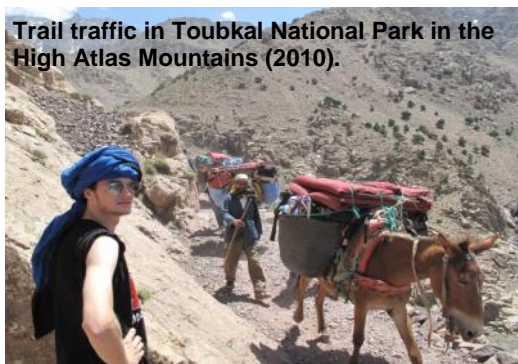
Left: Morocco course group (2010) at the Roman site of Volubilis.



Learning about traditional khattara and canal irrigation in the Tafilalt oasis (2009).



Left: Camel caravan into the dunes of Erg Chebbi (2009).



Trail traffic in Toubkal National Park in the High Atlas Mountains (2010).



Watching the sun set over the Sahara dunes (2010).



OSU



Geographers in the Field

The qanats of Tunisia

For two months during summer 2008, **Dale Lightfoot** traveled 4,000 miles all over Tunisia to conduct a survey of the history and status of qanat irrigation. This research, funded by the Council for American Overseas Research Centers, was part of a long-term, multi-country survey of qanats in the eastern hemisphere. A qanat is a subterranean aqueduct engineered to collect groundwater seeping into an infiltration well and convey this water along a gently sloping tunnel to surface canals which distribute the water to settlements and agricultural fields. In North Africa, the Romans and Arabs are most frequently associated with the introduction of qanats. In Tunisia their origins are mostly Roman. Roman qanats irrigated orchards and farmland, provided water to Roman country villas, and furnished water to the aqueducts that terminated at Roman cities.

The first qanats appear in Tunisia by the mid-first century A.D. The last new qanat tunnel was opened about 1910. Between these bookends of time, qanat builders excavated more than 160 of these water tunnels all over Tunisia. Many have been maintained and modified through the ages, though most have dried up since the middle of the 20th century because of a declining water table, following the introduction of pumped wells. Some were abandoned after flood waters damaged the tunnels, or because the tunnel was no longer maintained. Only 10 qanats continue to be used today for irrigation or drinking water. All ten have Roman origins, and this is the most remarkable part of the contemporary story of Tunisian qanats. All other buildings and constructions from the Roman era have been relegated to ruin and relic, while the ancient Roman qanats—10 of them, at least—continue to be used today in a form little altered since they first began to carry water to Roman settlements and farms.



Right: Dale Lightfoot inside an abandoned qanat tunnel in southern Tunisia.



Left: Public water tap constructed at the exit of a still-active qanat.

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Geographers in the Field

Infiltration karez in northern Iraq

Dale Lightfoot was in northern Iraq for two months during summer 2009 conducting research for a UNESCO-funded project to survey karez (historic irrigation systems; a.k.a. qanats) in the Kurdistan region for the purposes of cultural heritage and to guide UNESCO's efforts to rehabilitate karez systems to aid rural development and mitigate the effects of drought on rural water supplies. Dale was aided in this effort by Hawta Khayyat, who served as Fieldwork Coordinator for the project. UNESCO produced a documentary film on the project and results have been featured in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, AP Wire, BBC, and local press in Oklahoma and OSU. The documentary video can be found using the following link. http://www.thewaterchannel.tv/index.php?option=com_hwdvideoshare&task=viewvideo&Itemid=53&video_id=605

Information was collected from existing karez inventories held by the government of Iraq and KRG ministries, historic cadastral maps which recorded the location of many karez, and through interviews and personal observation during fieldwork conducted across northern Iraq. This work documented 683 karez systems. Almost 70% of the karez that were still flowing five years ago have been abandoned since the onset of drought in 2005. Drought and excessive well pumping have both adversely impacted aquifers in the region, yet 116 karez were still being used in 2009. This research offers the first systematic survey of karez in Iraqi Kurdistan and fills a gap in the academic literature on these historic systems of water supply. UNESCO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are now refurbishing several of these karez and increasing the water supply to Iraqi villages following recommendations from the survey.



Left: Dale Lightfoot with fieldwork friends in northern Iraq.

Right: The exit of the Kunaflusa karez, which is this village's primary source of drinking water. The karez was barely flowing when visited in 2009 but was refurbished in 2010 by IOM and UNESCO and now provides a healthy flow of water.



