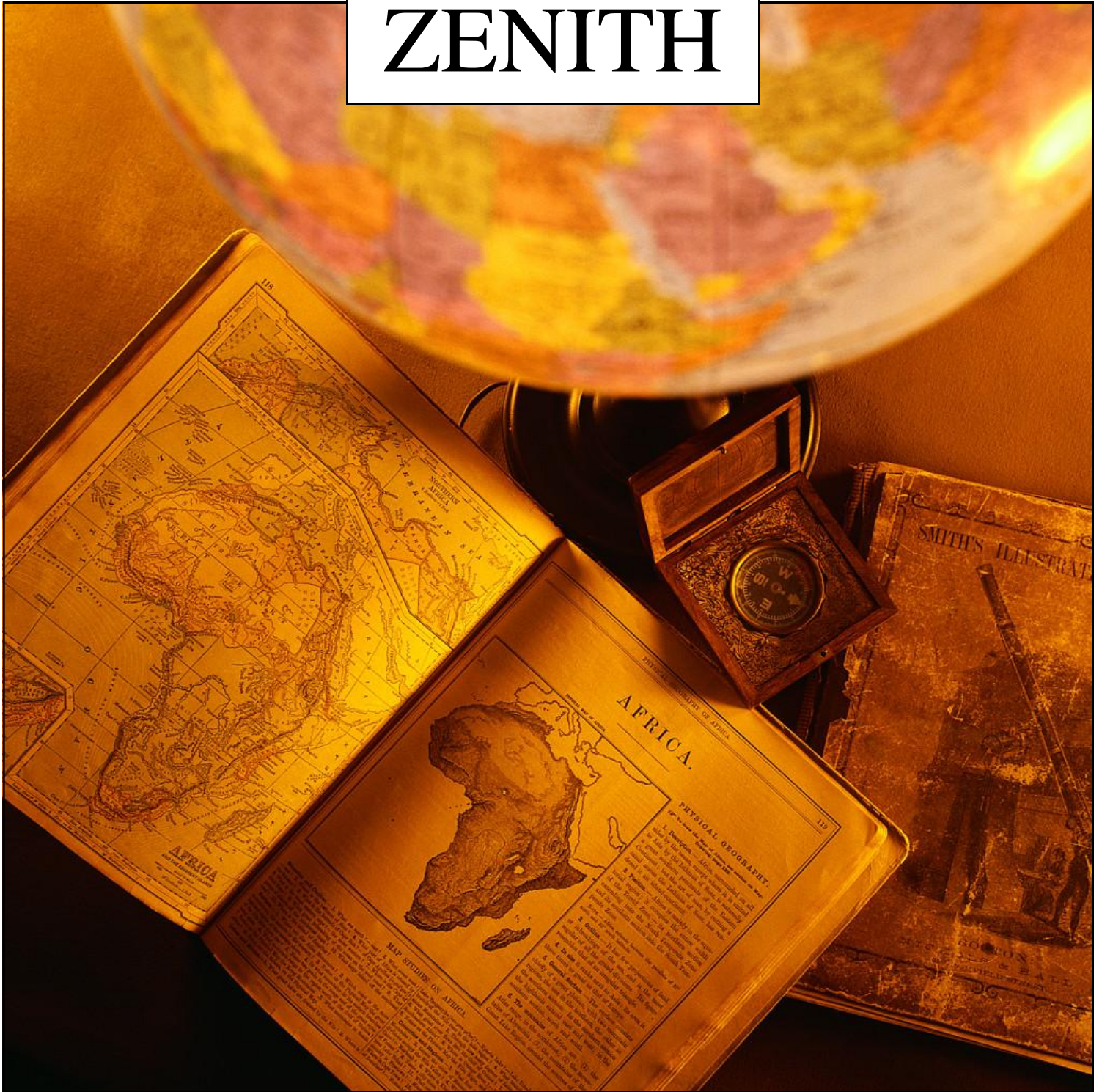




ZENITH



2012

Department of Geography



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A Letter From The Head of the Department

Dear alumni and friends of Geography,

Another good year is mostly behind us and we want to reach out to you with another issue of the Zenith before closing out 2012. We enjoy sharing our Department of Geography and its accomplishments, we always appreciate the news that you share with us, and we hope that you enjoy this edition.

Every faculty member in the department is dedicated to inspirational teaching and all remain actively engaged in research and outreach activities in Oklahoma, around the country 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, presentation, and outreach over the past year in Oklahoma and several U.S. states and in Korea, Mexico, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom, Australia, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, China, Ukraine, South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana. We are especially pleased that Rebecca Sheehan was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, and thankful for the contributions of Alyson Greiner for the establishment of a new Undergraduate Travel Scholarship. Yolonda Youngs (Visiting Assistant Professor) left for Idaho State University after working in our department for the past three years and we welcomed John Davenport as a new Visiting Assistant Professor. After a year of service to Geography as our administrative assistant, Sara Penn left OSU and we welcomed her replacement, Emily Williams, to our Geography home.

We are proud of our many Geography undergraduate and masters students who graduated, and we sent our 8th and 9th and 10th Ph.D. graduates into the world of academe over the past year (Jasper Dung to Alabama State University, Hawta Al-Khayyat to Salahaddin University in Iraq, and Shireen Hyrapiet to Oregon State University). Several of our students and faculty were recognized with honors or competitive awards over the past year. Assistant Professor Jackie Vadjunec was awarded the 2012 Regent's Distinguished Teaching Award for the College of Arts and Sciences; high accolades for the impact that she has had on her students in field courses, her graduate students, and the geography majors she advises for our program. Tom Wikle is the International First Vice President of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Geography honorary society. Doctoral candidate Siewe Siewe completed his dissertation fieldwork in Cameroon supported by a NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant that he received with his advisor, Dr. Vadjunec (see Geographers in the Field in this issue). We are very proud of masters students Diya Paul, who received 2nd place in the Social Sciences category at the 2012 Graduate Student Research Symposium at OSU in February, and Dustin Holt who won 1st place in the poster competition at the South Central Arc Users Group in Moore, OK in September.

Enjoy the news from contributors to this Zenith, and we hope to hear from you before the next edition. Several alumni and friends visited us in Murray Hall during the past year (see page 23). We look forward to seeing you, too, when your travels bring you back to Oklahoma State.

All the best,



Dale Lightfoot
Professor and Head

Blast From the Past



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(L to R) George Carney, Steve Stadler, Steve Walsh, Dick Hecock, La Quinta Hotel, San Antonio AAG 1982



Geography end-of-year and awards party, May 2000

Staff and Faculty News



Standing (L-R): Michael Larson, Jianjun Ge, Bruce Battles, Jacqueline Vadjunec, Hongbo Yu, Matthew Miller, Alyson Greiner, John Davenport, Steve Stadler, Rebecca Sheehan, Reuel Hanks, April Chipman, Carlos Cordova, Emily Williams
Seated (L-R): Brad Bays, Allen Finchum, Dale Lightfoot, Jon Comer, and Tom Wikle
Missing: Ann Adkins

ANN ADKINS missed the department photo this year while at the National Scrabble Championship in Orlando, Florida. She finished in the middle of the pack again in her division, but she considers that to be better than being at the bottom! In addition to her addiction to words, Ann enjoys outdoor activities with her husband and grandsons.

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 Siewe Siewe, and Yanxia Wu who served as Graduate Teaching Lab Assistants and helped maintain the two GIS computer labs for classes and student use.

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 2013 he will have examined 66 of the state's 77 counties--all but Southeastern Oklahoma. In the central and western part of the state, he visited about 3,000 properties, recorded around 1,500 of them, and logged over 25,000 road miles. Brad uses historical GIS, aerial imagery, and GPS to locate historic barns, then photograph and record them for the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, the state's archive of the cultural landscape housed in the Oklahoma Historical Society. His reports are culminating in a cultural geography of Oklahoma barns, including an analysis of types, construction features, conditions, and their spatial patterns. This year Brad also prepared two National Register nominations for barns he located in 2011--one in Kay County and another in Texas County. While he was surveying central and south-central Oklahoma, Brad recorded a dozen log barns, including a very large and very rare four-crib log barn constructed of hewn logs and possessing square corner-notching (see *Geographers in the Field* in this issue). Brad and Sharon Bays have two children. Daughter Lydia is a senior at Stillwater High School—she plays percussion for the band, takes OSU classes, and works as a barista at a local coffee shop. Son Luke is a sixth-grader who raises guppies, plays on a football team that has gone undefeated for two years, and enjoys all kinds of outdoor adventures with his dad.



APRIL CHIPMAN was hired as a GIS Specialist in December 2011 by the OSU Cartography Services to manage the projects from the AAPG-OSU GIS Consortium. April received her BS and MS from the OSU Geography Department and has had a wide variety of jobs in between and since her degrees. She is a welcome addition to the Department.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. JON COMER stayed busy in 2011-12 by doing the sorts of things professors are expected to do – research, teaching, and service. In fall 2011 he had a paper published in the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* relating highway quality to economic indicators. He submitted three other manuscripts in early 2012, one of which has already been accepted for the 2012 *Papers of the Applied Geography Conference* (in Minneapolis in October 2012). That paper is based on the research on the physical traits of Oklahoma highways (grade, geometry, and design) that contribute to fatal accidents. This research was funded by a \$200,000 Oklahoma Transportation Center research grant employing two Ph.D.-level graduate research assistants, Leo Bombom and Nick Rose, who are also co-authors on the paper with more to follow.

In terms of service, Jon spent the first six months of 2012 serving as Interim Department Head while Dale Lightfoot was on sabbatical and continued to serve as Coordinator of Graduate Studies for a second year. In addition, he remains inextricably 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. He still teaches the quantitative methods courses in the department (3333, 5303, 6303), meteorology in summer school, and honors world regional geography every other year.

