April Happenings

Can you believe it? Finals are just about a month away – and that’s no (April Fool’s) joke! So much to do, so let’s get to it:

There are two colloquia this month, both occurring next week due to scheduling issues:

• Wednesday, April 17, 2:30 PM, Classroom Building 106B. **Dr. Leonid Vyazov**, from Russia’s Kazan Federal University & Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, will give a talk titled “Early human-environment interactions in small river sediment archives in the forest-steppe region of Eurasia.” Please note the earlier-than-usual starting time.

• Friday, April 19, 3:30 PM, Noble Research Center 207. MS student **Chris Krieger** will give a talk titled “Stillwater’s Gated Communities: Triangulating a Landscape Approach.”

Several students are defending their theses/creative components this month:

• Friday, April 12, 10 AM, Keso Room – MS student **Shelby Rider** – Creative Component title: “Does Uncle Sam Really Want You? An Analysis of Oklahoma National Guard Recruiting Patterns.”

• Monday, April 15, 3 PM, Keso Room – MS student **Catherine Shropshire** – Thesis title: “The Importance of Geographic Realism in Genre Fiction: How Landscape in Robin Hobb’s *Assassin’s Quest* Inspires Social Criticism”.

• Friday, April 19 – 1:30 PM, Keso Room – MS student **Tessa Cook** – Thesis title: “The Impacts of Public-Private School Choice on Public Schools in the St. Louis Area.”
Upcoming Events

The schedule is so packed, we need a whole other page for events! Try to catch ‘em all...

• Wednesday, April 10, 6 PM – Student Union Ballroom – **2019 College of Arts & Sciences Awards Banquet**.

• Friday, April 12, 3 PM – Keso Room (MUR 327) – **Geography Club Elections** for 2019-20 Officers.

• Wednesday, April 24, 2:30 PM – Student Union Council Room (SU 412) – **Graduate College Awards Ceremony**. Several Geography graduate students are nominated for awards – we’ll see if they win!

• Saturday, April 27, 2 PM – Boomer Lake Shelter #4 (SE side) – **Geography Club end-of-year cookout**.

• Friday, May 3, 5:30 PM – Murray Hall Parlor – **2019 Geography Awards Gathering**. See next page for details.

• Friday, May 10, 7 PM – Gallagher-Iba Arena – **2019 Spring Graduate Commencement and Hooding Ceremony**.

• Saturday, May 11, 3-5 PM – Murray Hall Parlor – **2019 Geography Senior Graduation Party**.

• Saturday, May 11, 6 PM – Gallagher-Iba Arena – **2019 Spring Undergraduate Commencement (College of Arts & Sciences)**.
News from Around the Department

BS degree candidate Racine Swick competed at the undergraduate 3-Minute Thesis competition, placing 2nd overall but also receiving the People’s Choice Award. This is, we believe, the first time Geography has competed in the undergraduate competition. Way to go, Racine!

PhD student Ben Hemingway was recently awarded a 2019 Holistic Science Prize Award from OSU. He splits the $3,000 award with another recipient.

PhD student Colton Flynn was recently selected to serve as a Fulbright Ambassador and has started fulfilling his duties in said position. This month he was chosen to attend the Philadelphia Fulbright March where 127 Fulbrighters from over 70 different countries came to Philadelphia to share their various experiences and develop further understanding of the use of Big Data in social (and spatial!!) context. Colton's next stop, in mid-May, will be in Washington D.C. where he will be meeting with congress/senators and other political figures to aid the Fulbright program in obtaining funding for future Fulbrighters. CAS recently featured Colton and his Fulbright Ambassadorial duties here: https://cas.okstate.edu/news/student-spotlight/1715-flynn-travels-to-ethiopia-for-research-opportunities

In other Colton-related news, he recently published his ninth article overall, and first from his dissertation, in Computers and Electronics in Agriculture. The article was titled “Site suitability analysis for tef (Erarogostis tef) within the Contiguous United States.” On that note, Colton successfully defended his dissertation on February 19 under Dr. Carlos Cordova (committee chair).