Geographers in the Field

Dr. Carlos Cordova has been working the past two years on three major projects in Great Plains, Jordan, and Southern Africa. His Great Plains research project is called *Paleobiomes, Paleopastures and Paleofires* (PPP), which is a collaborative initiative with the University of Kansas, University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a number of government and nongovernment institutions such as the National Grasslands, the Nature Conservancy, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and various state parks. The main objective of PPP is to reconstruct the ecosystems of the south-central Great Plains since the time mammoths rambled through the landscape at the end of the Ice Age to the time when buffalo still roamed the plains. The project aims at investigating the origin and evolution of the prairies. His former student, Jess Porter (U. of Arkansas at Little Rock) is collaborating with him in this venture.

Carlos' project in Southern Africa is somewhat related to PPP because it focuses on the ecosystems of living megafauna, particularly the elephants. His objective is to use the elephant ecosystem as a reference to model the effects of mammoths and mastodons on the prehistoric landscapes of the Great Plains of North America. However, in South Africa he has an ongoing project to study the regional fluctuations in grass composition using opal phytoliths (microscopic silica bodies formed in plants) due to climate change, fire and grazer pressure. In Botswana he is analyzing a 14,000 year-long core from Lake Ngami, located between the Okavango Delta and the Kalahari Desert.

In Jordan he is still working with paleoanthropologists looking for evidence of *Homo neanderthalensis*, and *Homo sapiens* (us) and their subsistence and interaction with climate change and the landscape. The main focus area is the Azraq Basin, located in the Eastern Desert.

Carlos is currently working on a number of papers and two books. His next book will be on biogeography and environmental history of the Crimean Peninsula. The other book will be about the Ice Age biogeography of the Great Plains.



Above: Carlos Cordova at work at the Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa. Opal phytoliths embedded in dental calculus of herbivores have clues to the animal's diet. This approach should help reconstruct paleodiets and ancient migration routes of extinct megafauna in North America.



Right: Carlos Cordova is studying sediments in a trench in Azraq, Jordan. The Azraq Castle is in the background.

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Geographers in the Field

Jacqueline Vadjunec and **Rebecca Sheehan** continue their collaborative research project in Oklahoma's Panhandle. This past Fall, they presented their work, "Contesting Frontiers in No Man's Land: Ranching and Surface Land Leasing of State School Lands in Cimarron County" at the SWAAG meeting in Little Rock with Jess Porter. Their manuscript, "Ranching and State School Lands in Cimarron County, Oklahoma" has been accepted by the *Great Plains Review* and will be published in October, 2010.

Additionally, Rebecca and Jackie completed more research this summer in Cimarron County in order to explore complex and often conflicting ideas of community in the surrounding rural tri-state area. Todd Fagin has recently joined the project and spent a few days with them in the Panhandle as well. Jackie, Rebecca, and Todd plan on submitting an NSF proposal this Fall on the "Geographies of No One's Land: Land Use, Vulnerability and Resiliency in Oklahoma's Panhandle." Broadening definitions of community at the Five States Livestock Auction in Clayton, NM, serving Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, and Kansas.

Rebecca Sheehan and **Jacqueline Vadjunec** have recently been funded by the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality to study roller derby in the Bible Belt. Contemporary roller derby is culturally omnivorous, appealing to a wide-range of demographics and thus can reveal, through careful examination, how alternative gender identities and sexuality are negotiated through a component of popular culture. As an emerging national social phenomenon and popular culture activity, roller derby provides insight into how these facets of culture are negotiated through place, region, and self. Using surveys and interviews of spectators and participants and observation at roller derby bouts, this research will contribute to the human and spatial dimensions in cultural geography. Largely, the significance of roller derby stems from considering its play as a serious social and spatial activity. In this conservative region of the United States, the popular culture activity of roller derby provides an avenue to explore how and why social ideas, perceptions, and culture change.



Photos: Oklahoma City Tornado Alley Rollergirls vs. Tulsa Green Country, ThunderDollz Roller Derby, Oklahoma City Farmers Market, 18 June 2010

Alumni News

OSU Alumni Association Honors Geography Alum David Waits



David Waits (M.S. 1988), an alumnus of our Geography program and former faculty member in Geography (1992-1997) was recently recognized by the OSU Alumni Association with the Distinguished Alumni Award. David was honored at a public reception at the Alumni Center and later recognized during the OSU-TU football game on September 18, 2010.