In July 2012 Jon enjoyed another trip of a lifetime, celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary early with Shannon by spending two weeks in Italy touring Rome, Florence, Pisa, Venice, and Lake Maggiore, plus a few other side trips. Daughter Alex (OSU junior) and son Eric (SHS senior) were not happy being left home! Jon is also planning a study-abroad tour with Tom Wikle to Germany in May 2013.

DR. CARLOS CORDOVA: During the past year, as usual, Carlos dedicated a great deal of time to his research projects in North America, the Middle East, Crimea and Southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia and Botswana).

Two of the most important of his publications this year appeared in two different issues of *Quaternary International*. The first one is titled *C₃ grass and Restionaceae phytoliths as potential proxies for reconstructing winter rain in South Africa*. The other one is *Interglacial and glacial desert refugia and the Middle Paleolithic of the Azraq Oasis, Jordan*. The first article is part of a long-term project that aims at using graminoid opal phytoliths as proxies for reconstructing past climates and biomes.

Carlos and his Canadian research collaborators were awarded a substantial grant from the Social Science and Humanities Council of Canada to continue work on the Paleolithic of the Azraq Oasis in the Jordanian Desert. To be able to take OSU students to the field to work on this project, Carlos applied to the National Science Foundation for a supplementary grant.

Closer to home, Carlos and colleagues from U. Texas and KU are in the process of presenting (at the AAG next year) and publishing data for 17,000 years of vegetation history around Hall's Cave, Kerr Co., Texas. The data include pollen, opal phytoliths, carbon stable isotopes and a number of proxies for fire and herbivore density. Carlos's book manuscript *Crimea: nature, environmental history and conservation* will go to the publisher for review at the end of the Fall 2012.

During the past year Carlos taught Climate Change: Past Present and Future, the highly popular Biogeography, Geography of Arid Lands and an honor section of Introduction to Physical Geography. Currently, Carlos is advising two master's students and co-advising a PhD. The time used for research and teaching leaves Carlos with very little time for other things, except for a few sporto-cultural interests that are not mentioned here for lack of space.



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Staff and Faculty News



DR. JOHN DAVENPORT recently joined the Department of Geography as a Visiting Assistant Professor after working for the Montana Natural Heritage Program through the University of Montana. He has academic interests in Natural Resource Conservation especially as it relates to the environmental and cultural aspects of Ecosystem Restoration projects. He has regional interests in the American West and East Asia. John received his PhD from the University of Kentucky, his MA from California State University, Northridge, and his BA from the University of Oklahoma.

DR. ALLEN FINCHUM continued his longstanding work with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office during 2012 as well as working on some other small research projects of personal interest. Allen is still grateful for the support that both Mike Larson and Bruce Battles give to the SHPO project and its ongoing success. One of the more personal projects was an investigation of the spatial impact of the Clinchfield Railroad in the southern Appalachian Mountains. The Clinchfield was founded in Allen's hometown of Johnson City, TN and is the only railroad whose primary path cuts across the Appalachians rather than running between the various ridge formations. He attended both the ESRI Annual Meeting and the AAG. His son Curtis continues as a student at OSU, and Tanya continues her work with the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program.

DR. JIANJUN GE studies land use/cover and climate changes using remote sensing. He teaches remote sensing and GIS in the department. In the past year he has received new funding to support his research. One project is funded by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. The primary goal of this project is to use remote sensing and a predictive model to study potential habitat of the Lesser Prairie Chicken in the Southern Great Plains. The other project was recently funded by Oklahoma Water Resource Research Institute and he is a Co-PI: Quantitative assessment of climate variability and land surface change on streamflow decrease in the upper Cimarron River. This project is to improve our understandings of how climate, land use and land cover changes, and human activities have collectively affected streamflow. Dr. Ge will help to develop land use data from historical aerial photos. In spring he went to New York City for the AAG 2012. In summer he attended two conferences in China and the ESRI Users' Conference in San Diego. His son Jeffrey was with him during the China trip. They went to Chengdu in southwest China which has a research base of the Giant Panda. They had an opportunity to hold a three-year-old 40-pound real panda. Both of them were very excited.

Dr. Ge had a paper accepted by the *Journal of Remote Sensing* with his student as the lead author. This paper studies switchgrass cultivars and nitrogen treatment using hyperspectral remote sensing data. He has another paper submitted to the *Journal of Climate* which looks at the climatic impacts of woody plant encroachment in the Southern Great Plains.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. ALYSON GREINER: An unexpected highlight of the year turned out to be a side trip taken while attending the AAG meeting in New York city. On a blustery February day, Luis and I trekked up to the Cloisters in northern Manhattan. There we discovered Fort Tryon Park and the hilly bluffs along the Hudson River, where, much to our surprise, lots of purple crocuses were already in bloom. We were not far from the island's northern tip and had reached one of the highest spots on Manhattan, topographically speaking that is. We enjoyed taking in the panoramic views. Across the river, the New Jersey bluffs remain undeveloped in part because of Rockefeller's desire, foresight, and financial wherewithal to preserve a viewshed. This little excursion provided a great escape from the hustle and bustle of Midtown Manhattan and the AAG meeting. Speaking of the AAG, Alyson completed her third and final year as SWAAG Regional Councillor. She also wrapped up her service as AAG Regional Division Chair.

Alyson continued to mentor an undergraduate geography major (and now a graduate student) at LSU, Amelia Ley, who was conducting research on the origins of priests in Louisiana between 1850 and 1920. Amelia's research on Louisiana extends some of Alyson's previous research on priests in Oklahoma. And, no, neither of us is Catholic. We presented a paper together at the SWAAG meeting in Austin and enjoyed a delightful vegan breakfast at Austin's iconic Kerby Lane Cafe.

Alyson also worked with doctoral candidate and lead author, Shireen Hyrapiet on a manuscript on Calcutta's rickshaw pullers that is forthcoming in the *Geographical Review*. Earlier in the year, Alyson was invited to contribute a book chapter on sacred space and globalization for *The Changing World Religion Map*, edited by Stan Brunn. She enjoyed working on that paper, which enabled her to explore some different facets of the geography of religion.

On the home front, Luis assumed the mantle of Chair of the Department of Chemistry at UCO this summer. He will serve a four-year sentence, I mean term. To ready him for his new responsibilities, we took a short jaunt to northern New Mexico, gorged on red and green chile, got attacked by fire ants in one remote cemetery (at least Alyson did; bugs love her), and toured the enthralling O'Keefe Country. Then we learned that Luis won UCO's Vanderford Initiative Award for Leadership. All in all, it has been an exciting year!

DR. REUEL HANKS: The past year was an eventful one in the Hanks household. In the fall of 2011 Reuel, Oydin, Kami and Kami's Grandma, Frances, all relocated to Canberra, Australia for six weeks, while Reuel was a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Australian National University. Everyone enjoyed the 15 hour non-stop flight between Dallas and Brisbane, especially Kami, who never cried once and made lots of new friends at Qantas airlines. On the other hand, Reuel screamed and cried often and frequently demanded to know from the flight attendants "Are we there yet?" In the country it was discovered that Kami is not a great fan of kangaroos, but was fascinated by the long-tailed possum that lived in a box outside her grandmother's apartment, as well as the rabbits, parrots and cockatoos that populate the grounds of the university. And due to the magic of the Internet, Reuel was able to stay up with every pitch as the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series, as well as wagering and winning a small amount on a certain horse in the Melbourne Cup, with the assistance of his Aussie friends.



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Staff and Faculty News

In late October Reuel's latest book, co-authored with Steve Stadler, the *Encyclopedia of Geography Terms, Themes and Concepts* was published by ABC-CLIO, Ltd. His chapter on Samarkand in the book *Places of Encounter* appeared in December, and a book chapter on Islam and civil society in Central Asia was accepted for a forthcoming volume from Lexington Press.

Returning to OSU in the spring, Reuel put his sabbatical experience to good use, presenting two papers at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association in San Diego in April, as well as serving as discussant on another panel. He was nominated and subsequently elected to serve as President of the Post-Communist Systems section of the ISA for a two-year term. POSTCOM has approximately 170 members, and sponsors 15 panels at the annual meeting. In May, Reuel got the good news that he had been awarded grant funding from IREX to participate in the Embassy Specialist program, and will be conducting research in Kazakhstan in the spring. The big news for Oydin is that she expects to defend her dissertation in the spring of 2013. But Kami outperformed everyone in the family by learning to count to ten, learning all her colors, and (sort of) learning to swim, proving all the while that the "terrible twos" are not so terrible.

DR. DICK HECOCK (Professor Emeritus): I recently began my 20th year of retirement from OSU geography. A second career involves the Pelican River Watershed District, an agency overseeing water quality and other attributes of about 25 lakes in northern Minnesota (www.prwd.org). And I'm pretty involved in community projects, though there is usually some time for boating, gardening, wood-cutting, trail-clearing and skiing. We travel quite a lot - Russia and Cuba last fall, and a springtime tour of some of the high desert parks in Utah and Colorado, and a visit to the horrors of the North Dakota oil-patch. I attended the AAG meeting in New York, free, thanks to my 50-year membership button, and the fact that daughter Bess and grand-kids live in Brooklyn. Son Doug teaches Political Science at Bucknell University, where some of his best friends are geographers. Georgia continues her priestly duties at the local Episcopal Church.

