



2011
Department of Geography

A Letter From The Head of the Department

Dear alumni and friends of Geography,

OSU Geography is an energetic and productive place for the professional geographers and motivated students who call this place home. Living in the beautifully refurbished Murray Hall has certainly improved our physical surroundings, and the intellectual environment and friendly atmosphere make working here a pleasure. We are pleased to have the opportunity to share with you this Zenith—another year in the life of your Department of Geography at Oklahoma State.

The quality of our teaching remains strong, as evidenced by quantitative evaluations, formal and informal comments, and the popularity of our department offerings. The Department of Geography offers the second highest number of student credit hours per faculty member among the 24 departments in the College of Arts & Sciences. Every faculty member in the department remains actively engaged in research and outreach activities in the USA and around the world. In addition to a productive group of scholars in our GIS and remote sensing laboratories, many have engaged in field research, instruction, and presentations over the past year in Oklahoma and in Canada, Mexico, Morocco, South Africa, Botswana, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, Korea, France, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Australia.

We were sad to see Todd Fagin leave us after two years, but welcomed Matthew Miller as a new Visiting Assistant Professor, and are happy that Yolonda Youngs could return for a third year as a Visiting Assistant Professor. After five years of service to Geography as our administrative assistant, Barbara Amos left the department to take another position off-campus and we welcomed her replacement, Sara Penn, to our Geography family.

We are proud of our many Geography undergraduate and masters students who graduated, and we sent our 7th Ph.D. graduate into the world of academe over the past year (Stacey Brown, to Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville). Another 10 doctoral candidates appear to be queuing for 2011-2012 graduation. Our graduate students promote geography and help organize department activities through the Forum of Geography Graduate Students, and we have seen a rejuvenation of the undergraduate Geography Club, and growing involvement in Gamma Theta Upsilon (Geography honorary society).

Several of our students and faculty were recognized with honors or competitive awards over the past year. Jackie Vadjunec was awarded the College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Advisor award; the first time that a first year undergraduate advisor has won the award. Hongbo Yu was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure. Regents Professor Emeritus John Rooney was inducted into the Illinois State University College of Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame. Tom Wikle became the International First Vice President of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Geography honorary society. Doctoral candidate Aswin Subanthore was awarded first place for best paper at the annual OSU Graduate Research Symposium, and Ph.D. student Hawta Khayyat was given an Award of Distinction for Outstanding Scientific Achievement by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Iraq. Doctoral candidate Siewe Siewe received funding for fieldwork in



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Panama from a Smithsonian fellowship which served as good preparation for the NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant that he received (with Dr. Vadjunec) to fund his dissertation research in Cameroon. Other students also conducted international field research this past year, including Masters student Daniel Wilson (Kenya) and senior Jay Jump (Peru).

Enjoy the news from contributors to this Zenith, and we hope to hear from you before the next edition. Several of you came to see us in our new Murray Hall location during your visits to Stillwater (see page 25). We look forward to seeing you, too, when your travels bring you back to Oklahoma State.

All the best,



Dale Lightfoot
Professor and Head



Dale Lightfoot and friend (Erg Chebbi, Morocco)



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Staff and Faculty News



Standing (L-R): Ann Adkins, Jianjun Ge, Carlos Cordova, Jacqueline Vadjunec, Alyson Greiner, Matthew Miller, Rebecca Sheehan, Steve Stadler, Bruce Battles, Michael Larson, Yolonda Youngs, Hongbo Yu, and Sara Penn
Seated (L-R): Brad Bays, Allen Finchum, Dale Lightfoot, Jon Comer, and Tom Wikle
Missing: Reuel Hanks (on sabbatical)

ANN ADKINS spent the past year learning her new duties, and she is starting to feel at home in the Geography Department. Besides staying busy at work, Ann has a very active home life. She was excited to be able to participate in the National Scrabble Tournament in August which was held in Dallas. She placed about midlevel in her division, and she won a cash prize for the highest scoring losing game (a rather dubious honor). She also stays busy keeping up with her outdoorsman husband and her three active grandsons.

BARBARA AMOS was married in June and left OSU to work with her husband. She is enjoying her new challenge, and we wish her the very best in that venture.

BRUCE BATTLES has been staying busy performing his duties as the coordinator of the Center for Applications of Remote Sensing lab and overseeing the department's computer needs. He has been very lucky this past year to have the assistance of Diya Paul, Nick Rose, Hawta Khayyat, and Wu Yanxia who served as Graduate Teaching Lab Assistants and helped maintain the two GIS computer labs for classes and student use. At home, he and his wife, Carrie, are doing their best to keep up with their daughters, Maggie and Mollie, who started kindergarten this year.

DR. BRAD BAYS has been active in the area of historic preservation for the last few years. With funding from the National Park Service and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OK/SHPO) Brad is undertaking Oklahoma's first-ever thematic survey of historic barns. By May 2012 he will have examined 47 counties in the central and western part of the state, recorded over 1,200 barns, and logged over 20,000 road miles. Brad uses historical GIS, aerial imagery, and GPS to locate historic barns and photograph and record them for the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. His reports are culminating in a cultural geography of Oklahoma barns, including an analysis of types, construction features, conditions, and their spatial patterns. A few properties are being nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Brad was also awarded two College of Arts & Sciences travel awards that supported a re-photography study of small town business and residential property change in Ada and a field experiment to develop a new technique for using oblique aerial photography to locate historic buildings in obscured environments. Brad and Sharon Bays have two children. Lydia, 16, is a member of the Stillwater High School drum line. Luke, 10, raises guppies and enjoys all kinds of outdoor adventure.



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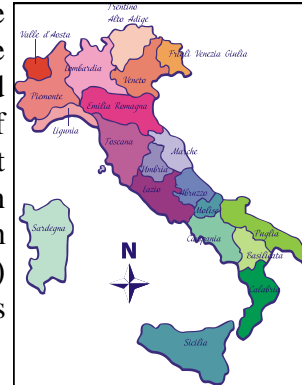
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Staff and Faculty News

DR. JON COMER found himself facing new challenges in 2010-11 by becoming Graduate Advisor after having served as Undergraduate Advisor since 1995. Though initially daunted by the change, he ultimately has found it rewarding and reinvigorating. In addition, he continues to be involved in outcomes assessment at the department and university levels, coordinates internships in the department, and fulfills various other service roles throughout all levels of the university. Most significantly, he supervised his first Ph.D. student to completion, Stacey Brown, who finished her dissertation in July 2011 and is headed for a tenure-track position at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. In 2011 Jon had a paper on economic and transportation issues appear in the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*, a publication for which he is also an Associate Editor, and two or three other manuscripts will go out before 2011 is over. In September 2011 he begins a \$200,000 Oklahoma Transportation Center research grant that examines the factors that contribute to fatal accidents on Oklahoma highways. Lastly, he presented research at SWAAG in October 2010 in Tahlequah, the Applied Geography Conference that same month in Fort Worth, and at AAG in Seattle in April 2011. In May 2011 Jon enjoyed the trip of a lifetime (with daughter Alex, who completed her freshman year at OSU) by co-leading a study-abroad tour of Italy and Greece with Tom Wikle. Domestically, son Eric *should* get his driver's license in September, and Shannon finished her master's degree (in education) at OSU in July while continuing to teach 1st grade. Jon is exceptionally proud of Shannon's hard work and accomplishment.



DR. CARLOS CORDOVA: During the past two years I have been dedicated to my three major projects in the Great Plains, Jordan, and Southern Africa. My Great Plains research project is called *Paleobiomes, Paleopastures and Paleofires*, which is a collaborative project with the University of Kansas, University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a number of government and non-government 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 roamed the landscape at the end of the Ice Age to the historical bison ecosystem. The project aims at investigating the origin and evolution of the prairies. My former student, Jess Porter (U. of Arkansas at Little Rock) is collaborating with me in this venture. My project in Southern Africa is somehow related to PPP because it focuses on the ecosystems of historical elephants, as well as other megafauna, which I use as a reference to interpret the effects of mammoths and mastodons on the landscape. However, in South Africa I have an ongoing project to study the fluctuations in grass composition using opal phytoliths (microscopic silica bodies formed in plants). In Botswana I am analyzing a 14,000 year-long core from Lake Ngami, located between the Okavango Delta and the Kalahari Desert. In Jordan I am 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. Our focus area is the Azraq Basin, located in the Eastern Desert. I am currently working in a number of papers and two book proposals. My next book will be on biogeography and environmental history of the Crimean Peninsula. The other book, still in progress, is about the Ice Age biogeography of the Great Plains.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. TODD FAGIN: After serving for the past two years as a visiting assistant professor in Geography at OSU, Todd left our department at the end of July 2011 to begin another position at the University of Oklahoma.

DR. ALLEN FINCHUM worked on several projects during 2010-11. He attended both SWAAG and AAG, and in May he was able to attend the Google IO Developers Conference. As part of Google IO he received a Tablet, a mobile hotspot, and a new Chromebook – all provided for prospective developers to learn to develop new applications for the platforms. He and Steve Stadler oversaw the completion of the ZephyrBox Wind Power project. The SHPO Database project continues as it has for many years, and Allen is happy that both Mike Larson and Bruce Battles are both involved in the oversight of this project. Allen's son, Curtis, continues as a student at OSU, and his family was able to visit Disney World in July.



DR. JIANJUN GE studies land use/cover and climate changes using remote sensing, and he teaches various remote sensing and GIS courses. It's been a busy year! He has received new funding to support his research related to climate and ecosystem changes by collaborating with other domestic and international research groups. One project is funded by the World Bank: Agricultural Risk Mapping in Mozambique. The primary goal of this project is to study climate change and threats of extreme weather and variability to agricultural sectors and to improve understanding of crop vulnerability in this East Africa country. Ge's role is to use remote sensing and GIS to generate maps of weather zones and crop thresholds. The other project was recently funded by China's National Natural Science Foundation, and he is a co-investigator: Ecohydrological Studies of the Forest-Grassland Ecosystems in the Upper Reaches of Heihe River Basin. This project looks at the interactions of ecosystem and hydrology in northwest China under the context of climate change. Dr. Ge will help to simulate high resolution future climate scenarios using a regional climate model with inputs from remote sensing data. This summer he traveled to Gansu Province in northwest China and met with researchers from Lanzhou University for the purpose of starting this project. He had an opportunity to visit several field observation sites. Many of those sites are set to measure important ecohydrological variables such as vegetation cover, canopy rainfall interception, surface runoff, evapotranspiration, etc. He will be glad to share some photos from this trip with anyone interested. He is planning another trip to Gansu in the next summer and he is excited about visiting field stations on top of the Qilian Mountain range.



range rise to over 5,500 meters high. He will surely do some hiking and camping then. Dr. Ge continues to work on some current projects funded by NASA and the Oklahoma Transportation Center. In the past year he published a paper in the journal, *Earth Interactions*, studying post-fire impacts on surface temperature and biophysical condition in the boreal forest ecosystem. The paper is titled "Satellite observed surface temperature changes after the 2004 Taylor Complex fire in Alaska".



