August Happenings

Welcome back from your summer snoozing, schmoozing, and cruising. Here are some dates to remember:

- August 15 – All day faculty meeting 9-5, Wes Watkins Center
- August 16 – GTA Conference, 8:00-4:00 in CLB. All graduate students employed in the department are encouraged to attend: 
  [http://itle.okstate.edu/gtaconference/](http://itle.okstate.edu/gtaconference/)
- August 17 – Departmental Welcome/Orientation Meeting, 10AM to noon, Murray Hall Parlor
- August 17 – Back to School Potluck Dinner, 7PM, Dr. Lightfoot’s house
- August 21 – Start of Fall 2016 Semester and complete solar eclipse across continental USA

Two defenses are scheduled this month:

- **Stephanie Heald**, Ph.D. Candidate, August 8, 3PM, Keso Room. Dissertation defense: “Spatial Patterns of Mental Health Treatment in Oklahoma.”
Hey, it’s summer, what did you expect?

Okay, a few things happened. In June, the department screened and interviewed candidates for the Undergraduate Advising position and is happy to announce that PhD Candidate Donald Colley will be joining us as an Instructor of Professional Practice this month. Don is finishing his PhD at San Diego State University. He is a “social/cultural/political geographer with a focus on young people, social movements, violence, and post-capitalist communities. And critical sports geography.” (from Academia.edu)

In-class summer school may have had its last gasp of air as Jon Comer taught the department’s lone summer school class in June, Meteorology, for the 22\textsuperscript{nd} and probably last time due to declining enrollments and rising college enrollment minimums. It was a good run...
Jon Comer and Tom Wikle once again led a study abroad trip (GEOG 4600) in May/June, 2017, teaming up with Spanish professor Chelo Tenorio who brought five students of her own. After arriving in Barcelona four days ahead of the students to travel in Andorra and SE France with Rebecca Sheehan and Jordan McAlister, they met the student group on May 29 at the Barcelona airport for a whirlwind tour of Iberia. The itinerary included two nights in Barcelona, a visit to Zaragoza *en route* to Madrid, two nights in Madrid with a day trip to Toledo, a visit to Córdoba *en route* to Seville, two nights in Seville, a visit to the Alhambra in Granada *en route* to Málaga, two nights in Málaga, a day trip to Tétouan, Morocco with views of Gibraltar, then a visit to Italica *en route* to Lisbon for the final two nights. It was very tiring but very jam-packed with lots of historical sites in Iberia.
Study Abroad (cont.)

Lloret de Mar, Spain

Detail of ceiling mosaic at Park Guell, Barcelona

La Rambla in Barcelona

Sagrada Familia Basilica in Barcelona

OSU students at Dulles International Airport waiting to fly (L-R): Kayla Rubio, Christina Schrantz, Hannah Moriarty, Mitchell Moriarty, Andrea Armer, Phil Vannoy, Austin Vannoy
Study Abroad (cont.)

Plaza Mayor, Madrid

Cathedral-Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar, Zaragoza

The Roman Bridge over the Guadalquivir River and the Mosque–Cathedral of Córdoba (Mezquita)

Toledo encircled by the Tagus River
Study Abroad (cont.)

Gardens of the Real Alcazar, Seville

The Giralda bell tower of the Seville Cathedral

The medina of Tétouan, Morocco

Inner courtyard of the Alhambra Palace in Granada

Castelo de São Jorge overlooking Lisbon, Portugal