March Happenings

Despite the agony of a week without classes during Spring Break, there’s plenty to do the rest of the month to keep everyone busy and even a defense during the break!

Two defenses are scheduled this month:
• Matt Haffner will defend his dissertation proposal, titled “Assessing the Validity of Location Based Social Media,” on Friday, March 17 at 10:00 in the Keso Room.
• Emily Ellis will defend her thesis, titled “Ideal Methods for Identifying Urban Vegetation and Assessing Vegetation Change: A Study of Oklahoma City, 2006-2013,” on Wednesday March 29 at 9:30 in the Keso Room.

The ever-popular International Beer, Wine, & Cheese Party will be held on Friday, March 31 at 7 PM at the home of Dr. Wikle.

On Friday, March 3, Dr. Bill Doolittle (below) gave a colloquium presentation titled “The Importance of the Seemingly Insignificant and Going Far Afield.” The audience greatly expanded its knowledge of aqueducts along the way!
News from Around the Department

On Thursday, February 23, BS student Austin Boardman (below, left) and MS student Brian Birchler presented a poster at the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference in Tulsa. The research is part of Dr. Jacqueline Vadunec’s NSF grasslands project. The title of their poster was “Participatory Mapping: Vulnerabilities to hazards and the effects of technology use for creating socio-ecological resilience in America’s Southern High Plains.” Other co-authors included Dr. Todd Fagin (formerly here in the department, now at OU), Dr. Peter Kedron, and Michael Larson.

Geo-Joke of the month: Did you hear about a magical device that helps you understand maps? (See next page for answer).
Three Minute Thesis® 2017

Six Geography graduate students participated in this year’s Three Minute Thesis® competition on campus. MS student Emily Ellis, and PhD students Colton Flynn, Stephanie Heald, Keeley Heise, Robert Garrett, and Yanxia Wu all competed in A&S preliminaries, and Ellis, Heise, and Heald (shown below, L-R) qualified to compete in the A&S College Finals on February 22 in the Library Browsing Room.

While none of the three qualified for the University Finals, they all still did a great job and represented Geography and their research most excellently!

Photos courtesy of A&S Communications and Marketing

Joke answer: Never mind, it’s just a legend.
STEM Fair at Will Rogers

On Friday, February 24, CARS Coordinator Jean Wang, Drs. Peter Kedron and Amy Frazier, and PhD student Gustavo Ovando (below, L-R) visited Will Rogers Elementary School in Stillwater for the school "STEM Fair." They taught 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders about satellites and aerial photographs and had small groups put together a floor puzzle map of the Stillwater area.