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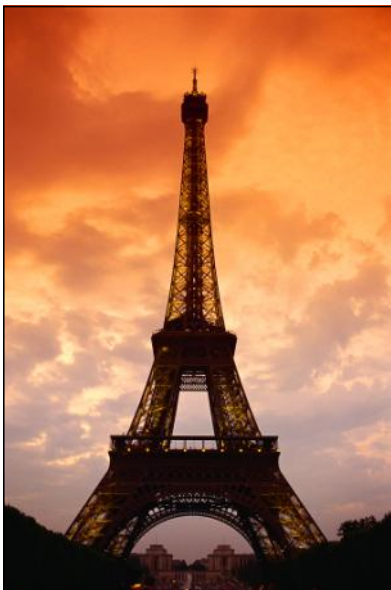
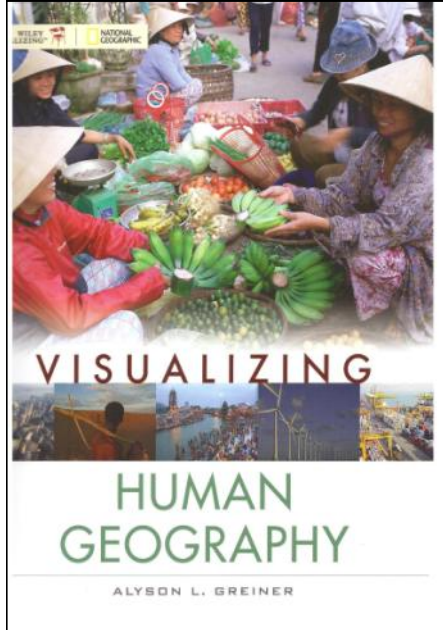
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Staff and Faculty News

DR. ALYSON GREINER: At long last, Alyson Greiner's textbook, *Visualizing Human Geography: At Home in a Diverse World*, was published by John Wiley & Sons in collaboration with the National Geographic Society. She would like to again thank the Geography Club for its enthusiastic reception, and also her many colleagues who attended the book gala at the AAG meeting in Seattle and the Celebrating Authors event hosted by the OSU Library. These were all "woo-hoo!" moments. Woo-hoo! (oops). Speaking of Seattle, Alyson chaired a paper session at the AAG, presented some of her preliminary research on malaria control in Oklahoma, and also participated in a panel discussion on publishing in geography journals. She and Tom Wikle completed a book chapter on career planning for *Practicing Geography*, edited by Ken Foote, Michael Solem, and Jan Monk. The book is in production and will be published this fall.



Alyson is happy to report that Luis, after tearing his Achilles tendon while in Arkansas and then driving back to Stillwater as if nothing had happened (he claims it didn't hurt), has made a full recovery. This May, Luis and Alyson spent a lovely (huge understatement) two weeks in Paris, including some jaunts around Belgium and the Netherlands. While in Belgium they visited the school she attended in 7th and 8th grades, perused some old yearbooks from that time (you can do the math), and discovered that one of the Shop (aka "industrial arts") teachers who had been there at the time is still there.

The day she returned from Paris Alyson received an invitation to serve as a member of a delegation of geography educators and traveled to Korea at the end of June. While there she and the other delegates studied territorial and place-name issues affecting Korea, participated in an international conference, and made excursions into the DMZ and to some World Heritage sites.

A few days after returning from Korea she traveled to Washington, D.C. to conduct research at the National Archives. Remarkably, cool temps and low humidity made the weather in D.C. perfect, and provided a nice respite from Oklahoma's heat and drought.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. REUEL HANKS: and Oydin Uzakova are enjoying watching their daughter Kamila (Kami) learn and grow. 2011 was a big year for Kami, as she took her first steps in May 2011, and now has learned to run, ride a rocking horse, and enjoy all sorts of new foods. She understands both English and Russian, and soon will master Uzbek. Oydin continues to work on her dissertation on John Milton in Russia, although she has been sidetracked somewhat over the past year and a half. Reuel travelled a great deal between the fall of 2010 and summer of 2011. He presented papers at conferences in Japan (December), Washington, D.C. (January), Australia (February), and Montreal (March) and served as the chair and discussant on a panel in Portugal (August). He also gave a “brown bag” presentation at the University of Kansas in April, and was an invited keynote speaker at another conference at KU, “Identity and Community,” in late August. He is on sabbatical leave during the fall of 2011, and was awarded a Fellowship to Australian National University, where he will spend six weeks in October and November, working at the Centre for Islamic and Arabic Studies. *Global Security Watch: Central Asia*, Reuel’s latest book, was published in November 2010. He finished a second book, co-authored with Steve Stadler, in May of 2011 entitled *The Handbook of Geography Themes, Terms, and Concepts*, a work of almost 400 pages that will be off-press from ABC-CLIO Ltd. in October 2011. He continues to serve as the editor of the *Journal of Central Asian Studies*. His article on ethnic strife in Kyrgyzstan appeared in the *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, and he wrote a chapter on Samarkand for the forthcoming title *Places of Encounter*, an innovative textbook to be published by Sage Press. A second book chapter on Islam and civil society in Central Asia has been accepted for publication in a forthcoming volume from the University of Kentucky Press. He is currently working on completing *The Historical Dictionary of Uzbekistan* (Scarecrow Press) and editing *The Handbook of Central Asian Politics* (Routledge), in between long walks with his gorgeous little girl.



MICHAEL LARSON: November 2011 will start Michael’s sixteenth 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 2012, will see Michael’s tenth 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. Michael hopes that through his hard work and positive attitude, he will continue to represent the Geography Department, its faculty, staff and students in a professional and competent manner.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. DALE LIGHTFOOT began his 22nd year as a university faculty member (18th at OSU) secure in knowing that his first sabbatical lay just around the bend. The spring semester will be filled with conferences in Saudi Arabia and Iran, followed by three months of fieldwork in the Canary Islands, working on the last piece in a long series of fieldwork surveys of qanats in North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia that began in 1992 in Morocco and will end in the Atlantic, next door to Morocco. A book will also be started during the sabbatical.

Dale taught classes on the Middle East and International Resource Management over the past year. He also co-lead a study abroad field course to Morocco with Tom Wikle in summer 2010, followed by an amazing trip through Mali and Burkina Faso that included visits to Timbuktu, the Dogon country, and a three-day trip up the Niger River.

In between pushing papers and herding cats, he worked to maintain momentum in his research program. He completed a book chapter on the “History and Geography of Karez in Northern Iraq” for an upcoming Iranian publication titled *Qanat in It’s Cradle*. He has another book chapter in press in UNESCO’s upcoming series on the *History of Water and Civilization*, and he was invited to write the Preface to the *UNESCO Manual for Sustainable Karez Restoration in Iraq*.

In April, Dale gave a presentation on the distribution and restoration of qanats at the AAG Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, and over the summer received good news from the National Geographic Society whose Committee for Research and Exploration will fund his fieldwork in the Canary Islands during the spring.

Dale’s son, Adam, is now 20 and is content just being Adam. He plays his guitars for hours at a time and claims to be contemplating his future. Wife Tory was recently promoted to Manager of Research Support Services in the College of Arts & Sciences at OSU and is nearing the finish line on her dissertation. Dale, Adam, and Tory all look forward to celebrating her graduation.

DR. MATTHEW MILLER: Hello, everyone. My name is Matthew Miller and I am a new Visiting Assistant Professor here at OSU in the Geography Department. Thus, this is my first appearance in the *Zenith*. I received my doctorate in Geography from the University of Georgia in 2010 and spent the last year teaching at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut.



My research interests are within the realms of biogeography, GIS, and the various crossover disciplines between the two. Most recently, I have examined how different conceptualizations of space can impact models of dispersal for the pollen and seeds of temperate forest tree species.



I look forward to exploring the landscapes of Oklahoma and expect that they will provide a wealth of inspiration for future projects.



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Staff and Faculty News

SARA PENN is new to the Geography Department as of July and is taking over the responsibilities of Barbara Amos. She is a native of Nebraska and holds a bachelors degree in Art History and Criticism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Sara and her husband met while playing trombone in the marching band in college and so she occasionally enjoys picking up her horn and re-living fond memories. She also enjoys painting, figure skating when she can find ice, watching movies, and taking her ninety-pound golden retriever for walks.



DR. JOHN ROONEY: It has been a few years since my last submission to the *Zenith*. Much has happened to us and our family since our last communication. Our three children and nine grandchildren are all thriving and bring us joy on a daily basis. Beth, husband John Powers, and three offspring are completing their 22nd year in San Francisco. Our grandson, Ryan, is a junior at the University of Arizona, Liam is a senior at St. Ignatius, and Kyra is a sophomore. Kate, and husband Bob Harstad, are in Edmond, after spending ten years in Spain where Bob played Pro basketball. Sons Jack and Luke are following in the footsteps of their dad, excelling in basketball and all other sports. We get to see them often.

Son, Dan and his wife Jacqy, plus four little girls, Tory, Tatum, Mia and Reese, reside in Broken Arrow, a suburb of Tulsa. Major Dan is an F-16 pilot in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. He has completed three tours in Iraq. But most importantly, he recently established the Folds of Honor Foundation, to provide college scholarships to spouses and children of American servicemen and women killed or permanently disabled in the Mid-East conflicts. I serve on The Board of Directors of the Foundation. We raise money through the Patriot Golf Day initiative, in partnership with the PGA of America, the U.S. Golf Association and several corporate sponsors. So far we have raised over \$ 10M and awarded over 2,000 scholarships.

Sandy and I now have two homes. We moved, after 39 years on Black Oak Drive, to a new "Garden Home" two miles to the west. It was difficult with all the memories created there, many associated with numerous geography bashes and cultural fests, but we are adjusting to our new place. We have less space and fewer things, but that is good. Our summer home is in Grand Haven, Michigan, recently selected by Gallup-Health ways as the 2nd happiest and healthiest city in America. There we oversee the old and hallowed Grand Haven Golf Club, which we and a group of investors acquired in 1998. It is a fun job and really keeps us occupied and away from Oklahoma in the summer.

Our newest project is the Patriot Golf Club. The Patriot, in Owasso, (just northeast of Tulsa) opened in May, 2010. Please check it out at patriotgolfclub.com. It is a partnership with our son Dan and several Tulsa friends. We believe that it is a truly special place and invite you to come for golf or an old fashioned geography field trip.

Another recent highlight was my induction into the Illinois State University College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. Dick Hecock flew in from Minnesota to introduce me. Most of my family was there, and a good time was had by all. And finally I was back in the classroom in the spring, 2010 semester, teaching a graduate seminar on the U.S. Intercollegiate sports system. Déjà vu.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. REBECCA SHEEHAN: Over the past year, my research has continued to revolve around marginalized and non-mainstream groups and activities in the United States. From previously completed field and archival research on Jackson Square in New Orleans's French Quarter, I have had manuscripts accepted on Tarot card and palm readers contestations and cooperation of space and historical activities previously underplayed in the Square. Additionally, I have had an article published on the methodological issues regarding relationships in ethnographic field work. I have also continued new research with Jacqueline Vadjunec concerning the significance of women's roller derby in the Bible Belt, specifically Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Thus far, our findings show that contemporary roller derby lends itself to expressing alternative gender identities and sexuality.