MICHAEL LARSON: November 2012 will start Michael's seventeenth year as Coordinator of Cartography Services. While Michael performs extraordinary work for the faculty members and students of the Department of Geography, he also continues to support faculty, staff and students from other departments on campus as well as work for various entities, large and small, public and private, off campus. Michael's focus is on two major project areas, his work for the Association of American Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), and his role directing the data collection field work for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Oklahoma Landmark Inventory (OLI) database update. Continuing his role as an educator, Spring 2013, will see Michael's eleventh 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: *A strange year has come and a strange year has gone and no stranger one ever has strained your Lat-Lon.* Fall 2011 was filled with the usual fun of a “normal” semester (if there is such a thing) before leaving on sabbatical during the spring semester. After 35 flights and overland travel through 20 countries I closed out my first sabbatical experience and returned home. Most of my five months away from Stillwater were spent engaged in field research in the Canary Islands (Spain), funded by the National Geographic Society, to examine the nature, history and use of traditional water management, with a focus on the subterranean water systems (qanats) that were reported to exist in the islands. Before fieldwork began I traveled through northeast Africa (Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea) and Dubai while awaiting a conference in Iran. After my visa to Iran was denied (something about being an American), I filled the conference week with a hastily arranged and amazing trip through Sri Lanka. Almost four months of fieldwork in the beautiful Canaries began with a fun orientation trip through the islands with Bill Doolittle (The U. of Texas). Fieldwork was put on hold for a two week vacation in April with my wife in central Europe, and it ended with a Land Rover trip in June through the outback of Mauritania. In the meantime, research was completed, beaches explored, and I returned to the department to finish writing and returned to administration July 1 for another three-year term as Department Head. A book chapter on the “History and Geography of Karez in Northern Iraq” was published in early 2012 in *Qanat In It’s Cradle* and another book chapter remains in press in UNESCO’s upcoming series on the *History of Water and Civilization* (for early 2013 publication). I also presented papers at La Laguna University in Tenerife (Spain) and produced technical reports on the assessment of groundwater sustainability for the Iran conference and on qanats in the Canary Islands for National Geographic. Adam (son) is working full time in Edmond, OK and planning to return to OSU in the near future. Tory (wife) works as Manager of Research Support Services in the College of Arts & Sciences at OSU and is nearing the finish line on her dissertation.

DR. MATTHEW MILLER: With one year at OSU under his belt, Matthew spent the summer pursuing his interests in geographic visualization, prepping a manuscript for publication on ways to conceptualize the dispersal of pollen and seed, and visiting family in his home state of Vermont. During the course of the preceding year Matthew published a paper on how the urban expansion of Atlanta impacted the forest matrix that surrounds and permeates the city in the journal *Applied Geography*. His interest in landcover led him to create animations on the themes of landcover, elevation, transportation, and rivers for all 50 states and Puerto Rico and make them available through his profile on the department website. Although his trip to Vermont was primarily to visit with family members, Matthew was perfectly happy to take a respite from the impressive summer heat that Oklahoma has been so kind to display for the past couple of years. Together with the strongest recorded earthquake in Oklahoma history, the state has put on quite a show for Matthew in his short time here. Matthew looks forward to continuing his research into conceptual modeling this year and plans to help represent the Geography Department at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles in the spring.

DR. REBECCA SHEEHAN’S work with marginalized and nonmainstream geographies has resulted in Dr. Sheehan being asked by sociologists, Beth Schaefer Caniglia (PI) and Tamara Mix (Co-PI), to be Co-PI on the project, “Food Security and Native American Peoples.” To fund this project, we were awarded the Oklahoma State University-Native American Partnership Planning Grant from The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (\$50,000) to research Native American food knowledge, ways, opportunities, and obstacles. We will provide the USDA a valuable report from which action plans to address food security issues may be developed. Two Native American Oklahoma State University students (one undergraduate, one graduate) are participating and funded through our research. This project is the first step in comprehensively examining food security issues for Native Peoples in the United States.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. STEVE STADLER is working in his 33rd year at OSU. He continues to enjoy his job (except committee meetings). He is kept busy with classes, coordinating the physical geography course (400 students this fall), the Oklahoma Mesonet, and performing the duties of the State Geographer. He continues to be active in Oklahoma wind power research and outreach and recent co-authored publications have included an article in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* and a wind energy chapter in *Geography in the 21st Century*. On the home front, Steve's wife, Barbara remains as a math instructor at Northern Oklahoma College in Stillwater. Their son, John, and daughter-in-law Audrey have built a house in the Tulsa area; John is employed with Baker-Hughes in Tulsa. The elder Stadlers have adopted a young border collie who keeps the household active. Steve and Barb traveled to southern India in January where Steve gave a keynote speech at a renewable energy conference. In July they roamed (read that "cruised") around the western Mediterranean admiring the coastal physical geography of five countries.

Right: Steve Stadler at a temple in Segesta, Italy.



DR. STEPHEN TWEEDIE (Associate Professor Emeritus): Over the years we've heard stories of the strain friends have suffered in the process of building a new home. After 40 years in the same house, that's become our all-consuming activity for the past two years. In early November we'll be moving into Stillwater Senior Cohousing, a new community at a great location on north Husband, halfway between Stillwater High School and Boomer Lake. Just google Oakcreek Stillwater to check out the details. Once we've moved there are many advantages, such as less home and yard care. Plus having close neighbors to watch our place while we're gone two to three months each year visiting Ann's family in Edinburgh, Scotland and David's in Ocracoke Island, NC. The downside is the downsizing, moving from 2,000 to 1,100 square feet. The easy part was getting rid of stuff we haven't used since we retired, like course notes and "office" clothes. The next step was trying to give stuff (art items) to Ann & David, but neither have room for anything. David had good advice: "These things have meaning and memories to you, but not for us. Take a photo so you'll have the memory and get rid of it." So now we're down to the hard decisions, of the stuff we like, what do we really need and have room for. Any spare time goes to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity or Mobile Meals; to keep sane there's tennis, handball, and poker.

DR. JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: I continue to work on a variety of human-environment issues in the Americas, and I am currently finishing up an edited volume on *Land Change Science, Political Ecology and Sustainability: Synergies and Divergences* (co-edited with Christian Branstromm from TAMU) for Earthscan/Routledge. I spent most of the summer exploring various people-environment issues in grasslands in Montana, New Mexico, and the Oklahoma Panhandle continuing my research on issues related to land-use, vulnerability, and resiliency, especially under drought conditions.

The field trips with students continue. Last Fall, the students of my Field Techniques class went to the Osage Hills State Park/Pawhuska to work on various mapping and research projects for the Oklahoma State Parks Office of Tourism, the Pawhuska Chamber of Commerce, and the Osage Nation. In the Spring, students from the GPS and Mixed Methods classes worked on projects with officials from the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.



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Staff and Faculty News

DR. TOM WIKLE is in his 24th year as a faculty member at OSU and his 13th in the A&S Deans Office where he serves as associate dean. In 2011 Tom and colleagues in the OSU Center for Disasters and Extreme Events published an article in the *International Journal of Emergency Management* reporting on social vulnerability research tied to Hurricane Katrina. As a follow-up to the previous summer's fieldwork, Tom and colleague Todd Fagin (former OSU faculty member) published an administrative history of U.S. National Grasslands in *FOCUS in Geography*. Along with teaching honors physical geography during the Fall, Tom taught a course on GIS in Emergency Management at the Korean National Fire Academy in Cheonan, South Korea. A mid-October side trip took him to central Asia where he visited Mongolia's capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Traveling by Land Cruiser, Tom continued west to see Karakorum, ancient capital of the Mongol Empire. In May Tom traveled to south Asia with stops in Sri Lanka, India and Nepal. A general strike in Katmandu shut down public transportation for all four days of Tom's visit. In July Tom departed for the UK to team-teach a course on travel writing at Cambridge University's Magdalene College. On a side trip, Tom wandered the streets of Copenhagen, Demark. Day-trips included a train ride to Malmö, Sweden and a visit to Kronborg Castle (made famous by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*). In January 2013 Tom will begin a two-year term as International President of Gamma Theta Upsilon (Geography's Honor Society). Tom's wife Missy is Director of the Office of New Student Orientation at OSU. Their daughter Paige (20) is a sophomore at OSU and a member of the Phi Phi Sorority. A senior at Stillwater High, Garrett (18) is taking concurrent courses at OSU.



EMILY WILLIAMS joined the Geography Department in July as Senior Administrative Support Assistant after 15 years as a church secretary. Emily is married to Tom—who is semi-retired and drives OSU transit buses, Stillwater Public School buses and occasionally a BOB. Tom and Emily have one son, Bryn (pronounced like Lynn), 20, who is a Political Science/History major and a Russian minor here at OSU. Anything you might or might not want to know about Bryn, she'll be glad to tell you! Emily was born and reared in Oklahoma and graduated from OSU back in the Dark Ages with a degree in French and a teaching minor in social studies and Spanish. She taught French, Spanish and World and American Histories at a small country school near Ardmore for several years before attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.A.R.E.). Tom graduated from OSU with a degree in Business Administration. Needless to say, their blood runs Orange! When Emily isn't at work she enjoys traveling/planning travel, reading, watching movies, trying to convert new recipes to sugar-free, and cooking/baking. She also enjoys women's ministry and missions work and singing in the choir of her church.

DR. HONGBO YU continues to enjoy his time in the department. In the past year, two students finished their M.S. degrees under Hongbo's supervision. Mr. Yun Zhao, who completed his Master's thesis on evaluating the impact of potential bridge collapse on road network vulnerability in Oklahoma in the fall of 2011, came back to pursue a Ph.D. degree in the department after working half a year in a GIS company. In the spring of 2012, Mr. Matt Flynn, a Master's student of International Studies, finished his creative component project on developing a program to encourage walking and cycling among students at Kendall-Whittier Elementary school in Tulsa. Hongbo enjoyed working with both of them and guiding them with their research. In April 2012, as a co-PI, Hongbo started working on an Oklahoma Transportation Center project, which is aimed at developing a GIS-based decision support system for road closures in flash flood emergencies. Ms. Qinyue (Arlene) Pan, a Ph.D. student in the department, is currently supported by this project and works as a graduate research associate to help Hongbo complete the GIS and transportation analysis components. Early this year, Hongbo welcomed a brand new family member, Emily Yu. The arrival of his daughter keeps Hongbo on a very busy schedule, but he is totally enjoying it!