A native of Buffalo, Okla., David began his farming career in Kansas. His education (M.S. at OSU; Ph.D. at Texas Tech) and experience as a farmer led to his next job as a remote sensing specialist at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. He returned to OSU as an Assistant Professor of Geography with responsibility for teaching and research in remote sensing and natural resource applications of GIS. During his 5 years on the Geography faculty, Dr. Waits was instrumental in developing and diversifying our GIS curriculum at a very formative stage.

In 1994, David developed a private venture to help farmers improve productivity and lower costs. He left our department in 1997 to work full time with the company he started, SST Development Group (now SST Software), the international leader in agriculture information management. SST Software began and still resides in western Stillwater and has employed many of our Geography graduates over the years.

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Alumni News & Memories

Mary Kay Audd (1974-76, B.S. 1976): One of my most vivid memories from my years at the OSU Department of Geography was the summer of 1975. The Geography Department was hired to conduct a survey for the Native American Choctaw Tribe in southeastern Oklahoma. OSU students (not just Geography students) were hired to do the field work. It was a memorable summer. I worked with Gary Lauver and two other students and we were assigned to Durant, Bryan County. Gary was a grad student from California and had very long hair...he was advised to get it cut before going to Durant and he did. Once we arrived we went farm to farm and door to door. We were interviewed by the local newspaper. We took our picture standing by the world's largest peanut in Durant. Our first motel flooded and we had to move to another one. If it rained, we took cover in the car until the storm passed. There were anxious moments with big dogs and cattle. Out in the county, there weren't many places to buy lunch or public rest rooms. We were lucky to find one general store that offered both and we showed up daily for lunch. Word of our routine got around and some people would show up to complete the survey at the store so they wouldn't be missed. Some people wouldn't talk to us and some people asked us to come in and sit down to eat supper with them. One evening just as we were getting ready to shut it down for the day, I interviewed a black man who was in his 90's as he sat on his porch reading a Bible. He was a member of the Choctaw tribe because his parents were Choctaw Freedmen. We talked to him for an hour or more about his life and it was like history coming to life. I wish now I had written down his name and all the things he told me. Other tall tales, impressions and youthful adventures that I remember: 1) Road trip to Fayetteville, Arkansas for a conference with Drs. Rooney and Tweedie and other students. I acquired the nickname "Gutterball" for a few days because on the long drive home I innocently told Dr. Rooney I was in a bowling league, 2) Road trip to San Antonio, TX with Dr. Norris and Cindy Hicks (student) to present a paper at a conference. We stayed across the street from the Alamo in the Menger Hotel, 3) 3-day Geography of Tulsa class conducted by Dr. Croft at the Mayo Hotel in downtown Tulsa, 4) Dr. Harries opening a window during class and barking at the pack of dogs roaming the lawn outside the Classroom Building, 5) Dr. Carney and his passion for music, 6) Jim Renner and Howard Hibdon (?) (visiting professor from Missouri) picking, grinning and singing at parties. I think I still have a cassette recording of Jim playing and singing, 7) The kindness, support, generosity and hospitality of all the professors and department heads who opened their homes, hearts and minds to students and staff.



Right: Mary Kay Audd with OSU President Burns Hargis

Alumni News & Memories

David A. Brockway (2003-07, Ph.D. 2008): As a commuting doctoral student, my perspective may be different than many. A lot of my time was spent driving on the highway. Traveling several days a week between my home in Broken Arrow to classes in Stillwater, a distance of 85 miles, I had a lot of time to observe landscapes and wildlife along the way. Week by week I enjoyed watching the subtle changes of the seasons.

Shari L. Clapp (1989-92, M.S. 1998): I must confess that it's a personal secret thrill that geography so very obviously impacts all of our lives, and thru ever-changing technology hopefully others will continue to realize that. When doing GIS mapping projects long ago (3rd floor of the Geog bldg./NE corner lab) using TIGER data files, little did I know that only a few years away were personal GPS systems that would be readily available on cell phones, as an option in a new car or via portable unit affixed to the windshield. Or that USA Today would include a Google Map w/ articles to show where a small town is located, rather than merely write 40 miles NE of NYC, thus indirectly promoting knowledge of place/space relation.