I also continue work with Jacqueline Vadjunec in Oklahoma's Panhandle regarding land-use, vulnerability, and resiliency. As a cultural geographer, my interests in this project have more to do with how identity and community are negotiated through these processes, especially under drought conditions. Following organizing and presenting in two sessions on community at the national geography conference in Seattle, in late May we submitted a manuscript to *Social and Cultural Geography* on community in Cimarron County, OK.

Currently, I am working on a manuscript concerning how sidewalk artists destabilize ideas of "art" and "artist" in Jackson Square's tourist landscape.

In the next year, I plan to begin new research concerning geographies of homelessness.



Jackson Square, New Orleans

DR. STEVE STADLER looks forward to another busy year, his 32nd in the department. He is teaching climatology, meteorology, honors physical geography, and is coordinator for the physical geography course. Additional duties include the position of State Geographer, service on the Board of the Oklahoma Geographic Alliance, the State Geographic Information Council, and the Steering Committee of the Oklahoma Mesonet. His grants and contracts have focused on wind power development and he was co-author of a July article in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* describing the complementarity of wind and solar energy. This summer was quite busy with a May vacation to southern Africa, his son John's wedding in Tulsa, and an August trip to hang out with his dad, mom, and brother at his father's WWII bomber group reunion in Colorado Springs. His wife, Barbara, seems just as busy and is happily performing her duties as a tenured math faculty member at Northern Oklahoma College in Stillwater. Steve is vehemently denying any association with this summer's record spate of 100⁺ temperatures and hopes all graduates and geo-friends are keeping cool wherever they are.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: I continue to work on a variety of human-environment issues in the Americas. Last Spring, our guest-edited (with Marianne Schmink) special issue for the *Journal of Cultural Geography* on *New Amazonian Geographies* was published. Furthermore, undergraduate student Jay Jump, my colleague David Salisbury (University of Richmond), and I presented our research findings regarding a Peruvian Amazon remote sensing analysis/CA Markov model at the AAG conference in Seattle (see photo). Rebecca Sheehan and I spent some time in the Oklahoma Panhandle and New Mexico at the beginning of the summer continuing our research on issues related to land-use, vulnerability, and resiliency, especially under drought conditions. Together, Rebecca and I presented in and co-organized 2 sessions on “placing community” in geographic research at the AAG Seattle. We also spent some time listening to the needs and concerns of farmers and ranchers at the Emergency drought meetings in August. Lastly, I spent 2 months this summer in Chiapas, Mexico completing some preliminary research on sustainable development alternatives in the region. Rebecca and I also continue our Roller Derby Research. It is always inspirational to talk to such incredibly strong and vibrant women! The field trips with students continue. Last Fall, the students of my Field Techniques class went to Lake Murray State Park to work on various human-environment and mapping research projects for the Oklahoma State Parks Office of Tourism.



DR. TOM WIKLE: Now in his 22nd year as an OSU faculty member and 11th as Associate Dean, Tom Wikle had a busy year in terms of research and travel. This last year Tom published papers in *URISA Journal* and in *Transactions in GIS* (with colleague Todd Fagin) and completed work on a book chapter with Alyson Greiner. Fieldwork completed this last summer will help Tom and Todd finish a paper that explores the administrative history and contemporary management of U.S. national grasslands. Following their summer field course in Morocco in 2010, Tom and Dale Lightfoot traveled to West Africa (Mali and Burkina Faso). After a stop in Timbuktu they traveled up the Niger River by boat and later by Toyota Land Cruiser to several villages in Mali's Dogon Country. In March, Tom visited Saudi Arabia to recruit students for undergraduate and graduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. In May, he joined forces with Jon Comer on a bus trip across Italy and Greece with OSU students. Stopping first in Rome and Pompeii, they traveled across the Ionian Sea by night ferry before driving to Delphi and Athens. In January, Tom became International 1st Vice President of Gamma Theta Upsilon (Geography's Honor Society). Tom's free time is spent giving flight instruction at Stillwater Regional Airport. His wife Missy continues to direct OSU's Office of New Student Orientation. Their daughter Paige (18) was Stillwater High School's Homecoming Queen and played on the varsity soccer team. She began OSU this semester. Garrett (16) has his driver's license and is the proud owner of a '99 Jeep Wrangler.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. YOLONDA YOUNGS continues in her third year at Oklahoma State University as a Visiting Assistant Professor with interests in cultural and historical geography, nature-culture studies, national parks and protected areas, and the western United States. Dr. Youngs teaches World Regional Geography and Geography of Outdoor Recreation (Fall 2011) and Introduction to Cultural Geography, Geography of Europe, and Conservation of Natural Resources (Spring 2012). She recently published “On Grand Canyon Postcards” in the journal *Environmental History* (Issue 16, pages 138-147). The article explores historical postcards of the Grand Canyon, especially those depicting El Tovar hotel, as a way to explore visual representations of nature and culture in national parks. Dr. Youngs travelled to Paris, France this summer as a Delegate of the U.S. National Committee of the International Cartographic Association. The honor included a selection of her paper for presentation to a group of international scholars at the ICC meeting in July 2011 and funding support from the National Science Foundation and the ICA. Her paper explored the historical cartography of Yellowstone National Park and the diffusion of geographic knowledge about Yellowstone Lake.

Dr. Youngs posing near a large map of France at the conference center for the ICC meeting in Paris.



DR. HONGBO YU: In the past year, Dr. Hongbo Yu continued his research in time geography and spatio-temporal GIS. He published two peer-reviewed journal articles at *Journal of Transport Geography* and one peer-reviewed book chapter in the related areas, as either a lead author or a co-author. In October 2010, he traveled to Tahlequah, Oklahoma to participate in the SWAAG annual meeting and gave a poster presentation (co-authored with Dr. Allen Finchum) on using a 3D space-time GIS environment to visualize and analyze individual basketball player’s movements on the court during a 2009 Big XII tournament game featuring OSU vs. OU. This poster presentation attracted quite a number of people at the meeting. In April 2011, he attended the annual meeting of AAG in Seattle, Washington. Besides giving an oral presentation on developing similarity measures for identifying space-time paths with similar spatio-temporal patterns, he also co-organized three special themed sessions on time geography at the meeting. These time geography sessions were included in the *Symposium on Space-Time Integration in Geography and GIScience*, which was highlighted as one of the featured research tracks at this year’s meeting. A total of 15 research papers, authored by scholars from France, Belgium, China, and the United States, were presented in these sessions. As there has been a revived interest in time geography recently, these sessions attracted a large size of audience and the presentations were well received. At the AAG Transportation Geography Specialty Group (TGSG) Business Meeting, Dr. Yu was re-elected as the Vice-Chair of the specialty group. He was happy to have the opportunity to serve the research community for a full two-year term, from 2011 to 2013. In the summer of 2011, Dr. Yu was promoted to associate professor and granted tenure at OSU. This marks a major milestone in his career development and he is motivated to continue in his endeavor to further advance his academic career at OSU.



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Graduate Student News

MASTER'S STUDENTS:

Carson Bode
Stephanie Eades
Stephanie Greenway
Keeley Heise
Scott Kusselson
Katherine Mentzel
Matthew O'Neill
Diya Paul
Jennifer Sebesta
Joe Thomas
William Van Ness
Clinton White
Jennifer Whitte
Daniel Wilson

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Leonard Bombom
Elisha J. Dung
Steven Ericson
William Flynn
Robert Garrett
Christopher Gore
Amy Graham
Shireen Hyrapiet
Abdul Kareem Hawta Khayyat
Nguyen Le
Weiping Li
Victoria Lightfoot
Stuart McAllister
William McBrayer
Qinyue Pan
Adam Payne
Nick Rose
Siewe Siewe
Christopher Storm
Aswin Subanthore
Yanxia Wu
Ramin Zamanian



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Graduate Student News

CARSON BODE is a Second Semester Masters student, and his hometown is Stillwater, OK. Bode has a Bachelors degree in Landscape Architecture (BLA) from Oklahoma State. His current interests are remote sensing and influence of climate change on agriculture.

LEONARD SITJI BOMBOM, Jos, Nigeria: I have a Bachelor's degree (B.Sc) in Geography and Planning and a Master's degree (M.Sc) in Environmental and Resources Planning both from the University of Jos, Nigeria. I received a Master's degree (M.A.) in Geography in 2005 from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, joined the Department of Geography here at OSU in 2006 as a Ph.D. student; and I received a GIS Certificate in 2008. My research interests are time geography and activity pattern analysis, GIS applications in transportation, urban studies, and environmental resources management. My dissertation applies time geographic framework to the study of activity patterns on university campuses. In the last few years, I have published papers in several journals (*Transactions in GIS; GeoJournal; Journal of Environmental Studies; Environmentalist; International Journal of Injury Control and Safety Promotion; International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*, etc) in collaboration with colleagues in the US, UK and Nigeria. I have also reviewed articles for journals (*Journal of Political Science and International Relations; Journal of Science and Technology Education; Polish Journal of Environmental Studies; Global Journal of Business, Management and Accounting; Journal of Peace, Gender and Development Studies*). I have taught courses and/or laboratory work in Cultural Geography, Physical Geography, GIS, Cartography, and Remote Sensing. I am currently a Graduate Research Associate for Dr. Jon Comer working on an Oklahoma Transportation Center (OTC) Research Grant.

WILLIAM FLYNN became a Certified GIS Professional (GISP) through the GIS Certification Institute on August 25, 2010. Also, the AMI/smart metering project he co-managed at the City of San Marcos, Texas, is being featured as a case study in the forthcoming ESRI titled, *The Elected Official's Guide to GIS*.

ROBERT GARRETT: I have some good news for the newsletter, although it isn't specifically related to geography or our department. I am going to Argentina this summer to participate in the Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program. GSE is a cultural and vocational exchange program for professionals. I was chosen to represent district 5750 (OKC, Stillwater, etc.), and I'm going with a 5 member team. The Stillwater Frontier Rotary Club is my main sponsor. I will be with the Rotary team in Argentina from May 7th until June 6th, and then I plan to stay in Buenos Aires on my own for a month of language study. I plan to enroll in an intensive Spanish language course, and I also plan to take some tango classes as well. Here is a link that describes the GSE program:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/serviceandfellowship/fellowship/groupstudyexchange/pages/ridefault.aspx>

By the way, I was the winner for the Beer Competition at the annual department Beer, Wine, and Cheese Party, and the beer was "Samuel Adam's Coastal Wheat".

CHRIS GORE is a new doctoral student in the program this fall. Although he has lived in Wichita Falls, Texas for the past fifteen years, Chris was born in Houston and grew up in the East Texas shade of loblolly pines and post oak trees. After high school, Chris migrated to Walker County, Texas, home to fifteen state prisons, where he would earn a B.A. and M.A. in History from Sam Houston State University, a local institution of a different type. His doctoral interests rest in historical and cultural geography. Subjects of particular curiosity include the geography of food, religion, cemeteries, and fraternal organizations.



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Graduate Student News

AMY GRAHAM is a third year Ph.D. student originally from Ponca City, OK. She received her Master's degree from the OSU Department of Geography in 2009 and her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma in 1996. Her research interests include cultural and historical geography, quantitative methods, environmental justice, and historic preservation.