Graduate Student News

MASTER'S STUDENTS:

Carson Bode
Thomas Cox
Stephanie Eades
Matt Haffner
Keeley Heise
Dustin Holt
Allan Janus
Stephanie Koehn
Scott Kusselson
Junlong Liu
Katherine Mentzel
Matthew O'Neill
Jennifer Sebesta
Joe Thomas
Sean Thomas
William Van Ness
Daniel Wilson

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Leonard Bombom
Steven Ericson
William Flynn
Robert Garrett
Amy Graham
Stephanie Heald
William Holly
Shireen Hyrapiet
Nguyen Le
Weiping Li
Victoria Lightfoot
Stuart McAllister
William McBrayer
Qinyue Pan
Adam Payne
Justin Plymell
Nick Rose
Siewe Siewe
Christopher Storm
Aswin Subanthore
Yanxia Wu
Ramin Zamanian
Yun Zhao



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Graduate Student News

CARSON BODE: I'm a graduate student from Stillwater Oklahoma. I'm currently working on dendroclimatology with Dr. Carlos Cordova of the Geography Dept. and Dr. Steve Hallgren of the Natural Resource and Ecology Management (NREM) Dept. in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR). I'm also assembling material for a travel guide targeted at persons with insulin dependent diabetes.

THOMAS COX: I am a single parent of two from Claremore, Oklahoma, and I am a first year Master's student in my first semester. I received my Bachelors of Science Degree in Geography and GIS certificate here at Oklahoma State University in May of 2012. My interest is in geoaerchaeology. I am living proof that you are never too old to learn.

STEVEN ERICSON is a native of Marietta, GA, and is currently a fifth-year doctoral student. He became a doctoral candidate in July 2012 following his proposal defense on the topic of Georgia State University's interaction with downtown Atlanta from 1990 to the present. Steven's research covers the university's economic impact, the historical crime patterns around the campus, and the sense of community GSU has developed through the promotion of athletics. He is entering his second year of teaching cultural geography, and lists urban, cultural, and sport geography among his research interests.

ROBERT GARRETT: I am a fourth-year Ph.D. student from Tulsa, OK. I received both my Bachelor and Master degrees from Oklahoma State University, in History and International Studies respectively. My academic interests are in cultural geography, immigration, and qualitative research methods. I am a Graduate Teaching Associate and I currently instruct World Regional Geography (GEOG 2253). I enjoy teaching as it gives me an opportunity to continually learn more about the world, plus it helps me hone my classroom management skills. I also enjoy travel and language study. I spent the last summer break living in Bangkok, Thailand. While in Thailand I enrolled and completed a two month long intensive language course. The language course was both challenging and fun, plus my Thai language proficiency improved substantially over the course of the summer. Additionally, while in Thailand I conducted interviews with Thai citizens about spirit houses and religious practices. This was a continuation of fieldwork I first began in Chiang Mai, Thailand in the summer of 2010. Presently, I am in the process of transcribing, coding and analyzing my interviews and data, with the intention to write a final report or article for publication. Next semester, I hope to successfully defend my dissertation proposal. In the summer of 2013 I plan to relocate to Bangkok, Thailand and begin my fieldwork related to Western expatriates. As a side note, I created a personal blog (worldofrob.com), which highlights some of my travels and adventures. Be sure to check it out! Although I will admit the blog has been somewhat neglected this semester. But I hope to add more content soon!

AMY GRAHAM is a fourth 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.

MATTHEW HAFFNER: I am a first year graduate student pursuing a Masters of Science in Geography. I recently graduated from Pittsburg State University with a double major in math and geography. My interests include economic geography, transportation geography, urban geography, mathematical modeling, and applications of graph theory.



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Graduate Student News

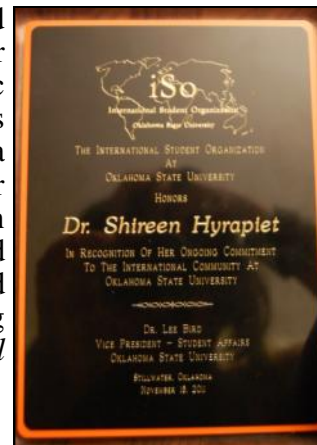
STEPHANIE HEALD: I am currently pursuing my PhD and am in the first semester of the program. I attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University during my undergraduate studies. I graduated with a degree in Social Studies Education with a minor in Geography and History in 2008. From 2010 to 2012, I attended the University of North Texas. At UNT I researched The Spatial Distribution of HIV and AIDS survival in Dallas and Harris Counties, Texas and I received my Master's Degree in Applied Geography in May of 2012. My current research interests involve Native American health and healthcare in Oklahoma.

KEELEY HEISE is in her second year of the Masters program. Her thesis research is focused on the vulnerability of the Northern Great Plains to a severe snowstorm or blizzard. Growing up in northeast Nebraska, she became very interested in snowfall and winter and its impact on people, especially after her hometown cancelled all Halloween festivities (including trick-or-treating) one year because of a blizzard. Spring semester is going to be a busy one for her with three trips planned. It will be more travel in 6 months than she has done in her entire life, and she could not be more excited. In spring 2012, she received the Robert Norris Conference Travel award that will help to offset the costs of two of those trips. Hoping to graduate this coming spring or summer, she is planning on continuing on through her doctoral degree with the ultimate goal of becoming a professor

DUSTIN HOLT won first place in the poster competition at the 15th Anniversary South Central Arc Users Group (SCAUG) in Moore Oklahoma in September 2012. The title of his project was "Creating a Historical Mosaic" based on a mosaic of Love County, Oklahoma using 1871 and 1899 U.S. Geological survey maps. As the winner of this award he also received a portable scanner. Congratulations, Dustin!

SHIREEN HYRAPIET successfully defended her dissertation and receives her PhD this Fall 2012. She accepted a position as Instructor of Geography with the College of Earth, Oceanic, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University where she currently teaches Geography of the Non-Western World, Geography of Latin America and Geography of Asia Baccalaureate classes. She is also a member of the College Advisory Committee and the Advisor for the Indian Student Association at Oregon State University. Shireen co-authored a paper with Dr. Alyson Greiner titled, "Calcutta's Hand-Pulled Rickshaws: Cultural Politics and Place Making in a Globalizing City," which was published in the October issue of the *Geographical Review*.

Shireen received an award from The International Student Organization at Oklahoma State University.



STEPHANIE KOEHN: In the second year of my masters I am pursuing research on my thesis on embodiment at the Kansas City and Texas Renaissance Festival. I will be conducting field work at both festivals this fall and in the fall of 2013 to collect data and interviews to answer questions of sensuality, identity, gender, performance and escapism which are related to embodiment. In the end I hope my research will bring a new geographical understanding to the space of these Renaissance festivals.

SCOTT KUSSELSON: Over the summer I got an internship at KAMO Power/ K-Powernet located in Vinita, OK working as a GIS Analyst inputting utility, fiber optic, and equipment data into their GIS database system. I also got the chance to do some field work by identifying the best route a fiber optic cable should take to a particular location. Currently I'm working part time while I finish up the master's program and will become full time in January.



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Graduate Student News

KATIE MENTZEL: I am in the second year of my master's, and I am currently finishing work on my thesis proposal, "Negotiating the Practice of Islam in U.S. Airports," under the guidance of Dr. Sheehan. I received the Norris Award for Outstanding First Year Master's Student and the Norris Field Research Award in May; these awards have helped fund field-work in Denver and Tulsa. Ultimately, I hope my research will answer questions regarding the creation of Islamic sacred space in airports and how Muslims practice their faith in public spaces.

QINYUE "ARLENE" PAN: The past school year is the first year I spent in Oklahoma as well as this university. As a new comer here, I made lots of friend and gradually got acquainted with the cowboy culture. Last year is a busy year because I took 5 required courses, all of which are at graduate level. Each of them was a big challenge for me. As an international student, I should on one hand try to understand what the teacher is talking about and make my best effort to express my thought clearly on the other hand. I had the experience of staying in my office from the evening till the next morning for the first time. Fortunately, I survived and passed all the classes. What will my new semester be like? I'm right here waiting.

NICK ROSE is a 2nd year Ph.D. student from Bethel, Ohio. He received his Master's from the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University in 2011. Nick also received the Fite Scholarship for 1st Year Ph.D. Students and a Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant. Nick's research interests include the cultural/historical geography of Appalachia. This interest includes how the development of the coal industry has influenced settlement and culture in Appalachia.

SIEWE SIEWE SIEWE: I am a 4th year PhD. Student from Cameroon, with a Master's degree from this department in 2007. My advisor is Dr. Jacqueline Vadjunec and my areas of interest are; human dimensions of global change, cultural and political ecology, climate change, remote sensing and GIS. I have spent the last 9 months doing field work in Cameroon and I am glad to be back with the department.

CHRISTOPHER STORM is a seventh-year Ph.D. student from Tampa, Florida. He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in geography from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2004 and 2006, respectively. His research interests include economic, electoral, education, and sports geography, with a recent emphasis on applied meteorology. He was awarded the Susan Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching Geography in 2009. Chris has taught Physical Geography, Earth Science, GIS Labs, Geography of Asia, and Sport, Place, and Society. He is currently working on his dissertation relating the effects of meteorological conditions on demand for professional baseball attendance.

ASWIN SUBANTHORE is a Ph.D. Candidate making progress with his field research in the Oklahoma City area studying Asian Indians using qualitative research methods. Besides research and teaching physical and cultural geography courses, he will celebrate his birthday month in October 2012 by attending two conferences in the same month--the Applied Geography Conference in Minneapolis and the Race, Place, and Ethnicity Conference in San Juan, Peurto Rico.