Thomas Creider (1967-73, M.S. 1973): I was anything but an outstanding student during my years at Oklahoma State University (1967-73). I received a B.S. degrees in Forestry (1971), and, through the grace of God and the pateince and help of Drs. Hecock, Rooney, Tweedie, and other faculty members, I received a M.S. in Geography (1973). While we hit the books hard during our graduate studies (after all, we were serious students), we also had great after-class discussions at the Grey Fox Pub. And those Sunday afternoon touch football games at the Rooney's were always great fun. It's hard to believe that those college days were 37 years ago.

Mike Garrett (1966-68 & 1975-79, Ed.D. 1982): I am recent professor emeritus in geography from Bemidji State University in Northern Minnesota. I served several terms as chair and advised a number of students who went on to Oklahoma State University for graduate study. My training and course work at OSU was outstanding and the grad faculty (at that time) remained lifelong friends and colleagues. The "Stillwater School of Geography" has clearly established a first class ranking in the discipline. My wife, Andi, and I are enjoying retirement doing what we want. I continue to pursue my interests in historical geography and landscape transformation – with field studies and travel. Andi was in the landscape architecture program at OSU and our interests come together rather well. My best to all my old geopals and to you younger gridliners.

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Alumni News & Memories

Tim Hayes (M.S. 1998): Tim works in the role of GIS Manager at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant (Plant), San Jose, California. It is one of the largest Wastewater Treatment Plants in the United States treating up to 300 million gallons per day of raw sewage from the Silicon Valley in California. The Plant was constructed in 1956 and has hundreds of miles of piping and thousands of valves. Currently, the Plant is undergoing a 20-year \$250 million modernization and GIS plays a pivotal role in this process. Tim oversees the facility's Subsurface Utilities Management and Pipe-Valve Mapping Programs. Over the years, Tim has published many articles related to these programs the most recent of which is in the Fall 2009 Issue of Underground Focus Magazine. Tim supervises a staff of 3, including a GIS Specialist, GIS Programmer, and a part-time GIS Technician all located within the Plant's Geographic Information Services Section. Tim's leisure time is spent in Indonesia, where he often travels to for several weeks each year. He returned from his most recent trip after 7 weeks, mostly spent on the island of Java. While there he went on a fruitless search for the elusive Java Rhino in Ujung Kulon National Park, and climbed Mount Bromo, an active volcano in Central Java. He also managed eat some exotic foods such as Fried Flying Fox. In addition, Tim has adopted some aspects of "green-living" by biking 10 miles to work several times a week.

Richard Hecock (Professor Emeritus, 1969-93): We came to Stillwater in 1969 following 5 years at Eastern Michigan University; we left Oklahoma in 1993. During our time at OSU, we spent all or parts of years in Mexico, in Scandinavia, in Scotland, Japan. Georgia was an Academic Counselor in the Sociology Department for several years. Since leaving OSU I have been affiliated with the Pelican River Watershed District, first as administrator, and for several years now as part-time Senior Advisor. I do a lot of writing - plans, reports, grants, water-quality summaries, and work with student interns. We travel quite a bit (this year included trips to the Mexican mountains twice, Israel/Jordan, and Spain); we do a fair amount of domestic travel too, especially to the East Coast where both of our kids and families live. A couple of years ago Georgia was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. In addition to priestly duties, she is on the boards of several groups - PEO, Food Pantry, Crisis Center, Emmanuel Home (nursing center), etc. I am active in Rotary, serve as president of a local foundation (Service above Self), and head-up the 3000 member County Coalition of Lake Associations. We spend a lot of time on the water, and in the woods (I maintain 10km of trails during summer and fall, and ski on them in winter).

Robert L. Ingle (1970-73, M.S. 1973): Some of my fondest memories of Stillwater and the Geography Department are of our weekend touch football games on the lot next to John Rooney's house. The Faculty vs. the Graduate Students - very competitive. We were all so young, even the professors. I also loved the after game party (beer drinking) at John and Sandy's house.



OSU



Alumni News & Memories

Dean Lambert (Assistant Professor 1993-96): It is with great reverence and pleasure that I submit this message to the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University. My perspective comes from my experience as a faculty member in the department for a period of four years during the early 1990s. I believe that an especially striking aspect of the Department is the emphasis that faculty and staff place on student engagement. More specifically, I was impressed with the degree to which students were mentored by the faculty, and the strong sense of “family” that develops as new students enter the program. This engagement goes beyond the typical classroom setting as it involves extracurricular activities such as departmental social events, attendance of both faculty and students at professional conferences, and field trips. It is this last component, field trips, of which I wish to expand a bit. I had the great pleasure of witnessing the powerfully positive impact that the Department (and its character) had on a number of students in my four years on staff. I shall relate the events of one of those transformative events here.