KEELEY HEISE is a first year Master's student with a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology/Climatology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2006. Keeley is interested in researching winter weather (snowfall, blizzards, ice, etc.) and its relation to climate and climate change.

SHIREEN HYRAPIET is a 5th Year Ph.D. from Calcutta, India. She has a Master's from Oklahoma State University in Fire and Emergency Management Administration, a B.A. from Millersville University of Pennsylvania, and a B.S. from Loreto College, Calcutta. Shireen's research interests are in cultural geography, urban geography, cultural and political ecology. She was the recipient of the Geography Graduate Program Conference Travel Grant (\$500), and she participated in the following activities during Fall 2010 to Spring 2011: President of the International Student Organization; Member of the Vice-President's Student Advisory Council; Peer Advisor, International Students and Scholars Office; Presenter, Cultural Connections, a division of the International Students and Scholars Office.

HAWTA KHAYYAT was given an Award of Distinction for Outstanding Scientific Achievement by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Iraqi Federal Government. The award was presented in April by the Cultural Attache with the Iraqi Cultural Office (Iraqi Embassy in Washington) during the First Annual Conference of Scholarship Students at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.



SCOTT KUSSELSON: I am a first-year graduate student in my second semester. After a strenuous spring semester, I decided to relax and drive out to California where I first stopped off in San Diego to visit some friends and chill at the beach. I then drove up the coast to San Jose and San Francisco where I met up with James Dryden (previous OSU Geography grad student). After I got back to Oklahoma, I started my internship with Chesapeake Energy that lasted all summer where I used GIS to digitize leases into their database system, which will be used in the search for clean burning natural gas. Jeff Amos, another former Geography student, was my supervisor at Chesapeake.



NGUYEN H. LE is a first-year Ph.D. student in his second semester. He has an M.S. in Environmental Sciences from California State University, Fullerton. His research interests are environmental management and tourism management. Nguyen's advisor is Dr. Tom Wikle.

Graduate Student News

KATIE MENTZEL: I am from Tulsa, OK, and I completed a Bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of Tulsa. This will be my first year in the Master's of Geography program, and my research interests are the political and cultural geography of the Middle East and Central Asia.

QINYUE PAN: Arlene is my English name, and I was born in China. I am a first-year Ph.D. student in my first semester. I graduated from the University of Alabama with a Master's Degree in Geography and Planning. My interests include GIS and transportation.

DIYA PAUL is a second year Master's student. Her research assesses the feasibility of a wildlife corridor between the Eastern and Western Ghats in South India, essentially combining aspects of cultural geography and landscape ecology. Her advisor is Dr. Dale Lightfoot. She also teaches the Physical Geography Lab.

ADAM PAYNE: I am a fifth year Ph.D. student focusing on the development of the Oklahoma City Business Improvement District. I hope to successfully defend my proposal later this semester. I am also working on a research project about cultural heritage sites along the Oklahoma portion of Route 66. In addition, I am working on an article dealing with community support and preservation of Totem Pole Park in Foyil, Oklahoma. I am also teaching two sections of Intro to Cultural Geography 1113.

NICK ROSE: I am from Bethel, Ohio. This fall I will be starting my first year in the Ph.D. program. My previous degree is an M.S. in Geography from Oklahoma State University. My current research interests are cultural/historical geography with a focus on Appalachia. I also have a growing interest in how a company's or a private or public organization's discourse can affect the perceived image of a region.

SIEWE SIEWE SIEWE: I am a third-year Ph.D. student from Kumba, Cameroon. My previous degree is an M.S. in Geography from OSU, and my research interests are human dimensions of global environmental change, cultural and political ecology, remote sensing, and GIS. My advisor is The Fabulous Dr. Vadjunec. This has been a fun year, and I give HIM all the glory. I started the year by visiting Panama on a Smithsonian fellowship to develop a methodology to measure carbon stocks in plants. It was fun, and an experience of a lifetime. Last semester, with guidance from my advisor, I applied for and was awarded an NSF dissertation improvement grant. I plan on starting field work in relation to this project in December 2011. The project was funded for twelve months, and I plan to spend at least six of these months in the field (KNP Cameroon), collecting and preprocessing data. In the second half of the semester, I sat for my comprehensive exams and successfully defended my dissertation proposal on the topic: Deforestation and Degradation: Impacts on Carbon Stocks, Biodiversity and the Potential Effects of PES/REDD Initiatives on People and Forests in the Korup National Park (KNP), Cameroon. The acronyms PES and REDD stand for Payment for Environmental Services and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradations respectively. I spent the summer in Reno, Nevada working with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology on a joint OSU/AAPG project to digitize well logs, well documents, and to geographically correct the location of about 800 well sites. This semester, I am a TA for the GIS and remote sensing labs as I prepare for my upcoming field work in Cameroon.



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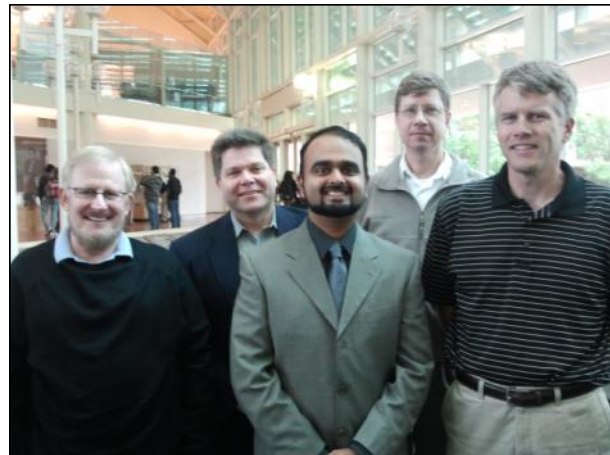
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Graduate Student News

ASWIN SUBANTHORE: I am a fifth-year Ph.D. student from Chennai, India. I received my M.S. Geography degree from OSU in 2005. My research interests include cultural geography with an urban focus, immigration, and geographies of immigrant identities in a post-9/11 America. I returned back to OSU in fall 2010 after a brief hiatus at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, where I taught geography for three years. I am looking to complete my Ph.D. by spring 2012 at the latest. In my “version 2.0” Ph.D. life at OSU Geography, I have enjoyed great success thanks to amazing support from the Department. In spring 2011, I was awarded 1st prize for best paper at the Annual OSU Graduate Research Symposium. In the same term, I was invited by the University of Oklahoma to be the inaugural speaker in their first intercollegiate student colloquium, co-hosted by OSU Geography’s graduate student group. Spring 2011 ended at a high note when I was inducted as a member in Gamma Theta Upsilon Geographic Honor Society. Summer 2011 was exciting as I got to teach Geography of Asia at OSU-Tulsa; teaching Asia in 4 weeks was quite fun! As a result of my work in spring and summer 2011, I will see two publications coming out as my first major peer-reviewed pieces in major journals in the fall. My invited essay on graduate student life in post-9/11 America will appear in November’s issue of *Geographical Bulletin* in addition to a co-authored research paper in *Focus on Geography* where I discuss Sylheti-American identities in metropolitan New York City. In October, I will be attending my first Applied Geography conference at Redlands, CA with my paper “Slumburb Millionaires” where I look at geographies of foreclosures and its influence on immigrants in suburban Chicago.

Photo taken after Aswin received his 1st prize award at the Annual OSU Graduate Research Symposium.



L-R: Dr. Bill Venable, Dr. Reuel Hanks, Aswin Subanthore, Dr. Dale Lightfoot, and Dr. Jon Comer

JOE THOMAS: I am a 2011 graduate from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's degree in Native American Studies, and I am in my first year of the Master's program at OSU. I am from McAlester, Oklahoma and the youngest of 12 siblings. I am of Chickasaw, African American, and Caucasian descent. My area of focus that I wish to concentrate on is cultural geography.

WILLIAM VAN NESS: I am from Stillwater, OK, and I have a B.S. in Geography from OSU. I am in my first semester of the M.S. Geography program, and my research interest is transportation, particularly commuter and mass transit. I went on trips to Lincoln, NE and Knoxville, TN to help cover OSU softball for radio. This allowed me to go to cities and states I had never visited. I cannot travel by myself since I cannot drive. So, any chance to travel is taken even if it is to Ponca City or something.



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Graduate Student News

DANIEL WILSON:

Second Year Master's Student

Advisor: The Fabulous Dr. Vadjunec

During my first year as a Master's student, my research began focusing on human-environment relationships, specifically dealing with people and forests. During the end of the Spring 2011 semester, I defended a proposal to conduct fieldwork in Western Kenya. I lived in two villages surrounding the Kakamega Rainforest and carried out household surveys dealing with land-use, forest-use, and deforestation. I stayed completely healthy and was treated wonderfully by the locals. I am currently working on analyzing the household surveys and trying to get back to Kenya ASAP!. If you see me around Murray Hall, do not be afraid to ask me questions; I have plenty of stories to tell!

Kwa Heri,

Daniel Wilson

YANXIA WU: I am a first year Ph.D. student from China. I'm interested in the methods of quantification, data analysis, and mathematical modeling. The way of modeling and analyzing complex networks especially attracts me. Moreover, I'm interested in applying these methods to geography to study social, economic, environmental issues, and especially the relationships between these issues.

RAMIN ZAMANIAN is a fifth-year Ph.D. student. He received his Master of Arts degree in Geography in 2007 and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography in 2003, both from Louisiana State University. His Master's thesis investigated representations of nature and spirituality, along with the impacts of landscape transformation, at Mexico City's Virgin of Guadalupe pilgrimage site. Ramin is currently researching spatial issues related to the sustainability of landscapes impacted by airport development. As a Graduate Teaching Associate, he has instructed Geog 3743: Geography of Latin America, Geog 2253: World Regional Geography, and Geog 1113: Introduction to Cultural Geography. He has also taught labs for Geog 1114: Physical Geography. Ramin recently completed a two-year term as a Graduate Student Representative on the Executive Committee for the Association of American Geographers' Cultural Geography Specialty Group (CGSG). He still serves as a Regional Coordinator for the CGSG. He is also a Co-Coordinator of the CGSG's Landscape Photography Exhibit at the national AAG conferences. Additionally, he serves as judge for the AAG's Photography Contest at the national AAG conferences. Ramin is serving as Secretary for the Oklahoma State University Cineculture Club. He has recently reviewed two books covering the topics of globalization, tourism, and religion within Latin America, published in the *Historical Geography* journal and the *Material Culture* journal.



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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 third year of this multi-year funded project. The AAPG work is 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. We even sent two students to Reno, Nevada this summer to work on one of the projects with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. The AAPG project is a large endeavor that consumes a lot of time and effort, but returns invaluable experience for the students working at Cartography Services.

In addition to the AAPG work, Cartography Services is also in its third year working with Dr. Allen Finchum on the SHPO project. This project is funded by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, and it consists of sending teams of student employees to the field (mostly small rural Oklahoma towns) locating properties and updating the Oklahoma Landmark Inventory (OLI) database.