SEAN V. THOMAS: I am a first year Master's student from Stroud, Oklahoma. I received my undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University in Secondary Education/Social Studies in May of 2011. I am interested in cultural and historical geography.



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Graduate Student News

WILLIAM VAN NESS: I am from right here in Stillwater, OK, and I graduated from OSU with a B.S in Geography in 2011. My research interest is public transportation; mainly routing and accessibility of public transit systems. This is my second year here in the Geography Department. Soon, I will begin my research about the OSU-Stillwater Community Transit. I will study the effectiveness and accessibility of current routes and stops and determine if the system needs any changes such as new or altered routes to maximize access. I look forward to conducting my research and continuing to work with all of the people in this department.

DANIEL WILSON'S master's thesis fieldwork was conducted during the summer of 2011 in the Kaimosi Forest, Kenya. He conducted 12 key-informant interviews and 68 household surveys related to forest use, land use, community organization, and perception of local resource management rules. Drawing from common property theory, his study examines various factors previously identified with successful management practices of common property forest resources. This past February, Daniel presented a part of his thesis at the AAG in New York City titled, "The Role of Local Institutions on Deforestation in the Kaimosi Forest, Kenya." He was honored to be in a Sustainability Science session sponsored by the Applied Geography Affinity Group. Since February, Daniel has been writing his methods and results chapters and continuing to teach the Introduction to Physical Geography Lab. Currently, he is preparing to apply to several geography Ph.D. programs for the fall 2013 semester. Daniel is thankful for all the wonderful opportunities the department has given him over the years and looks forward to continuing his education in geography.



Daniel in NYC for the AAG conference this past February.

His first moments in NYC were spent taking a stroll through Central Park with his fabulous advisor Dr. Vadjunec. :)

YANXIA "LAURA" WU: Laura is in her second year of the Ph.D. program here at OSU Geography, and she doesn't have too much to say, except, "Stillwater's winter is coming. Hopefully, my winter is over."

RAMIN ZAMANIAN is a returning PhD student researching perceptions and discourse on the sustainability of airport development in New England. He recently reviewed the book entitled "A Landscape History of New England" for the *Journal of Cultural Geography*. In the last year as a Graduate Teaching Associate, Ramin has instructed Geog 2253: World Regional Geography and Geog 1113: Introduction to Cultural Geography during regular semesters and intercessions. He completed a term as Vice President of the Forum of Geography Graduate Students, and is currently serving as Vice President of both the OSU Gamma Theta Upsilon Honor Society and the OSU Cineculture Club. Ramin is also the moderator for the Listserv of the AAG's Cultural Geography Specialty Group (CGSG). Additionally, he plays an advisorial role in the CGSG's Landscape Photography Exhibit at national AAG conferences. Lastly, he has organized an Aviation Geography session, highlighted in the September 2012 AAG Newsletter, for the 2013 AAG meeting in Los Angeles.

YUN ZHAO: I am a first-year PhD student. I got my Master's degree here in August, 2011. After working as a GIS analyst in some utility/energy companies in Oklahoma City for more than half a year, I decided that I prefer getting further educated. That is why I came back and I am enjoying my "back-to-school" time.



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Forum of Geography Graduate Students

Hello all, my name is Nick Rose, and I am the President of the Forum of Geography Graduate Students (FOGG). FOGG's mission is to foster a dialog between the students and the faculty/staff. This dialog promotes professional growth and an improvement in all aspects of the graduate experience. This year FOGG sponsored an AAG practice session in February 2012. We are currently waiting on the final decision about new faculty candidates. When we get the word, FOGG and its members will take the candidates to lunch in order for the students to form an impression of each candidate.

Gamma Theta Upsilon - Chi Chapter

Angel Tree Kids

For the first time, the Chi Chapter adopted two Angel Tree Kids to help less privileged children to a happy holiday season. Oklahoma State University sponsors the Angel Tree program, which collects Christmas gifts for less privileged children. From the chapter's Keurig proceeds and donations from chapter members, we were able to provide several requested gifts for a young boy and girl.



AAG Practice Session

In coordination with the Forum of Geography Graduate Students (FOGG), the Chi Chapter sponsored an hour-long practice session for the 2012 AAG Annual Meeting. Three graduate students participated in the event, and received valuable feedback from those in attendance.

2011-12 Initiates

GTU officers for 2011-12 were Steven Ericson (President), Nick Rose (Vice President), Christopher Storm (Treasurer), Diya Paul (Secretary), and Matthew O'Neill (Historian). Drs. Tom Wikle and Rebecca Sheehan served as advisors to the Chi Chapter during this school year.

The following individuals were initiated into the Chi Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon: Kenneth H. Buff, Stephen Cary Cavnar, D. Shepard Cockrell, Thomas E. R. Cox, Rebecca Lynn Emmons, Catherine J. Ferrell, Christopher W. Gore, Clifton L. Hall, Keeley S. Heise, Alexandria N. Hubbard, Stephanie E. Koehn, Lee T. Johnson, Katherine E. Mentzel, Shane H. Millermon, Lindsay Rademakers, Sa O. Ross, Daniel T. Sherry, Justin R. Stroud, Meredith A. Walker, Connor A. Wenning, Samantha L. West, Jessica J. Wood, and Yanxia Wu.



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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 (AAPG). This year starts the fourth year of this multi-year funded project. The AAPG work is comprised of many smaller cartographic/GIS projects that vary in nature and complexity. The AAPG project is a large endeavor that consumes a lot of time and effort, but returns invaluable experience for the many students working at Cartography Services. To help achieve our project goals, Cartography Services has hired an additional staff member, April Chipman, to oversee the AAPG project work. April Chipman is a former graduate student (MS 2004) from the Department of Geography and once a student employee of Cartography Services. We all welcome April and hope her reign is long and productive.

In addition to the AAPG work, Cartography Services is also in its fourth year working with Dr. Allen Finchum on the SHPO project. This project, funded by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, 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 six student employees (one graduate and five 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, Shepard Cockrell, Alex Comer, Tom Cox, Alyssia Culbertson, Danielle Dear, Lindsay Fields, Clifton Hall, Jay Jump, Mary Niles, Chelsea Plunkett, Andrew Potter, and Jennifer Sebesta.

Center for Applications of Remote Sensing

It has been another busy year in the CARS lab. CARS partnered with Benchmark GPS and the Center for Local Government Technology to conduct a series of GIS and GPS classes attended by representatives from county and tribal governments. CARS is assisting Cartography Services with various projects from their agreement with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. In a continuing outreach effort, CARS and the department participated 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 Colloquia

- 10/10/2011 Department of Geography presents: Matthew Miller (OSU), *The impacts of Atlanta's Urban Sprawl on Forests: 1974-2005*.
- 11/4/2011 Arts & Sciences, Social Science Seminar Series and the Department of Geography presents: Karen Morin (BU), *Architectural Violence: USP Lewisburg and the Return of the Pre-Modern Prison*.
- 1/23/2012 Arts & Sciences, Social Science Seminar Series and the Department of Geography presents: Emilio Moran (IU), *Human-Environment Interactions, Land-Use and Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon*.
- 3/26/2012 Department of Geography presents Tweedie Travel Award Winners: Jay Jump (OSU), *Working in the Peruvian rainforest*, and Daniel Wilson (OSU), *A summer adventure in Western Kenya*.
- 4/16/2012 Department of Geography presents: Christian Brannstrom (TAMU), *Two hundred hectares of good business: Brazilian agriculture in a themed space*.
- 4/23/2012 Department of Geography presents: Shepard Cockrell (OSU), *A Review of Social Science Research on Homelessness in the Context of U.S. and Foreign Urban Renewal and Gentrification*

Journal of Cultural Geography

The *Journal of Cultural Geography* continues apace. The journal published a special issue: "In between Worlds: Place, Experience, and Research in Indigenous Geography" in February. Soren Larsen (University of Missouri) and Jay Johnson (University of Kansas) served as the guest editors. This special issue has been very well received.

In conjunction with the Cultural Geography Specialty Group (CGSG) of the AAG, the journal has been sponsoring a "Marquee Speaker" at each AAG meeting. At the AAG meeting in New York, the journal and the CGSG featured Julian Brash as the latest Marquee Speaker. Julian studies the relationships between urban imaginaries, city governance, and urban development. He spoke on "The Ghost in the Machine: The Neoliberal Urban Visions of Michael Bloomberg." His address was published in the June 2012 issue.

You can browse and download articles in the journal online via the OSU Library web site. You can also sign up for a journal alerting service. From this link (<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjcg20/current>), click on the "Alert Me" link below the journal cover. From the same link above, you can also track the most read and most cited articles.



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Certificates in GIS Earned

2011-2012:

Philip Pahl	Clinton Hall
Tom Cox	Colby Bachman
Matthew Hunter	AJ Foster

Bachelor's Degrees Earned

FALL 2011:

Ebo Essuman-Ocran

SPRING 2012:

Stephen Cavnar
Thomas Cox
Clifton Hall
Jay Jump
Sarah King
Randon Lowe

SUMMER 2012:

Charles Boellstorff
Phuthuma Dlamini

Master's Degrees Earned

SUMMER 2012:

Diya Paul
Advisor: Dale Lightfoot
Thesis: "Feasibility Analysis of Conservation Corridors Between the Eastern and Western Ghats in India"

Ph.D. Degrees Earned

SPRING 2012:

Elisha "Jasper" Dung
Advisor: Dale Lightfoot
Dissertation title: "Estimating Potential Carbon Sequestration in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Tracts in the Central High Plains of the United States."