During the winter months of 1995, Dale Lightfoot and I had the opportunity to lead a student field trip to Central America. With the support and coordination of the university administration we drove an OSU van, loaded with seven undergraduate and graduate students through Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. During the 20-day trip, students were thrilled to see the gradual changes in landscape from the plains of Oklahoma to the jungles of Honduras (without ever getting on an airplane). They saw first-hand the contrasts in landscape, climate, vegetation, cultures, and agriculture, and they witnessed the hazards of tortuous mountain roads, torrential rains, landslides, corrupt border officials, and the desolation of cities recently torn by civil war.

Of particular satisfaction to me was the remarkable transformation of one of our students on that trip. He was a rather quiet, but bright student from a small town in the rural Midwest, and he had no firm idea what he wanted to do with his life. He was at OSU because his friends had come, and he was not entirely convinced he would stick around for the next school year. Importantly, a car wreck on his high school graduation night a few years earlier had left him partially paralyzed on the left side of his body and he was concerned that he might not be able to participate adequately on the field trip. Dale and I assured him that we did not think it would be a problem, and indeed, he was one of the most active members of the group during the journey. To make a long story short he enjoyed the trip immensely, and more importantly, he literally flourished, absorbing absolutely everything during the journey. Upon returning to Oklahoma, he informed us that he would be focusing his field studies on the geography of Mexico or Central America. Although I left Oklahoma the following year, I maintained contact with him and often provided advice and the names of local acquaintances so that he could eventually conduct his master’s fieldwork on the slopes of Popocatepetl (a 17,800-foot volcano) in Central Mexico. Later, he undertook fieldwork in the Gran Chaco region of Paraguay. I am pleased to write that today he is an Associate Professor of geography at a prestigious university in the South, where he serves as an inspiration to new generations of budding geographers.

This event, in my opinion, demonstrates what the Department of Geography at OSU does best -- the attention provided by the faculty inspires students to succeed. Part of this mentoring process is the Department’s emphasis on field experience. I know that Dale, Tom, and others continue to take students on field trips, and these adventures are helping transform future generations of well-educated citizens and scholars. For this and much more, I have always been impressed with the faculty and staff in the Department, and I am honored to have served there so many years ago.

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Alumni News & Memories

The logo for the Department of Geography at OSU is located on the left side of the page. It consists of a vertical orange bar. At the top and bottom of the bar are two identical globes showing the Western Hemisphere. In the center of the bar, the letters 'O', 'S', and 'U' are stacked vertically in a large, white, serif font.

Mark Miller (1970–72, M.S. 1972): What comes to mind immediately when I think back upon my years at OSU are the touch football games between the grad students and the professors. The games were held at Dr. Rooney's house (often centered around some sort of yard work, but, that's another story for a bit later) and would, at times, be very "spirited" indeed. At the time, the age difference between "us" grad students and "them" professors was not as great as it once seemed. You could always count on Dr., Dr., Dr., Dr., and if my memory isn't too far off, Dr. to make up the bulk of the grizzled professors while the grad students had a core of varying football knowledge and skills. Some of the grads knew much more about rugby it seemed than "American" football. The game would continue until one side or the other claimed victory, and the combatants would retire to the Rooney's back porch for some liquid refreshments. I think we played more for the "liquid refreshments" than we did for the game. I recall one game that came to a fairly abrupt halt when Dr. accidentally...it was an accident, wasn't it?...laid a very hard "hit" on me which knocked me to the ground, knocked my glasses off and bloodied my nose a bit. I think Dr. could have played linebacker for the Chicago Bears at the time! Actually, Dr. was much more concerned about the hit than I was, and had thoughts of giving up the "friendly" games as a result. But, wiser heads prevailed and the game was back on the next week. Really great times those afternoons of "touch" football at the Rooney's. Now about that yard work.. Being the grad assistant that I was and looking for any "edge", I often volunteered (yes, it really was a 100% volunteer effort as I knew there would be liquid refreshments at the end of the work) to help out at the Rooney homestead with the landscaping chores. The home was rather new at the time and still had some landscaping to complete. Well, on one occasion, we needed a few evergreen-type trees to plant along one side of the house. It just so happened that the open field (well, open other than for that fence we had to climb) behind the house had plenty of little evergreen tree saplings growing all over the place. Well, the good doctor and I climbed right over that fence and helped ourselves to a few small saplings and transplanted them just where they were needed. I won't tell you what Sandy had to say when she found out what we were doing, but I can assure you that we didn't climb that fence for any more saplings! I recall the hard work and the helping hands, but most of all I recall the great times we all had, grad student and professor alike during those "early years." I can only hope that the atmosphere around the department is as fun, warm and welcoming today as it was during my time as student. I could not have any fonder memories than I do of my time as part of the OSU geography family.