Cartography Services currently employs eight student workers (two graduate and six undergraduate students), and has employed an additional eight undergraduate or graduate student employees over the last year. Cartography Services would like to acknowledge and thank the following students for their hard work and service: Helen Agnew, Emma Ajode, Carson Bode, Leonard Bombom, Shepard Cockrell, Alex Comer, Jay Jump, Mary Niles, Phil Pahl, Diya Paul, Chelsea Plunkett, Jennifer Sebesta, Siewe Siewe Siewe, Adam Lightfoot, Ryan Mathis, and Melanie Skaggs.

Center for Applications of Remote Sensing

It has been another busy year in the CARS lab. Bruce Battles and his student workers have been continuing work with the Grand River Dam Authority on a boat dock mapping application and assisting with a database construction project led by Dr. Allen Finchum for the State Historic Preservation Office.

CARS and the department hosted a week long workshop in June for K-12 teachers. The workshop titled, "From Google Earth to GPS: GeoTechnologies for the Classroom" was offered through Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education and with 18 participating teachers, the workshop was a success.

In a continuing outreach effort, CARS and the department participated for the seventh straight year in a local elementary school's "OutDoor Day" where the students were introduced to aerial photography, map making, and global positioning system technology.



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Geography Club

The OSU undergraduate Geography Club saw many milestones in the 2010-2011 school year. To begin with, we reinstated the club as an officially recognized university club, something that was actually quite time consuming and complicated. We were involved in campus activities all year, including setting up an interest booth near Classroom Building during Geography awareness week. We also sent students to Stillwater schools to speak on geography to the young ones. For the second year in a row, the group stuck with a new tradition by going on a camping trip together. The setting this year was Lake Tenkiller State Park. A great time was had by all, and many bonds and friendships were solidified. Toward the end of the spring semester we had elections for the following year. While some people stayed in the same positions, we did see the election of a new president for the 2011-2012 school year in Shepard Cockrell. We are very excited about his leadership, as he is certainly known around these parts as a real mover and shaker. We look forward to the new year and the activities that will come with it, and we thank the department for the continued support.

Gamma Theta Upsilon - Chi Chapter

GTU Officers for 2010-11 were Bryan Frenz (President) and Steven Ericson (Secretary). Tom Wikle served as chapter advisor.

The following individuals were initiated into the Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (the International Honor Society for Geography): Helen W. Agnew, Carson S. Bode, Jianjun Ge, Weiping Li, Shireen Hyrapiet, Aswin Subanthore, Diya Paul, Yolonda Youngs, Scott B. Kusselson, Daniel E. Wilson, Rebecca Sheehan, Nguyen Le, Robert D. Garrett, Melanie Skaggs, Stephanie A. Eades, Tory Lightfoot, Roger A. Nicholson II, Leonard S. Bombom, Matthew M. O'Neill, Clinton J. White, Todd Fagin, Stephen J. Stadler.



To be selected for membership in GTU an undergraduate or graduate student must have a strong academic record (both overall and in geography courses). Congratulations initiates!



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Certificates in GIS Earned

FALL 2010:
James Dryden

SPRING 2011:
Hawta Khayyat Jennifer Sebesta Daniel Taulman
Scott Kusselson Melanie Skaggs Clinton White
Jessica O'Connell Emily Tarver Jennifer Whitte

Bachelor's Degrees Earned

FALL 2010:
Sarah Cain Philip Pahl
Danny Engle Marybeth Strothmann
Jade Jackman Clinton White

SPRING 2011:
Tyler Bryant Daniel Taulman
Brent Colbert William Van Ness
Emily Tarver

Master's Degrees Earned

SPRING 2011:
James M. Dryden (M.S.) — "Potential Climate Change Impacts on Wind Resources in Oklahoma: A Focus on Future Energy Output" (thesis)
Advisor: Steve Stadler

SUMMER 2011:
Nicholas J. Rose (M.S.) — "Determining Coal's Place in the Appalachian Regional Commission: Impact on Poverty and Migration in Appalachian Kentucky" (thesis)
Advisor: Alyson Greiner

FALL 2011:

The following people have finished all degree work, but because they did not finish by July 22 they will be December graduates:

Cary A. Lincoln, M.S. – "Exploring Links Between Gateway Communities and National Parks: A Quantitative Assessment" (thesis).
Advisor: Tom Wikle

Er Yue, M.S. – "Assessing Eastern Redcedar Encroachment and Environmental Factors in Oklahoma by Remote Sensing and GIS" (thesis).
Advisor: Jianjun Ge

Matthew J. Meier, M.S. – "Deer Vehicle Accidents in Kansas: Spatial Distributions and Trends" (thesis). Advisor: Brad Bays

Yun Zhao, M.S. – "Assessing the Impact of Potential Bridge Collapse on Road Network Vulnerability: A Case Study in Oklahoma" (thesis)
Advisor: Hongbo Yu

Ph.D. Degrees Earned

SUMMER 2011:
Stacey R. Brown (Ph.D.)
Advisor: Jon Comer
Committee members: Jianjun Ge, Tom Wikle, Dan Rickman (ECON)
Dissertation title: "Are Oklahoma City Residents OK? A Socio-Spatial Analysis of Physicians and Supermarkets Via Accessibility and Affordability"



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Geography Colloquia

FALL 2010:

Oct 8, 4:00 p.m., WLD 010
Wilbur Zelinsky, Pennsylvania State University
Another Look at Vernacular Regions and Those Fifty American States

Oct 18, 3:00 p.m., CLB 219
Maria Eugenia Ibarra Viniegra, Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla
Measuring Vulnerability to Disasters at the State Level: the Case of Mexico

Nov 29, 2:30 p.m., CLB 114
James Dryden, Oklahoma State University
Potential Climate Change Impacts on Wind Resources in Oklahoma: A Focus on Future Energy Output

Dec 10, 3:30 p.m., 202 LSW
Carolyn Finney, University of California, Berkeley
Birth of a Nation, the Remix: Race, Identity and Environment in the 21st Century

SPRING 2011:

March 7, 3:30 p.m., 101 CLB
Chris Zou, NREM, Oklahoma State University
Ecohydrology: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Address Environmental Challenges

March 21, 3:30 p.m., 035 MUR
Ben Marsh, Bucknell University
Spatial Discrimination & Environmental Justice: Uses of GIS in Spatial Inequality Cases

April 18, 3:30 p.m., 207 CLB
Steven Ericson, Oklahoma State University
Conceptualizing the Cactus League: A Sporting Landscape of Baseball Spring Training in Arizona

Journal of Cultural Geography

The *Journal of Cultural Geography* has had another very busy and productive year. In addition to our regular issues we published a special issue commemorating the 30th anniversary of the journal in 2010. Geographers who have studied the same region for a period of 30 years contributed manuscripts reflecting on those regions, the impact of globalization and other changes, as well as the challenges of field work. Among the contributors were Carol Prorok, Michael Watts, and Bill Doolittle, experts on Trinidad, Nigeria, and Mexico, respectively. Then, in February 2011 we published a special issue on New Amazonian Geographies that was guest-edited by our very own Jacqueline Vadjunec along with Marianne Schmink, a professor with the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. You can browse the *Journal of Cultural Geography* online via the OSU Library web site. You can also sign up for a journal alerting service. From the link <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjcg20/current>, click on the "Alert Me" link below the journal cover.



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Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

Robert Norris Award Gets a Welcome Boost



The Dr. Robert E. Norris Memorial Scholarship was significantly enhanced by a generous donation in 2011 from Liz and Peter McKinley. Liz Norris McKinley (right) is the daughter of Robert Norris and moved to Stillwater from California when Bob joined the Geography faculty at Oklahoma State in 1975.



Bob (left) remained at Oklahoma State until his untimely death in 1991. Using matching funds from the Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match offered last year, the McKinleys doubled their \$50,000 donation to contribute \$100,000 to augment the Norris Award endowment. Liz and her husband, Peter, honor the memory of Bob Norris and reward the accomplishments of outstanding graduate students in Geography with this donation. All of us in the department are sincerely thankful for this and all of the donations that were made to our department last year. The endowments from these funds go directly to support Geography students.

Spring 2011 Awards:

Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching – Bryan Frenz
Norris Scholarship for Outstanding First Year Master's Student – Daniel Wilson
Outstanding Senior – Jay Jump
Rooney Scholarship for Outstanding Junior – Helen Agnew

Scholarships and Grants:

Tweedie Travel Scholarship:
2010-11 – Steven Ericson
2011-12 – Jay Jump, Daniel Wilson

Chesapeake GeoSciences Scholarships:
2010-11 – James Dryden, Cary Lincoln
2011-12 – Scott Kusselson

Graduate Student Conference Travel Grants
2010-11 – Stacey Brown, Shireen Hyrapiet



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Undergraduate Students & Their Hometowns

Helen Agnew, Tulsa, OK
 Chance Anderson, Stillwater, OK
 Winona Billman, Houston, TX
 Charles Boellstorff, Brock, NE
 John Boellstorff, Stillwater, OK
 Cary Cavnar, Edmond, OK
 Ryan Clark, Oklahoma City, OK
 Shepard Cockrell, Stillwater, OK
 Ryan Conner, Ozark, AR
 Thomas Cox, Claremore, OK
 Markum Cross, Tulsa, OK
 Lindsey Crowder, Midwest City, OK
 Jamie Derrick, Stroud, OK
 Phuthuma Dlamini, Unavailable
 Jill Drummond, Hominy, OK
 Ebo Essuman-Ocran, Oklahoma City, OK
 Michael Fagan, Stillwater, OK
 Catherine Ferrell, Tulsa, OK
 Lindsay Fields, Tulsa, OK
 Timothy Gaines, Ada, OK
 Taylor Gallien, Broken Arrow, OK
 Claude Godfrey, Unavailable
 Clifton Hall, Fairfax, OK
 Whitney Helmuth, Adair, OK
 Adela Hofmannova, Unavailable

Alexandria Hubbard, Arlington, TX
 Lee Johnson, W. Lafayette, IN
 Jay Jump, Pauls Valley, OK
 Sarah King, Claremore, OK
 Randon Lowe, Ponca City, OK
 Katherine Montgomery, Norman, OK
 Curtis Moss, Ruidoso, NM
 Julianna Muskrat, Trophy Club, TX
 Lance Newman, Stillwater, OK
 Roger Nicholson, Glencoe, OK
 Mary Niles, Edmond, OK
 Andrew Porter, Stillwater, OK
 Andrew Potter, Ardmore, OK
 Robert Quinn, Unavailable
 Haley Roach, Sand Springs, OK
 Nathan Rosencrans, Edmond, OK
 Kenzie Shreve, Verdigris, OK
 Emily Sloan, Tulsa, OK
 Keith Smith, Stillwater, OK
 Sariah Tolsma, Stillwater, OK
 Jessica Vincent, Perkins, OK
 Alexander Voit, Stillwater, OK
 John Wagener, Broken Arrow, OK
 Conner Wenning, Richardson, TX
 Trenton Williams, Oklahoma City, OK



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Miscellaneous News

40 YEARS OF GEOGRAPHY ADMINISTRATION

Four Department Heads of OSU Geography, representing 40 of the past 42 years of administration of the department, met for a lunch reunion in spring 2011. John Rooney served 11 years as Department Head (September 1969 to August 1978 and April 1992 to March 1994) with another year as acting Head during the 1982-1983 school year. Dick Hecock served as Department Head for 11 years (September 1978 to July 1989), and another year as acting Head in 1976-1977. For more than two years (August 1989 to March 1992) Paul Matthews (not pictured) served as Department Head, followed by Tom Wikle who was Head of Geography for six years (April 1994 to March 2000). Dale Lightfoot, the current Department Head, has served in this position for more than 11 years (since April 2000). (Photo taken by Steve Stadler on March 21, 2011 in downtown Stillwater during a visit by Dick Hecock.)