Abdulkareem "Hawta" Khayyat
Advisor: Dale Lightfoot
Dissertation title: "Modeling Wind Power Potential in a Data-Poor Region: A Geographic Information Systems Model for Iraq"



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Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

2011-12 academic year:

Graduate Student Conference Travel Grants (\$500 each)
Nicholas Rose, Aswin Subanthore

Rooney Scholarship for Outstanding Junior (\$1,000)
Andrew C. Potter

A&S Outstanding Senior
Clifton Hall

Norris Scholarship for 1st Year Master's Student (\$1,000)
Katherine Mentzel

Fite Scholarship for 1st Year Ph.D. Student (\$1,000)
Nicholas Rose

Shaul Medal for Teaching Excellence (\$500)
Amy Graham

2012-13 academic year:

Norris Conference Travel Award (\$500 each)
Keeley Heise, Ramin Zamanian

Norris Field Research Award (\$1,500 each)
Stephanie Koehn, Katherine Mentzel

Tweedie Travel Scholarship (\$500)
Connor Wenning

Chesapeake GeoSciences Scholarship (\$1,000 each)
Scott Kusselson, Mary Niles

New Scholarship Established

The Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship

A new scholarship has been established to defray costs associated with travel that supports undergraduate student professional development, such as attending a major conference or conducting undergraduate research. Two Geography majors will be funded each year. This generous scholarship, the first of its kind for undergraduate students in OSU Geography, was established and will be funded in the future from the proceeds of Dr. Greiner's *Visualizing Human Geography* textbook. Thank you, Alyson!



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Undergraduate Geography Club

The geography club had its first meeting of the 2012 fall semester in the beginning of September where we elected new officers and began planning club activities. The officers were eager to give the club office a bit of a “face lift” by redecorating the walls with our favorite maps. Before, the office was only used as a meeting space but in an effort to get more undergraduate involvement we have made it available to all the geography undergraduates to use for study groups. The club has planned several activities for the fall semester including a clean-up service project at Couch Park and, of course, the annual fall camping trip. This year we voted on Roman Nose State Park (located about 75 miles west of Stillwater) as the destination for the fall camping trip, which took place in late October. During our one-night stay at the park, we went hiking, kayaking, and explored the scenic freshwater springs. For dinner we cooked hot dogs and veggies around the fire and had a very long philosophical debate over who could make the best s’more. Dr. Vadjunec, who happened to be staying at the park the same weekend, invited us to her cabin the next morning for a much needed hot breakfast. We all enjoyed the trip so much that we have decided to plan another one during the upcoming spring semester.



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Undergraduate Students & Their Hometowns

Helen Agnew, Tulsa, OK
 Clint Bales, Bartlesville, OK
 David Brinkley, Ardmore, OK
 Ryan Clark, Oklahoma City, OK
 Ryan Conner, Ozark, AR
 Jill Drummond, Hominy, OK
 Emily Ellis, Edmond, OK
 Nick Emenhiser, Moore, OK
 Samantha Ephgrave, Stillwater, OK
 Michael Fagan, Stillwater, OK
 Catherine Ferrell, Tulsa, OK
 Lindsey Fields, Tulsa, OK
 Anserd Foster, Linstead, Jamaica
 Taylor Gallien, Broken Arrow, OK
 Gabrielle Grant, Stevens Point, WI
 Whitney Helmuth, Adair, OK
 Alexandria Hubbard, Arlington, TX
 Matthew Hunter, Fairview, OK
 Lee Johnson, W. Lafayette, IN
 Laura Jones, Bixby, OK
 Jacob Joyner, Oklahoma City, OK
 Falon King, Perry, OK
 Terrance Larimer, Stillwater, OK

Zachary Marschik, Moore, OK
 Curtis Moss, Ruidoso, NM
 Lance Newman, Stillwater, OK
 Allen Nicholson, Unavailable
 Mary Niles, Edmond, OK
 Andrew Porter, Stillwater, OK
 Andrew Potter, Ardmore, OK
 Michael Priest, Collinsville, OK
 Melissa Reed, Skiatook, OK
 Haley Roach, Sand Springs, OK
 Ross Romero, Fairborn, OH
 Nathan Rosencrans, Edmond, OK
 Greg Schiller, Colleyville, TX
 Jessica Setzer, Stillwater, OK
 Terry Sherman, Chandler, OK
 Michael Sloan, Unavailable
 Ryan Smith, Tulsa, OK
 Alexander Voit, Stillwater, OK
 Connor Wenning, Richardson, TX
 Samantha West, Stillwater, OK
 Trenton Williams, Oklahoma City, OK
 Lauren Wood, El Reno, OK



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Miscellaneous News

2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY



2012 VISITORS

In addition to the many friends and alumni of OSU Geography who visited during Homecoming in October 2012, several former students and faculty also came to visit since we last published a Zenith:

Jerry Croft (Professor Emeritus of Geography) visited January 2012 with one of his daughters, Anne Marie

Christina (Roy) Hall (BS Geography) visited several times in connection with the AAPG consortium work.

Colette (Johns) Van Bodegom (BS in Geography) in May 2012

Ryan Sigworth (MS in Geography) in September 2012

Joe Seig (former staff Coordinator of CARS) and **Jess Porter** (MS and PhD in Geography) were in town for an OSU football game with their families in September 2012

Jess Porter visited the department on a subsequent visit in October.

Also visiting one or more times this year were **Jeremy Odenwald** (MS Geography) and **Jeff Clayton** (BS Geography)



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Geographers in the Field

SIEWE SIEWE SIEWE: Deforestation and Carbon Stocks in a Cameroon Forest

I did field work for nine months in Cameroon (Korup National Park (KNP)) for my dissertation. The goal of the project was to collect data that will enable me to answer the following three questions: what are the driving forces of deforestation and degradation in the KNP; what are the impacts of these (deforestation and degradation) on biodiversity and carbon stocks and how will changing environmental policies (payments for environmental service) affect the livelihood of the people in this area?

Of the five villages within the park area, I visited and lived in four, carrying out household surveys (phase 1) and sampling randomly selected 20 meters squared plots for biophysical data (phase 2). Field work was tough, requiring long arduous trekking hours with 25kgs on our backs/heads, but it was fun!



Playing with our dinner!



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Geographers in the Field



Cane Hammock between Nigeria and Cameroon...



With my field assistant after a hard and wet day in the forest...



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Geographers in the Field

BRAD BAYS: Historic Barns in Oklahoma

Brad is undertaking Oklahoma's first-ever thematic survey of historic barns. By May 2013 he will have examined 66 of the state's 77 counties--all but Southeastern Oklahoma. In the central and western part of the state, he visited about 3,000 properties, recorded around 1,500 of them, and logged over 25,000 road miles. Brad uses historical GIS, aerial imagery, and GPS to locate historic barns, then photograph and record them for the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, the state's archive of the cultural landscape housed in the Oklahoma Historical Society. His reports are culminating in a cultural geography of Oklahoma barns, including an analysis of types, construction features, conditions, and their spatial patterns. This year Brad also prepared two National Register nominations for barns he located in 2011--one in Kay County and another in Texas County. While he was surveying central and south-central Oklahoma, Brad recorded a dozen log barns, including a very large and very rare four-crib log barn constructed of hewn logs and possessing square corner-notching.



The James H. Bounds Barn, Kingston vicinity, Marshall County. This is an exceptionally rare, four-crib log barn relocated to this site from Texas in 1895. The barn is covered with sheet metal and the fully-hewn, square-notched logs are in excellent condition. This is the only four-crib log barn known to exist in Oklahoma and is an outstanding example for anywhere in the Upland South; only three are known to exist in Texas. Each log crib measures 18'x12' and is 12' tall. The ridge axis breezeway is 12' wide and the cross breezeway is 10' wide. According to informants on site, the barn was part of the well-known Double Y-Bar Ranch. It is National Register-eligible and, reportedly, may be threatened with demolition.



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Geographers in the Field

CARLOS CORDOVA: Paleoclimate and Megaherbivores in Southern Africa

Since 2007 Carlos has done substantial field research in Southern Africa (Botswana, Namibia and South Africa). This effort resulted in an extensive collection of grasses and soil samples across climatic gradients and biomes between latitudes 18° and 34° 50" south. The samples are used for building a model to reconstruct climatic patterns in the past: mean annual temperature, mean temperature of the growing season, mean annual precipitation, and seasonal precipitation. He is also working on a model to reconstruct vegetation types and biomes using multivariate statistics. As part of this project, Carlos is also using phytoliths to reconstruct paleodiets of prehistoric (Quaternary) megaherbivores, a project that has resulted in a collaborative project with the South African National Parks (Sanparks). This study includes elephant, buffalo and zebra (living and extinct species) in various vegetation types and habitats. In parallel with this project, Carlos is applying the same technique on North American megaherbivores, particularly mammoth, horse, and bison. The progress on the South African work on diets and paleodiets of herbivores was presented at the Biannual Meeting of the Southern African Quaternary Association at the Gobabeb Research Center in the Namib Desert in September 2012 (See photograph).



Carlos Cordova on the way to the Gobabeb Research Center in the central Namib Desert (September 2012).