Karen Allen Morgan (1984-88, M.S. 1991): Being the older student I wasn't sure how I would fit in. The Graduate Bull Pen was a great place to be one of the gang and I had a blast. I was well received and the "kids" even showed me a thing or two! Playing pool and having a glass of beer after class, playing quarters, getting free food at the Happy Hour Lounge were all new to me. Geographers are just the best and the professors even awarded me "Outstanding Geography Student." Thanks to all for an incredible adventure.

Kenneth D. Riley (1955-59, M.S. 1959): I remember Dr. Keso telling the "Conservation of Natural Resources" class members to purchase 40 acres of land and plant it with walnut trees. If we would, we would become rich. I didn't and I'm not. I hope someone did!

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Mike Russell (1974): One of my most vivid recollections of my one year at OSU back in '74 was the night we took a "road trip" to listen to a lecture down in Norman at OU. Professor Jim Stine drove a van down and back, bringing 8 or 10 of us, including a couple of spouses. I think maybe you had to know Prof Stine to really appreciate this, but during the return trip we needed to stop and get more gas for the van, so Prof Stine stopped at a little crossroads where we found a few commercial buildings, including a gas station and a convenience store. There must have been a few other assorted businesses because Prof Stine just sat in the front seat and looked around. He paused, and very thoughtfully said, "My, what an interesting assortment of goods and services being offered at the central place". We loved it! It was perfect coming from him. Beyond that we had many, many other great times and laughs with the Rooneys, Hecoeks, Tweedies, Harries, and the Carneys. My only regret is that I didn't stay longer with that great group of students and faculty at the OSU Geography department.

Michal Shaw (M.S. 2006): During the past two years I have been working as the Director of Donor Relations for the OSU Foundation. In my current role, I am responsible for executing a comprehensive program to ensure appropriate recognition of major gift donors and stewardship of their gifts. My husband, Wade, and I were blessed with our first son, Henry, in April 2008. We are now expecting baby #2 in June 2010. We have enjoyed introducing Henry to many state and national parks during family excursions, and look forward to doing the same with #2. We continue to reside in Stillwater and with Wade's law practice being in Cushing, have no intentions of leaving Orange Country.

Chuck Sloan (1995-03, B.S. 2000): I believe it was homecoming in 2005 or 2006 but a number of current Geography graduate students and former Geography students had a heavy night down on the Strip. Since a majority of everyone was staying in the Scott hall dormitories, the evenings festivities raged on in the Geography library/seminar room. Somewhere in the wee hours of the morning, we heard keys jingling as Dr. Brad Bays opened the door to the library to find a former student dancing on the tables with half of a globe balancing on his head. I don't remember him saying a single word as he shut the door and left. We still laugh about that night.

Virawan Sombutsiri (1976-80, Ed.D. 1980): I have a fond memory of my time at OSU Geography Department during 1976-1980. As a foreign student from Thailand, I felt very warm welcome from faculty members and fellow graduate students. Dr. Robert E. Norris (Bob) was my advisor. Dr. John Rooney was Head of the Department. All classes I had with several professors who are well-known scholars such as Dr. Richard Hecock, Dr. Keith D. Harries, Dr. Stephen W. Tweedie, Dr. George O. Carney, Robert Fite to name a few. I remember very well how excited and interesting classes I attended. Many times I felt like going to a party. It was so fun and yet educating at the same time. Golf and parties were also great gathering for faculty members, staffs and students. I owe a great deal to OSU Geography Department and especially the late Dr. Bob Norris for those valuable human capacity building invested in me. Since graduated from OSU in 1980, I have stayed in touch with Dr. Hecock, Dr. Harries, and Dr. Tweedie. It was great honor also for the opportunity to welcome the visit to Thailand by Dr. Harries and Dr. Hecock. I have just retired in September 2009 from the position of Director, Environmental Division, at the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand. Studying geography at OSU provided me with valuable basics for 27 years work in environmental management and sustainable energy development. Upon this auspicious occasion, I wish OSU Geography Dept. all Alumni, past and present faculty members, professors and student, a great success and sustainable growth in all your existence.