Dale Lightfoot

Dick Hecock

John Rooney

Tom Wikle

SUMMER VISITORS

We entertained a number of alumni and friends as summer visitors in the department. They have been quite pleased to see our beautiful new facilities and our strong academic progress:

Joel Helmer - OSU PhD in Environmental Sciences and mentored in the Geography Department. He is an associate professor at Concordia College in Nebraska.

Mark Carper - OSU MS Geography. He is moving from the University of Alaska, Anchorage to be an assistant professor at Northeast State University in Tahlequah.

Liz Norris McKinley - Daughter of late OSU Geography professor Bob Norris and CEO of Pinnacle Petroleum, an oil wholesaling firm in California.

Jennifer Norris Gray and family - Daughter of late OSU Geography professor Bob Norris, in town for her high school reunion.

Jerry Croft - Former OSU Geography Associate Professor, now adjunct professor at the University of Iowa.

Gina Bloodworth - OSU MS Geography. She is an assistant professor at Salisbury University in Maryland.

Abdullah Al-Ajmi - OSU MS Geography. He visited us on a side trip from his main meeting in Oklahoma City. He is in charge of remote sensing for the Saudi Air Force.



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Geographers in the Field

Welcome to the Jungle: Jay Jump

I would like to begin with a special thanks to the entire department for the unwavering support that I've had throughout my time here at OSU. It is much easier to achieve academic success as a student when you are surrounded by such wonderful people. I appreciate you all. And now to the Amazon!

This past summer I was granted the once of a lifetime opportunity to travel to Pucallpa Peru to work on a research project with Dr. Vadjunec and Dr. David Salisbury of the University of Richmond. Pucallpa is a frontier city of over a quarter of a million people on the banks of the Ucayali River (bigger than the Mississippi!) The city lies in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon and has seen a major influx in migrants from the Andes that has led to poorly planned development in the area. In the last year there has been much talk of building a transportation corridor through an area of pristine forest east of Pucallpa. This would connect the Pacific coast to the heart of the forest. These development issues and the land-cover changes associated are the subject of the project.

In the spring of 2011, I did some remote sensing work with Dr. Vadjunec and Dr. Salisbury. The images analyzed were of the previously mentioned area, and the analysis determined the rates of land-cover change over a ten year period. We presented the findings in a poster at the AAG in Seattle. I then traveled to Peru in order to ground-truth this remote sensing work. This involved taking near 80 GPS polygons of various land-cover types and talking with land owners and farmers about their properties. I spent most days on the back of a motorcycle with my campanero, Alexander, riding up and down any dirt road we could find taking samples. We also were a part of a 5 day trip upriver that was very useful in obtaining some much needed water and forest samples. Though very intense, my first field research opportunity was amazing in so many ways. This experience has been the most enlightening of my academic life thus far, and has certainly changed me as a student and a person. I'm not sure if it's the same for everyone, but my perspective always evolves during a travel experience, and this one was no exception. I suppose I'll just have to chomp at the bit till I get my next chance to get out in the field!



The jungle crew (Jay is second from left).



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Geographers in the Field

Monitoring Carbon Stocks: Siewe Siewe

My dissertation is grounded in land change science, and seeks to explain the following; factors that drive deforestation and degradation in the Korup National Park (KNP) in Cameroon, the variations in carbon stocks and biodiversity between disturbed and undisturbed plots in the KNP, and the potential effect environmental policy change will have on the environment and livelihood of the people in the KNP. As a result of a research proposal to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, I was awarded a grant, and invited to Panama to develop a better methodology (different from the one I had proposed) to monitor carbon stocks in the KNP. In Panama, I worked with Dr Muller-Landau, the lead Smithsonian scientist on carbon stocks monitoring, to develop a protocol to set up forest plots and to measure carbon stocks. The focus of the protocol was to design plots that captured the plant diversity in the KNP providing an accurate representation of the carbon stock variations in the park. We were also concerned with developing allometric equations suitable for measuring carbon stocks in tropical evergreen environments like the KNP, where accurate tree height measurement is almost impossible. The solution; equations that used only plant wood density and diameter at breast height. Field work was based in the Barro Colorado Island (BCI) and in Gamboa.

Since returning from Panama, my research in the KNP has changed for the better. The protocol developed in Panama gives me direction and focus in my carbon stock monitoring, and provides me with another opportunity to get this portion of my work funded by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Other aspects of my work have improved as a result of my visit to Panama. In Panama, I was able to network with other researchers (Hildebrand, co-developer of the Ethnographic Linear Model (ELP)) interested in land change science who since have influenced my approach to studying the drivers of deforestation and degradation in the KNP and the potential effect of environmental policies on household livelihood. My time in Panama was awesome and one thing I learnt from spending time with the other researchers from around the world is that: Research is ALIVE! I go to the field (KNP) this spring to start field work on my dissertation.

Aerial view of Gamboa
Panama, the Canal and the
rain forest.



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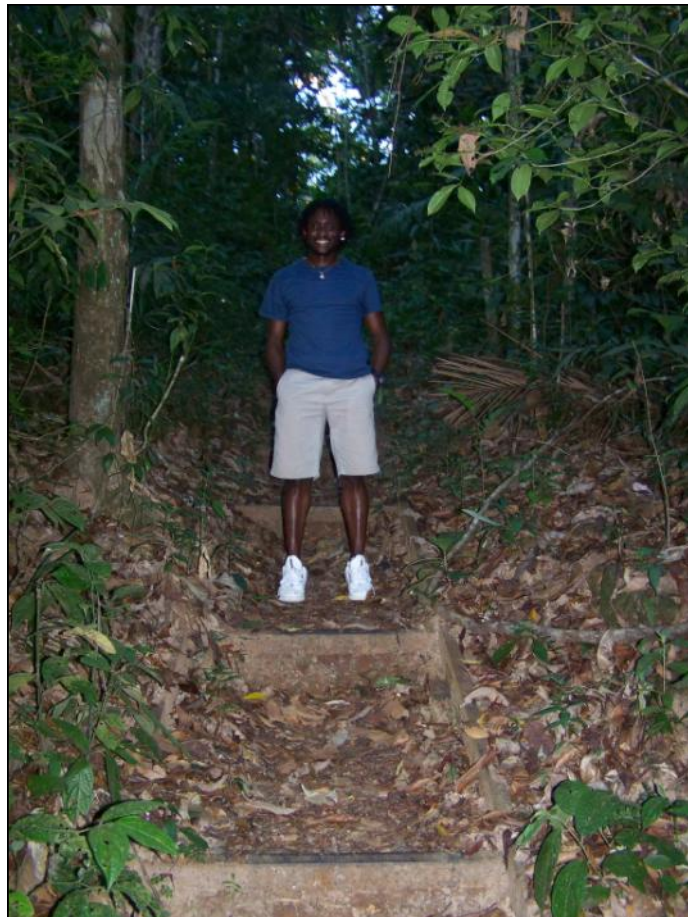
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Geographers in the Field



In a traditional Gamboan Hut.



A walk in the Gamboan Tropical Forest



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Geographers in the Field

Daniel Wilson in the Kenyan Rainforest

Daniel Wilson's master's thesis fieldwork was conducted during the summer of 2011 in the Kaimosi Forest, Kenya; 50 miles northeast of Lake Victoria. He lived in a village bordering the rainforest and conducted 12 key-informant interviews and 68 household surveys related to forest use, land use, community organization, and perception of local rules. Drawing from common property theory, his study examines various factors previously identified with successful management practices of common property forest resources. During his first week in Kenya, he attended the International Conference on Tropical Rainforest Resources at Masinde Muliro University. Daniel is affiliated with the university and worked closely with one of its human-environment researchers, Dr. Almadalo.



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Geographers in the Field



In addition to his research, Daniel talked with the village high school students about the importance of the environment and planted 1500 indigenous tree seedlings with the students. He also visited several parts of the country including: Lake Turkana, Lake Victoria, and Mount Kenya. A highlight of the trip was petting a cheetah at the Impala Wildlife Sanctuary in Kisumu, Kenya and being lifted in the air by the tusks of an elephant!



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Geographers in the Field

Alyson Greiner in the Republic of Korea

I visited the Republic of Korea this summer as a geography education delegate. I traveled with a small group of other geographers and our trip was sponsored by the Northeast Asian History Foundation and the Korean Geographical Society. One of the key issues we studied involved the legitimacy of using the name “East Sea” on maps. Whereas Koreans have used “East Sea” for 2,000 years, “Sea of Japan” appears to have come into use in 1602 on a map by the Italian cartographer Mateo Ricci. The International Hydrographic Office, seeking to standardize place names in the region in the 1920s, adopted the name “Sea of Japan.” At the time, Korea was a colony of Japan and could not participate in the place name discussions.

By convention, geographic naming practices favor the use of one name for features that are shared by two or more countries. When place names are disputed by those countries, however, alternative names are acceptable. Since Korea and Japan are at odds over this issue, it is acceptable practice to use both names when labeling this body of water.

After two days of studying this and other topics, we headed into the field. Our travels took us north to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and then in a southeasterly direction via some World Heritage sites and to Ulsan, site of one of the largest automobile assembly plants in the world. The following photos provide a glimpse of the places we visited.



A view of the Joint Security Area within the Demilitarized Zone, the one place where North Koreans and South Koreans directly face one another. The line of raised concrete between the two blue buildings and just in front of the center guard, marks the border or, more specifically, the Military Demarcation Line. Though somewhat difficult to see in this view, a North Korean soldier stands guard beside the column at the top of the stairs on the left. The blue buildings are part of the UN Military Armistice Commission.



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Geographers in the Field



In the 1970s, South Koreans discovered the first of several tunnels within the DMZ. The tunnels run in a north-south direction and would have enabled the rapid stationing of several thousand North Korean troops around Seoul, though North Korea has denied building these tunnels. This monument stands near the entrance to the 3rd Tunnel and symbolizes the hope that the two Koreas will be reunified, maybe with a little help from Alyson G.



Alyson with her fellow delegates and Korean hosts at the Hyundai Factory in Ulsan, South Korea.



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Alumni News & Memories

Gina Bloodworth (M.S. 1995) visited the Department of Geography on June 3, 2011. She visited with several faculty, staff, and students while she was on a tour of our new department space in Murray Hall and we (Bloodworth, Stadler, Wikle, Lightfoot, Greiner) had a great visit during lunch. Gina completed her Ph.D. in Geography at Pennsylvania State University in 2005, and she is now on the faculty in the Department of Geography and Geosciences at Salisbury University in Maryland.