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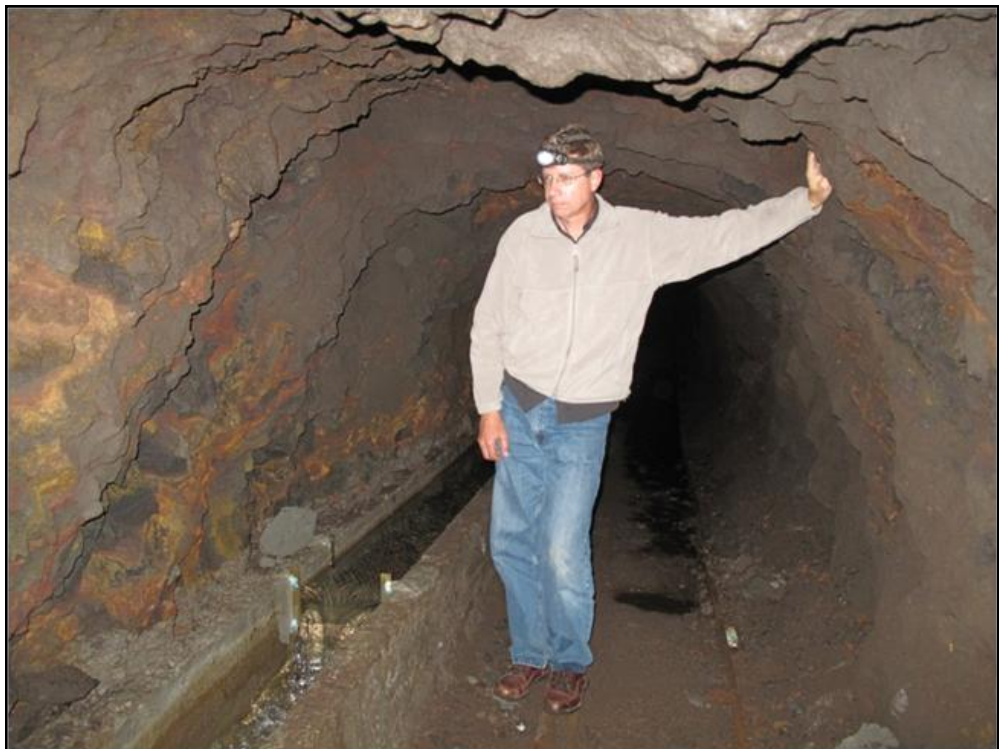


Geographers in the Field

DALE LIGHTFOOT: Qanats in the Canaries and Roaming in Africa

After 22 years in academe I took my first sabbatical during the spring semester of 2012. I departed almost four weeks before I was scheduled to deliver a paper on sustainable water resource management at the International Conference on Traditional Knowledge for Water Resources Management in Yazd, Iran; a conference for which I had already reviewed many papers as a member of the International Scientific Committee. I spent most of the month of February traveling through northeast Africa (Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea) and returned to Dubai to learn that my visa for Iran would not be issued (American citizenship was cited as the reason; my previous travel to Iran was not enough to jump the present hurdles). I hastily arranged another trip to kill off the time that I should have been in Iran and enjoyed an amazing week driving all over Sri Lanka, instead. Most of the next four months was spent in the Canary Islands (Spain), funded by the National Geographic Society (Committee for Research and Exploration) to conduct research on traditional water management.

Traditional systems of water use were investigated to find evidence of qanat irrigation. Research was designed to place Canarian qanats in the spatial and historical context of qanat technology across North Africa, Europe, and the Americas, and to understand where they have been abandoned and where rejuvenated. Qanats have been mentioned in the Canary Islands in numerous published sources, often with conflicting details regarding who introduced them to the islands (indigenous people, Arabs, or Spanish) and when they were first introduced. To find qanats and to situate them in the local story of traditional water technology, multiple sources of evidence were examined on each of the Canary Islands including published scholarship, land and water documents, landscape interpretation, interviews with local scholars, administrators, chroniclers, landowners and water societies, and oral histories collected from water specialists and elderly people in villages. Results confirm that there have never been qanats in the Canary Islands. The features that scholars have assumed to be historical qanats are, in fact, galería spring tunnels, all of which were constructed in the modern era.



Dale Lightfoot inside a galería groundwater tunnel, island of La Palma, Canary Islands (Spain)



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Geographers in the Field

Midway through my sabbatical I took a break from fieldwork to join my wife (Tory) in Central Europe for a two week vacation traveling a route through Prague, Krakow, Budapest, Vienna, and Salzburg, and then returned to the Canaries. With fieldwork successfully accomplished and a book chapter completed, I ended my travels with a five day jaunt by Land Cruiser through the outback of Mauritania, camping by drippy springs, in barren deserts and on rooftops, and meeting more Bedouin nomads than I have seen in a long time.



On the main highway through Somaliland.



Nomad encampment, Mauritania



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Geographers in the Field

JACQUELINE VADJUNEC: Human-Environment Issues in the North American Prairie

Jackie spent the month of July studying human-environment interactions in Grassland regions. As part of a multi-disciplinary OSU team, she travelled to Montana where the group visited the American Prairie Foundation, as well as the Charles Russell Wildlife Refuge. There, researchers met with various government officials, environmental NGOs, Tribal Nations, and Ranchers Associations regarding current human-environment issues surrounding the proposed creation of a 3 million acre Prairie Foundation Bison Reserve. Additionally, Jackie spent time in Union County, New Mexico and Cimarron County, Oklahoma talking to ranchers about the impacts of the current drought.



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Alumni Homecoming Reception

The OSU Geography Department hosted a 2012 Homecoming Reception for alumni, families and friends on Friday, October 19th in the Murray Hall parlor. We enjoyed meeting with students and classmates and touring our new department home in Murray Hall before wading into the crowd at the Friday walkaround. Friends and alumni who visited included Sam Seminoff (1952), “Hack” Hackworth (1969), Bob Rolenece (1975), Jim Cain (1987), Carol Scott (1995), Chris Berry (1995), Tonia (Brown) Fairbanks (1996), Charles Fairbanks (1996), Pamela Skraastad-Jurney (2006), and Meiling Beem. It was a lot of fun to visit with friends and catch up on news. We hope that you, too, can stop for a visit when you find yourself passing through Stillwater.



Standing (L-R): Chris Berry, Steve Tweedie, William Van Ness, Alyson Greiner, John Davenport, Carlos Cordova, Steve Stadler, Pamela Skraastad-Jurney, Reuel Hanks, Keeley Heise, Rebecca Sheehan, Nguyen Le, Dale Lightfoot, John Rooney, John Comer, Tonia (Brown) Fairbanks (and baby), Charles Fairbanks, “Hack” Hackworth

Kneeling (L-R): Aswin Subanthore, Ann Adkins, Siewe Siewe, Tule, Talla, Carol Scott, and Tom Wikle



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Alumni News & Memories

Paul Bolstad (M.S. 1973): I can share a bit of news from a couple of alumni, perhaps of interest to our old professors, Steve Tweedy & John Rooney. Most of the others are no longer there: Richard Hecock, Jim Stine, Doug McDonald, Keith Harries and others I can't remember. The news concerns Gordon Matzke, and me. Gordon is now retired from his longtime position as a geography professor at another OSU, Oregon State University. For some time we had discussed the idea of traveling back to the country of Tanzania together; where we both served in the Peace Corps from 1966-69. In fact, Gordon recruited me to OSU while I was still serving my last year of Peace Corps. So, we invited another OSU alumni from our Peace Corps group, Russ Lura, to join us but he was not able due to some health issues with his wife. But, with two other non-OSU alumni from our original 1966 group, and with family members and close friends who wanted to join us and listen to Prof. Matzke expound on all manner geographic topics throughout the three weeks, our group grew to 15. Gordon was pleased that his son, Nick, a graduate student at Berkely in biogeography, could join us for the entire 5 week tour. We traveled there in November, 2011 with the large group for three weeks; Gordon, Jim DeVries, and I stayed on another two weeks to travel by bus to the southwestern part of the country to visit a number of agricultural projects in connection with Heifer Project International (Jim DeVries had retired from HPI) Our geography training at OSU prepared us for a great experience in evaluating the landscape we now saw after 45 some years and the many, many changes that had occurred. In fact, I wrote down some of my observations in a short paper that I am attaching to this email for anyone who might be interested. I remember, in particular, Steve Tweedie's many travels around the world and thought he might enjoy reading our impressions of this African country. I was able to see Russ Lura this summer as he came to Minneapolis to visit family. We were able to share with him and his wife, Sally, our "safari" to Tanzania with Gordon and Mary Ann. Russ is retired from his position in regional planning in Hamilton County of New York State.

Best wishes to all the oldies that may remember us!

Julie Carey (M.S. 2009): The three years since I graduated OSU sure have flown! I am currently working for the Kansas National Guard as their Hazardous Waste Manager—a far cry from Invasive Species, but it's been a great learning experience. I'm living in Topeka, which is home to Brown. vs. Board of Education National Historic Site. The Site is housed in Monroe Elementary, the all-black school that Linda Brown was being forced to attend. The school she wanted to attend, Sumner Elementary, is located in my neighborhood. Unfortunately, it's been empty the better part of 10 years, with the last three of those being owned by a church out of L.A. that has been struggling to do simple maintenance (such as mowing the lawn), let alone to preserve it and put it to good use. I am serving on a committee made up of citizens, the National Park Service, and state and county historical societies. We are trying to find people and/or organizations (local, national, or international) that would be willing to be partners, who could either use for the building and/or help identify funding sources for the acquisition, stabilization, and repair of the building. The NPS can provide expertise, help with interpretive exhibits, mowing the lawn, etc. If a group is interested in a project like this, is interested in partnering or would have a use for this building (for archival space or other) please contact me at jcarey@wardmeadenia.com. Any resources we can identify would be helpful.

Mark Carper (B.A. 1990, M.S. 1998) has moved from Alaska back to Oklahoma after several years on the faculty at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He is now on the faculty in the Geography program at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He wanted to live in a place where he could grow tomatoes, and his new garden is fabulous!



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Alumni News & Memories

Nick Connelly (M.S. 1984): It is 30 years ago that I arrived from a rainy England to a sunny Stillwater. Where have all those years gone? After getting my MS I returned to England and got a job with British Customs at Heathrow Airport in London. After a few years I was selected to work in the Customs Investigation Division, which deals with serious criminality. The team to which I was assigned specialized in long term, surveillance based operations targeting Turkish and Iranian heroin smuggling gangs. If you want some idea of what the work was like an ex-colleague of mine, Harry Ferguson, has written a book called *Lima 3*, which details an actual case in which I was involved. I think you can get it on Amazon – the character called ‘Slapper’ (don’t ask) is based on me. I did this, together with spells on specialized surveillance teams, for 20 odd years.