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Bob Springer (1977-79, M.S. 1979): One of the experiences I remember took place in 1975, right at the beginning of the Fall semester. Col. Jack Moore, a great guy who taught Physical Geography, and whose office was right next to my desk, was really big into organizing the hunter jumper competitions that took place at the Payne County Fairgrounds. I remember Jack asking me if I'd like to help him out by doing a few things at the show. Being a first-year grad student, I didn't think it would be smart to refuse, and besides, how much work would it be? As it turns out, a lot. I wasn't the only grad student that ended up out there that hot August weekend. Our job was to move the jumps after every round and put them in some other configuration. Did I mention that it was hot? Did I mention that the jumps (consisting of standards and poles) were heavy? Did I mention that there were a lot of them? I also believe mucking out stables was part of the duty, as well. That was a weekend to forget, or to never forget.

Cecile Valastro (1997-2000, M.S. 2000): I remember all the hard work and wonderful parties and people during my time there. I also remember being terrified every time I had to give some kind of presentation and how scared I was first time I taught the Physical Geography labs. I am very grateful for all your help and all my committee members for helping me succeed. I am currently teaching geography online for the University of Wyoming Outreach Credit Programs and Laredo Community College Distance Education Department. I have four classes, two at each school, and I enjoy it very much. I am still very much involved in wildlife and environment. I volunteer once a week at the Audubon Society of Portland, working in wildlife rehab and at the Oregon Zoo working in the bird show (education) area.

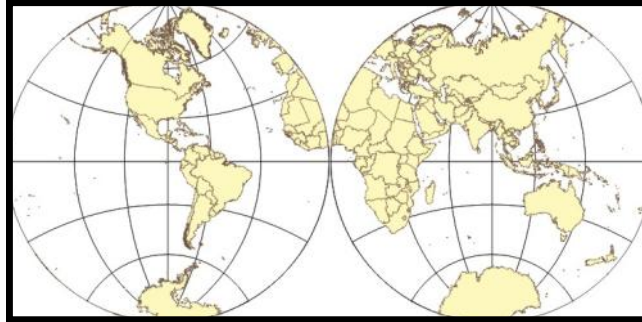
Ron Woodburn (1971-74, B.S. 1974): In my senior year, 1974, the Senior Seminar in Geography was held on Monday evenings. As it would happen, April 8 fell on a Monday that year. Die-hard baseball fans will remember that April 8, 1974 was the day that Hank Aaron hit home run number 715 to break Babe Ruth's record. In an era that predated cell phones or wireless internet, I was reduced to calling my roommates at every class break to see if he'd hit #715. My deeply felt commitment to geography prevented me from seeing one of the great sporting moments of the 20th century televised live. Either that or my grade was so close to the edge I couldn't afford to skip class.

Gary Zaepfel (1991-93, M.S. 1993): I was trying to gain an edge when playing tennis with Dr. Tweedie. During one particularly hot afternoon, I thought I was on my way to my first victory over him in a singles match. I had read previously that eating bananas helps stave off cramps in hot weather. During changeovers I kept snacking on bananas. Dr. Tweedie had this grin on his face as if he knew I was once again going down in defeat. Sure enough, instead of stopping any cramps in my legs, all of the bananas I had eaten started causing massive cramps in my stomach and I flamed out big time. Now if I could only challenge him to a 5K race. Thanks for the great memories!



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The mission of the Department of Geography is to advance geography instruction, research and extension, to promote and maintain a growing statewide workforce skilled in geographic research and applications. We strive to achieve national and international stature in scholarly and creative activities to enhance the visibility and desirability of the geography program at Oklahoma State University. We plan to capitalize on new opportunities and respond to the changing needs of Oklahomans and society to provide Oklahoma schools, university, industries and businesses, and those in the surrounding region, with the highest caliber professionals in the field of geography.