Patrick Briley (B.S. 1986):

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Hi, it's been awhile since I sent in an update. I only wish that I could make it down for a football game but it probably won't happen. I get home to Spiro, OK each Christmas to visit my Mom and brothers. I always look forward to receiving the Zenith.

I was promoted to Colonel in the US Army, and I am currently serving as the Director of Public Works and Regional Engineer for the 81st Regional Support Command, Ft. Jackson, SC. I am responsible for all Army Reserve infrastructure, maintenance, and services for the nine southeastern states and Puerto Rico. I currently live in Columbia, SC with my wife Stacy, and we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in July. My son, Zachary, is a senior at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, and my daughters, Spencer Abigail and Grayson Isabella, are 13 and 9, respectively.

Thanks. GO POKES!!

David A. Brockway (Ph.D. 2007): After having taught geography and aviation courses at OSU-Tulsa for 6 years, I accepted an administrative position with Middle Georgia College. Since June 2011, I have been the Director of the Georgia Aviation Campus, located in Eastman, which is one of three campuses operated by the College. Moving from a metropolitan area of half a million in the lower Midwest to a small city of 5,000 in the South has been a bit of a cultural adjustment, but the people here have been very welcoming, and it has been an interesting and fulfilling career move. As part of my responsibilities, I teach one course a semester, and I try to incorporate geographic concepts and technologies when appropriate.

Here is my contact information:

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Alumni News & Memories

Linda Cartwright (B.S. 1985): I still work for OK Natural Gas Company, a division of ONEOK, Inc, in Tulsa. I have three granddaughters, and I love to hike and travel. I hope to retire in 2012.

Mike Conner (B.S. 1986, M.S. 1990): I am still working for the Military (DoD) going on 23 years now, and living in the Northern Virginia / Washington D.C. area. I have been with my current Command (Joint Warfare Analysis Center) for over 14 years, where I currently lead/manage (Branch Head) a group of multi-disciplinary Intelligence Analysts, in addition to being one of the Command Liaison Officers. Gratifying job that has given me many opportunities to travel and explore the world, as well as serve our great country! I credit my career successes to that of my experience and education obtained at O-State and its phenomenal Geography Department.

Both of my children are now in college and doing well! Hannah is a Junior Animal Science/Business Ag Major at Arkansas Tech University and recently completed a Summer Internship with Cargill Corporation in Missouri, resulting in continuing part-time work/internships in the future. Ryan just started his freshman year at Oklahoma State as a Geography Major, with interests in Urban Planning/Studies, GIS, and more as he learns what other opportunities may exist! When not traveling for work, or back to Oklahoma (family), I travel frequently to the Chicago area (Park Ridge, IL) and spend time with my fiancée, Irene, and Max the dog. Her work as an Attorney/Manager with the Department of Labor often requires travel to the Washington D.C. area as well.

I have many fond memories of my time and experience in Stillwater. Much of it revolves around the old Home Economics East building, which is now “dust in the landfill” as one might say! I often regret not keeping in touch with fellow graduates, friends and faculty over the years, but I look forward to visiting the Department of Geography/O-State in the future with my son as a student! Please feel free to share my email (connermiguel@aol.com) as a means of touching base with those above that I share many memories with!

Jim Dunn (B.S. 1973, M.S. 1974): I returned to my home in Portland, Maine following three years in the Middle East where I was a Principal of an elementary/middle school in Amman, Jordan and a middle/high school in Cairo, Egypt. This past year my wife, Aletha, and I spent seeing the daughters in Atlanta, GA and Helena, MT and visiting/hosting the three grandkids. Aletha and I took a short trip to Iceland to see the 'Northern Lights,' stayed on a fjord in Quebec Province in Canada, and spent a month in Southeast Asia, mostly in Thailand and Laos. I travelled to Bangladesh twice, to participate in the 20th year commemoration of "Operation Sea Angel," a cyclone-relief operation I helped organize there in 1991, and to facilitate an international conference on earthquake preparedness hosted by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs. I returned to South Asia in August for a similar COE-earthquake event, co-hosted with the Nepalese government and the American Embassy in Kathmandu. A longer non-working trip back to Iceland is planned in September. Still trying to decide if my wife and I will return to the international school circuit full-time or concentrate on shorter jaunts to Asia as a facilitator.



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Alumni News & Memories

Gwilym Lucas Eades (Luke): Since attending Oklahoma State University in the early 1990s as an engineering student I have been very busy. OSU is the place where I found my true calling, Geography. It was at OSU that I finally changed majors. I went on to complete a BSc in Geography (University of Victoria, Victoria, BC), an Advanced Technology Diploma in GIS (College of New Caledonia, Prince George, BC), an MA in Geography (Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario) and a PhD in Geography (McGill University, Montreal, Quebec). My mother lives near Stillwater and I visit her on a regular basis, occasionally making a trip over to the OSU library to remember the place where I found the solitude to put in so many hours studying mathematics and chemistry and many other subjects. My research focuses on toponymy and technology, especially First Nations and Native American ways of naming places and interacting with landscape. I am an instructor at both Carleton and McGill Universities, and I am working on a book about landscape, identity and memory. One of my favorite memories of OSU is taking GIS with Tom Wikle. I think it was the first year he was there. He made the subject very accessible and fun. I continue to work with GIS to this day for environmental and cultural mapping projects in Quebec and other places in Canada.

(514) 388-8918

<https://sites.google.com/site/gwilymlucaseades>

Jordan M. Haggard (B.A. 2009): I graduated in May of 2009 ready to take on the world. Since graduation I packed my bags for new places. I lived in Lake Tahoe, California for the summer saving every penny for my trip to New Zealand. Since that summer, I have spent the last year and a half experiencing the Land of the Long White Cloud, with trips to Fiji and Thailand to boot. I have been volunteering for an International Christian organization. They have what they call "bases" around the world, and the one I live on is in Oxford, New Zealand. The base is a 45-minute drive from Christchurch. I have now felt more than a few earthquakes. The big 7.1 quake in September will not be forgotten by any of us that were there. I have really enjoyed meeting new people from many cultures and experiencing life in other places. Traveling is amazing, and using what I learned from Oklahoma State University Geography Department is something I am very proud of. I was drawn to Geography by the professors and their love for whatever they taught and their particular specialty was/is. Go Pokes!

Keith Harries (faculty, 1970-1985) retired from the department of geography at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, in 2008. He is involved in consulting on projects relating to the spatial dynamics of terrorism in Turkey and (currently) in Spain, where the train bombing in Madrid in 2004 is the topic of interest and will call for field work in September-October, 2011. He participates in competitive masters swimming and is learning (with slight success) how to twist the photographic truth in PhotoShop. He and spouse Betty live in Columbia, Maryland, between Baltimore and Washington. After four years of post-doc at the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, son Phil is an assistant professor of biology at Pittsburg State in Kansas. Daughter Melanie lives locally in a group home. (Both were born in Stillwater!) Greetings to all from the right coast.



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Alumni News & Memories

Chris Horacek (M.S. 1983):

Fellow Geographers,

It is hard to believe it has been almost 30 years since finishing up a Master's Degree and leaving the aroma of Home Economics East!

The years have flown by and I am not close to knowing where to start other than to say I am really glad to be alive and having raised a family of four kids with my wife, Cheryl. For my contemporaries, the Monday following graduation in 1983 I was diagnosed with Stage III testicular cancer, which put my academic and professional career on hold. After four months of aggressive chemotherapy and six months recovering from a staph infection I became one of the first long term survivors at that time. This also makes me one of the few people who can say they cleared a path for Lance Armstrong!

After recovery and facing what seemed like an insurmountable amount of medical bills I went to work in the business sector but never strayed far from the geographic discipline. My professional career includes experience in retail location (MRI), transportation (FedEx), global strategic supply management and supply chain management for the chemical and automotive industries. My work has pretty much taken me all over the world, and I can say Brazil is probably the most interesting, Europe is the most laid back and Asia is just plain intense.

We have been living in suburban Atlanta for the last ten years with stops in Tulsa, Colorado Springs and Pittsburgh after Stillwater. Through the moves we have been blessed with four great kids. Our oldest was one of the first ten babies born from a guy with my medical history, which is pretty remarkable. Her name is Maggie, and she is following in her mom's footsteps as an artist at the University of Georgia. She is specializing in metal sculpture and loves to weld and pour molten magma into molds for castings. Our middle daughter Kailey is in her freshman year at Towson University outside of DC. She is attending there on a swimming scholarship and is TBA on a major. Our other two are a set of twins, Christopher and Alyssa, who are sophomores in high school.

Cheryl runs the special education program at one of the local high schools. Her career has been a real nice blend of her artistic talents and love of kids, many of whom have seemed to become a part of our extended family.

Other than chasing kids and working we still water ski hard, travel a good bit and I picked up competitive hockey again after a 30 year break. Our team actually won a Masters National Championship a couple of years ago.

Always enjoy reading the Zenith and seeing what people are up to. Looks like T-Boone has taken pretty good care of the place since I left, and the new Geography digs are a step up, though nothing can beat the ambiance of HEE and the eclectic bunch on the third floor! Whenever I see an Eskimos Joe's shirt I think of Professor Stine and Mike Pooler when we had a three person class, many times over a pitcher at Joe's!

Hope all is well with everyone who reads this and happy trails!

Regards,

Chris Horacek | Account Director
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Alumni News & Memories

Mark Karaska, Ph.D (M.S. 1985) is Sensor Systems Principal Engineer at the MITRE Corporation in Bedford, MA. MITRE is a Federally Funded Research and Development Center. Mark is doing research with new remote sensing systems including multispectral, hyperspectral, video, and LIDAR. He is developing tracking and target detection algorithms for government applications. Mark, his wife and three children are all doing well. He'd like to hear from his fellow alumni – mkaraska@charter.net.

Steven K. Luce (M.S. 1986):

News Update:

I just spent a week out of town touring college campuses in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. My daughter is a rising senior and is about to make a pretty important decision as to where she wants to go to college. The trip reminded me of how thoroughly I enjoyed my graduate school experience at OSU. I did make at least one lifelong friend while at OSU: I married one of the geography graduate students, Sheila Reinhart.

Well, within 30 days of graduating with my Masters in geography in 1986, I was working as a land planner for the Hillsborough County Zoning Department in Tampa, Florida. I spent 11 years reviewing and developing land development regulations for thousands of master planned residential, office, retail, industrial, mixed use and other unique stand-alone land use projects. I spent more time than I ever want to remember late into the evening at public hearings and neighborhood association meetings presenting and explaining and taking 'input' on proposed zoning cases.

Eventually I left the public sector and spent 9 years working as a land planner for a private sector engineering and land planning firm.

Finally, after about 20 years in the land development consulting business I started my own planning firm.

Also about 4 years ago I applied for and was selected to be the Zoning Hearing Master for Hillsborough County. This is essentially a judgeship position. I preside over public hearings, hear testimony, and make written decisions on zoning applications filed in Hillsborough County.

So looking back it has been an incredible ride. I have experienced a tremendous amount of growth here on the west coast of Florida. Hard to believe that many an orange grove and other agricultural lands I once walked with proposed master site plans in my hand are now fully developed communities with neighborhoods, public schools, shopping centers and office town centers.