A couple of years ago I decided that chasing heroin smugglers around London was a young man’s game, and transferred to a section which confiscates assets from convicted tax fraudsters. The job is more desk bound, but I do get out every so often instructing on surveillance courses – so I’m still putting the skills I learned as a Teaching Assistant at OSU to good effect, although in a completely different field from Physical Geography 1001! I kept on playing rugby until I was 40, but after getting stomped on by an irate Maori decided that was a young man’s game too, and called it a day. I now spoil a good walk by playing (very poor) golf – John F. Rooney has nothing to worry about.

I have been married to Fiona for the last 14 years and we have two wonderful daughters, Emma (12) and Laura (9).

I look back on the two years I spent at Stillwater with great affection. I would particularly like to mention Bob Norris, without whom my OSU adventure would not have been possible, and who was one of life’s true gentlemen; Keith Harries, who sparked my interest in Law Enforcement; and remembering Dave Ritt, a good mate and fellow Geography MS student, who died tragically in 1983 in a motor cycle accident.

If anyone wants to contact me my e-mail is nickconnelly@tiscali.co.uk

Regards!

Keith Harries (faculty member, 1970-85) is enjoying retirement with a little consulting now and again, most recently a project involving a detailed spatial analysis of the train bombings in Madrid in 2004 that killed 191 people. Fortunately, this demanded field work in Madrid, marred only by being mugged on the subway. Otherwise we have continued to travel as much as possible, mostly along standard tourist circuits. We particularly enjoyed a trip that included the Peruvian Amazon, the so-called Sacred Valley (also Peru) and the Galapagos in Ecuador. We still live in Columbia, MD, roughly equidistant from the politics of Washington and the homicides of Baltimore, phenomena that it’s good to be a bit distant from. Spouse Betty continues to grow stuff and I continue to do the unskilled horticultural tasks that result in lower back pain. Daughter Melanie lives in a group home nearby and son Phil and family are in Pittsburg, KS, where he is in the biology department at Pitt State. We assume that he will quit believing in evolution quite soon. Last time we saw him he kept mumbling something about Bishop Ussher, but we have no idea what that was about.

Michael Johnson (M.S. 1978): I am now semi-retired after 33-years in management consulting. My wife Shirley and I plan to soon apportion our time living in the Twin Cities and the wine country of California’s Sonoma Valley. We also continue to explore Europe whenever the opportunity arises and enjoy our three grandchildren.

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Alumni News & Memories

Roger Reinhardt (B.S. 1978): Following graduation, I spent eight years as the Executive Vice President of the Home Builders Association of Metro Tulsa. In 1986 I accepted the position as the CEO/EVP with the Home builders Association of Metro Denver. I held that position until my recent retirement in June of 2011. Both organizations were affiliates of the National Association of Home Builders. Our primary objectives as a trade association representing the residential construction industry was to expand and enhance members expertise in the area of home building, land development, remodeling and renovation. We accomplished these objectives as well as others primarily through education, networking and advocacy. Much of what I learned at OSU through a major in geography contributed to my success over the course of my career.

Sam Seminoff (M.S. 1952): Read your 2010 OSU Zenith with great interest. I am a geography graduate 1952, which allows me to ramble as I gather my thoughts to give you a brief history of my past 87 years. Born in Hobart, OK, farm west of town in 1923, first generation of my Bulgarian parents. Farming was a way of life then and I swallowed dust along with others during the depression until I was rescued by the draft just out of Lone Wolf High School, never to go back to the farm. I still have callouses from cranking the old John Deere tractor. My parents died at an early age leaving me and five brothers and one sister orphans. Cousin from Arkansas came to help us survive.

Why a Geography major? The service helped us all. I survived the Normandy invasion, Patton led us thru France, Belgium and Germany. The war ended for me in Paris as I was on my way to help the Pacific troops after 30 months. I returned to Munich to help dismantle and return equipment to the U.S. Of course, everything was new to me and sightseeing overseas in Europe, after only taking my Chester White sow to the Oklahoma State Stock show. My FFA project. Discharged in Munich. I worked for Uncle Sam as a civilian and could see the Alps skiing at Garmish in southern Bavaria. Then a friend and I traveled to Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. My wife and I have traveled the world. My brother Geo. said you better get back, the hutments were filling up. The Kuder preference test directed me to teaching or social work. Remembering my 6th grade teacher Mrs. Daneons class “you ain’t gonna say that word again in this class” – I studied Education. Geography was my major as I wanted to learn and see more of the world.

Little did I know that your newsletter would bring back my Masters days with Drs. Keso, Fite, Corefield, Winslow, Stevens and Birchard. Dr. Keso was a great one, as a small group of us were sitting under a shade tree the conversation ended up about Dr. and Ph.Ds. He said, “Folks, I want you to know that a Ph.D, sometimes, is nothing but a tail light to keep other people from bumping into you.” He also got me to join the secret organization, where the password was CHICKEN. Enough of this rambling. I taught 2 years in Fairfax (Maria Tallchief county) the other 31 years in Eldorado and Wichita as an Elementary Principal of eight years and Director of Special Education.

Since '85 I have volunteered as a Kiwanian, Master Gardener, etc. Still helping in the lunch room where my 7 yr. old grand girl attends. We're living on S.S. now, wish I could send more.

P.S. – Murray Hall?? We did panty raids there! Wow what memories.

P.P.S. Dr. Fite, my advisor, worked with me on my thesis: “The Distribution of Petroleum Products by Pipeline.”



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Alumni News & Memories



Dr. Virawan Sombutsiri from Thailand (Alumni 1980):

I have been retired from the position of Director, Environmental Division at the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) since 1 October 2009 at the age of 60. I had worked at EGAT for 27 years after graduating from OSU in 1980. I am now working as an environmental advisor for a private firm Xayaburi Power Co.Ltd.

Different from working with public utility, I now really enjoy working with a group of leading multinational engineers and experts undertaking a challenging task involving the development of the controversial Xayaburi Hydropower Project (XHPP) on the mainstream of lower Mekong River in Lao PDR. XHPP is a run-of-river hydropower project with generating capacity of 1,285 MW.

The construction started in 2012 and will continue eight years before completion and starting electricity generation in year 2020. About 95 percent of electricity generated by XHPP will be exported to Thailand. My responsibility is to ensure that XHPP proceeds with the appropriate environmental and social safeguards.

I am proud to share my work experience with all you. All I have been and become in my professional career is the result of my education background and experiences received while attending Geography Department at OSU.

I and my husband Chanchai Sombutsiri are in good health and great spirit at the age of 60 plus. I always enjoy my fond memory of student life at Geography Department, OSU. My best wishes and regards to all alumni, former and present faculties.



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Necrology



Paul Hagle (Assistant Professor of Geography, 1970-1979), originally from Ripley, OK, passed away at his home in Charlotte, NC on October 31, 2012. While this had been expected due to recent illness, none-the-less it came quickly. Paul and Claudette Hagle had only recently moved from Denton, TX to Charlotte so they could be close to their daughter (Paula Harvey) and family. They were looking forward to spending time with their daughter, grandchildren, and son-in-law (Ken) when this illness struck. Paul

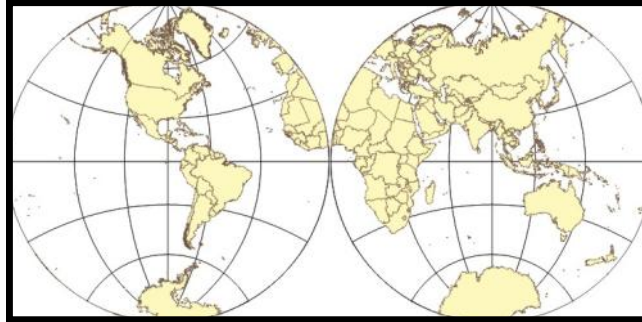
was a good friend and colleague to many in the OSU Department of Geography, including long-time OSU Geography faculty member Bob Norris since their days together at the University of Iowa. He was an economic geographer who studied quantitative methods and developed a specialty in transportation. He was a valued instructor, especially with graduate students, and was very good-natured. After he left OSU he became a planner in Fort Worth, Texas. His physical strength was legendary. On one occasion Paul lifted the rear of a car to free a neighbor who was pinned under his car when his jack slipped. Another time, while helping a friend move, he picked up and carried a refrigerator into the house. His wrists were so large that his accordion style watch band was always stretched to its limit. He was a major bulwark in the offensive line that protected Captain Rooney in the faculty/student football games. He seemed to have a list of professional publications on almost any topic. He was always the first person to ask "Do you know of ...?" questions, and never seemed to be in a bad mood or too busy to be interrupted. He was a very sweet and gentle soul and will be missed.



Huber Self (M.S. 1947, Geography), Emeritus Professor at Kansas State University, died at the age of 97 on February 7, 2011. He was the second person to receive a Masters of Geography degree from Oklahoma State University. After receiving his master's degree he began developing the teaching and research interests that would carry through his professional career: the geography of Kansas, cartography, geography of the Soviet Union, and physical geography. Professor Self was appointed to a position in the Geology Department at Kansas State University in 1947. At the time of his appointment, he had recently been released from the U.S. Navy,

where he received a citation for laboratory research in bacteriological warfare. Self retired in 1980 after 33 years service to Kansas State University. Self was a diligent promoter of geography at this university, and he repeatedly identified promising students and encouraged them to develop majors in the field. His ongoing interest in students helps to explain the many hours he invested, especially after retirement, in mapping their after graduation locations. Self played a role in establishing a local geography club and in achieving its recognition as a member of the newly organized national honorary fraternity, Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTA).

[Adapted from the AAG Newsletter 46 (3): 37]



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.