I am not done yet. Let's hope the next wave of real estate development gives us an opportunity to redevelop, add to, and improve upon our built environment.

I have never been back to Stillwater, OK but it has been and always will be in my heart.

Go Cowboys!

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Alumni News & Memories

Karen Allen Morgan (M.S. 1988):

This past year has been amazing. I retired in December 2010 as CEO from Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. This completed a 21 year career in this position in two different Girl Scout Councils. My board of directors gave my husband Mike and I a retirement gift of a cruise to Alaska which we completed in May of this year. Earlier we had spent time in January in Escondido and San Juan Capistrano California.

Travelling has been high on my list at this time in my life, and we are headed to Sedona, Arizona in early December. As a geographer, I would tag no other spot on earth quite as beautiful as this place, seemingly being painted by the “Hand of God!”



I stay busy on a state wide board, the Oklahoma Womens Coalition. On this board I chair an Advocacy Committee on girls, and Melanie Poulter, a OSU Geography Grad student who is a demographer with Tulsa Community Service Council, is assisting on this committee.

Oh yes, I received the Newsmaker of the Year Award by the Tulsa Women in Communications this May. It was a great honor to be recognized by this group. My Girl Scout Council had pulled down \$1 million in government grants prior to my retirement.

My kiddos who all attended OSU have been successful in their careers so we all are proud of our academic achievement.

As for hobbies, a few years ago I took up upholstery and love to find creative ways and fabrics to create what I call “works of art.” I thoroughly enjoy the challenge of upholstery and refinishing interesting pieces of furniture that need a little tender loving care.

I hope all take advantage of the opportunity to communicate what you are doing, where you live, the kiddos you have born and the hobbies you enjoy today. This newsletter is an amazing way for us all to remember our classmates and stay in touch.

Mark Okrant (Ed.D. 1975) will retire half-time from his position as Professor of Tourism Management and Director of the Institute for New Hampshire Studies at Plymouth State University, effective in August.

Mark will continue his tourism teaching and research, and will devote more time to his Kary Turnell Mystery Series, set at historic resort properties. Mark and Marla, his wife of 40 years, will spend January through March in Rincon, Puerto Rico, while he conducts research for his next book, *Surfside Slaying*. The entire series is now on Kindle.



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Alumni News & Memories

Brian L. Schulz (M.S. 1991) (Ed.D. 1994): Hi from Granite Falls, Minnesota: Yes, I moved back to Minnesota after leaving Stillwater in May of 1996. First, I embarked on a teaching career at Bethany Lutheran College where I taught for three years from the Fall 1996 to May 1999 before I was laid off. Lucky I still kept my job with Walmart where I also worked during my Oklahoma Days. I worked for Walmart full time for eight years after getting laid off from Bethany. I also kept active in the local Historical Societies volunteering in their geneology lab and history center where I did research on the history of towns in the area and the families that settled in these towns (good old historical/cultural geography). Then in 2007, I moved back home to Wood Lake/Granite Falls, Minnesota where I was hired as Director/Curator of the Yellow Medicine County Historical Society. Here I was and still am responsible for creating historical exhibits, giving school and personal tours of the museum, inventory of artifacts in the museum, and run the geneology laboratory. I am also an active grant writer. We just received a Legacy Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society with which I am completing an exhibit on the early settlers of the twenty-one townships of Yellow Medicine County. We are writing biographies of close to 700 families and putting them on display with photos at the museum. I am also creating histories for all the communities and townships in the county. This fall we hope to get another Legacy Grant which we will use to enter Yellow Medicine counties birth records from 1865 to 1910 in a computer online file. I am also active on the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce and the Local Historic Preservation Society, where we are trying to preserve several of the downtown buildings from the Minnesota River. Therefore, I still have historic preservation in my blood and thank those at OSU (Drs. Seig, Carney, and Curtis) for instilling this great subject into my heart. I am also busy with my eight year old son (Daniel Schulz) and all of his events. I wish to say hi to all my colleagues who I went to OSU with, especially John Deluca, Jun Gao, Joe Easley, Darlene Martinez, Kyle and Jackie Anderson, Jerry and Cynthia Henzel, Dean Fouts, Kent Schreiner, Jeff Bradley, Tim Clark, Pat Dolan, and Neysa Clark. I greet all my "old" professors and offer my deepest sympathy to the Seig family in regards to Lou Seig's passing. Lou was a great professor and friend and I will always owe him thanks for helping me get through my Doctoral degree. Take care you all and hope to see you again in the future.

Van Patrick Sears (B.S. 1991): Some of the most entertaining memories associated with the Geography Department were listening to Bob Norris go on and on about his adventures with Norm Tilfred. Did that guy really exist?

Sam Seminoff (M.S. 1951): I enjoyed your last newsletter very much. It brought back memories of the geography years of 1952. Dr. Edward Keso, department head, and my M.A. advisor, Dr. Robert Tite, were great advisors for this WWII vet from Lone Wolf, OK. I have never regretted taking the geography major as it has helped me in teaching and school principalship for 33 years. Deciding on a MA degree dissertation was not difficult. I selected the "Distribution of Petroleum Products by Pipeline," and they agreed. Now I read a major pipeline is proposed between Canada and Cushing and down to the TX coast. Could that be another thesis? My wife and I have traveled all over the world, and my geography knowledge was very helpful and brought the printed page alive. I read with great interest what retired OSU professor James Stovall had to say in the OK Observer Aug. 10th. Global warming? Yes, it is the crazy weather on page 8. Reminds me of the dust bowl days. Keep up the good work. Remember, geography makes life much more interesting.



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Alumni News & Memories

Pamela Skraastad-Journey (M.S. 2006) is the Project Coordinator for Red Plains Professional, Inc. Based in Edmond, Oklahoma, Red Plains is a Native-American owned civil engineering firm that specializes in tribal transportation. I marked my 4th anniversary with the company this summer by receiving the GISP certification. Red Plains works with tribes across the western United States. The technical side of my job has me using GIS software every day, undertaking research and writing environmental assessments for road and bridge designs. The public relations side of my job has me developing and teaching ArcGIS training courses and traveling to various tribal events. In March, I presented at the Navajo DOT Conference in Phoenix. The next months include tribal training in the Oklahoma Tribal Transportation Summit in Catoosa and the National Tribal Transportation Conference in Nashville. We are looking at doing some training in the Pacific Northwest soon.

In addition to office responsibilities, I also serve as Outreach Coordinator for Oklahoma SCAUG (South Central ArcUsers Group), and on a personal note, David and I have two precious little girls. The first was born three months before defending my master's thesis in 2006. She starts Kindergarten this year. The second was born this past December. The company was gracious enough to allow me to work from home for six months. Now, I'm back to being a working mom and relishing the fun that comes with juggling work responsibilities and child care.

Contact information is listed below:

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Jim Sturdevant (M.S. 1979): I have been working for POET, the ethanol company, in Sioux Falls, SD, for over four years. I am the director of the project to design, build, and operate a commercial-scale biorefinery that makes ethanol from "cellulose" or biomass. There are over 1 billion tons of available biomass in the US every year (it's renewable!!) so that, if converted to transportation fuel, we could eliminate our need for foreign oil. There is no commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant operating today. We plan to start operations in two years. We don't need to be first; we just want to get it right. Prior to working at POET, I worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for 22 years. I married Diane Arshem in 1980 and we are still hitched (to each other). Two kids: Anna, age 23, a grad student at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, and David, age 22, a senior at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. My memories of OSU Geography from 1978-79 include the kindness of Bob and Lisa Springer, the hospitality of John Rooney's family, John's wicked-good golf game, the good ol' boy Bob Norris, the Michael Caine-like Keith Harries, and an overall warm and welcoming atmosphere. A good place to get a good education.



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Alumni News & Memories

Jay Tiefenthaler: I am going on my 4th year as an adjunct faculty member at Des Moines Area Community College, Urban and Boone Campuses. I teach courses in Regional Geography of the Non-West World, Regional Geography of the Developed World, Introduction to Geography, and Environmental Science lecture and lab. I am working with my department head to develop courses in Environmental Geography and an Introduction to GIS course as well. In addition to this I recently started working as a private consultant with Wahoo, Nebraska based JEO Consulting Group, Inc., where I am doing a variety of services ranging from community and regional planning to hazard mitigation. Collectively, my educational and professional experience at Oklahoma State has been a tremendous benefit to my career. Thank you to all! Additionally, my two daughters are growing up fast. They are both active in sports year-round, and I have been fortunate to coach them both in club level softball programs. I still remain active running, biking, strength-training and just trying to keep up with my daughters. I hope to make it back to Stillwater soon so I can visit the new location at Murray Hall, and most importantly, visit with the Geography faculty and staff. Hello to all and best of luck this coming year!

Gretchen A. Zdorkowski teaches in the Iowa State University Department of Agronomy. She teaches Global Food Issues and Sustainable Agriculture during the school year and leads two graduate level field courses during the intersessions. One is a two week Agro-system Analysis Class, and the other is a Foundations of Sustainable Agriculture class. She also leads international classes, and spent 3 weeks in Rome this summer, leading a class in a project for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Todd Zdorkowski (COE M.S. 1989) is the Associate Director of the Midwest Forensic Resource Center, located in the USDoe Ames Laboratory, on the Iowa State University campus. The MFRC provides support services to publicly funded forensic laboratories. The core group of forensic laboratories participating in the MFRC is from the Midwest, but special projects engage the MFRC with crime labs around the nation. As part of his duties, Todd has organized and held over 70 specialized classes for forensic scientists.

Necrology

Dr. Alfred "Al" Robertson (Ed.D. 1978), died on March 3, 2010 at the age of 74. After a career in the Air Force as a cryptographer he began a career as a geography educator and climatologist and completed his doctorate at Oklahoma State University in 1978. He was advised by Keith Harries, and Steve Tweedie also served on his doctoral committee. Dr. Robertson served a long career at Southeast Missouri State University. He also served as President of the Missouri Council for Geographic Education (1963-1964), and was elected Secretary (1983-1986), Treasurer (1986-1989) and President of the Missouri Academy of Science (1992-1993). He was elected fellow of the organization in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, and daughters Alana (husband Marc) Moehlman and Beth (husband Chad) Potokar. He was very proud of having a degree from Oklahoma State - he was truly a Cowboy!

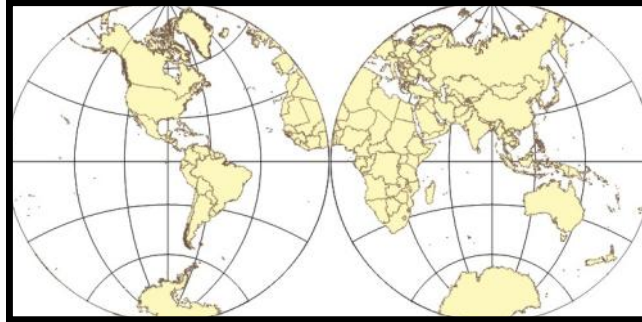


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The mission of the Department of Geography is to advance geography instruction, research and outreach, to promote and maintain a growing statewide workforce skilled in geographic research and applications. We strive to achieve national and international 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.