Faculty members Don Colley, Jon Comer, Allen Finchum, and Steve Stadler were in Norman on the OU campus on March 29 to participate in the Oklahoma State Geographic Bee finals, determining the state champion who will represent the state in Washington, D.C. later this spring in the national championship. This was Don Colley’s first time, but the others have been doing it for a long time and the editor found out that Jon Comer’s first bee was in 1998, and he has since participated in 17 of the past 22 Bees.
GIS Day at the Capitol

The OSU Department of Geography was extremely well-represented at the 2019 GIS Day at the Capitol, the 25th year for the event, on March 5. A large number of OSU staff and students was on hand to answer questions about the department’s degree programs, the GIS certificate program, and information about our student organizations.


For more information, photos and information about past events, and other matters relating to the Oklahoma Geographic Information Council (which puts on the event), visit their website: http://okmaps.onenet.net/GIS_day.htm
**2018-19 Awards Gathering**

On May 3, the annual Geography Awards Gathering will take place in the Murray Hall Parlor. Light refreshments will be served starting at 5:00 PM, with the Awards Ceremony starting at 5:30 and Gamma Theta Upsilon inductions immediately thereafter. Nearly $10,000 of awards and scholarships will be distributed:

**2018-19 Recognition Awards:**
- John F. Rooney, Jr., Scholarship for Outstanding Junior
- A&S Outstanding Senior
- Robert E. Norris Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding 1st Year MS Student
- Jerry Croft and Family Award in Geographic Education
- ConocoPhillips GIS Certificate Enhancement Scholarship (NEW)
- Susan Shaull Medal for Excellence in Teaching

**2019-20 Travel Awards:**
- Alyson L. Greiner Undergraduate Travel Scholarship
- Norris Conference Travel Award

Other awards and honors earned by students, staff, or faculty (on campus or off) will be recognized, so if you received some type of award or scholarship in the past year, please let Jon Comer know so he can add it to the list to be announced at the Gathering.
Dr. Carlos Cordova was recognized as the winner of the Ellen Mosley Thompson Award for the best publication on paleoenvironments as a result of his recent book, Geoarchaeology: A Human-Environmental Approach. The award was given at the Paleoenvironmental Change Specialty Group Business Meeting at the AAG meetings in Washington, D.C. on April 5.

PhD student Jesse Andrews was named the Most Valuable Player in the World Geography Bowl competition that took place at the AAG meetings on April 4.

MS student Christina Woehrle tied for third place in the Pix4D student poster competition. She looks thrilled...

A full list of OSU participants at AAG begins on page 8. Thanks to Dr. Alyson Greiner for compiling the list!
AAG 2019 Images

Next year’s meeting:
April 6-10, 2020 – Denver
WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

8:00-9:40am Land systems science – Research frontiers and challenges at the intersections of remote sensing and qualitative social-scientific approaches and methods. Paper Session. Room: Jackson, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

9:20am - Samayita Bandyopadhyay, Land-Use/Land Cover Change and Livelihoods Amidst Landslides – Survival and Vulnerabilities in Kurseong, India

4:30-6:10pm Novel Datasets and Methodologies in Land Systems Science Paper Session. Room: Marshall North, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

5:30pm - Austin Boardman, UAS Imagery in Participatory Research: Helping Ranchers Track Woody Plant Encroachment in the Southern Great Plains

THURSDAY APRIL 4

8:00-9:40am
Climate Specialty Group Poster Session, Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Lindsay King: Examining Tornado Vulnerability and Index Validation in Oklahoma Using Components of the Social Vulnerability Index

Steve Stadler: Tyranny of the Naysayers: Oklahoma Wind Power Development Slows

Rural Land Systems and Landscapes I. Room: Hoover, Marriott, Mezzanine Level
Maria Sol Ramirez Saenz, Session chair

8:00am - Brian Birchler, Mapping the Perceptions of Vulnerability and the Effects of Technology on Fostering Resilience in America’s Southern High Plains

8:20am – Maria Sol Ramirez Saenz, Transboundary relationships and government communication in times of drought: An example from the Southern Great Plains

9:55-11:35am
Rural Land Systems and Landscapes II. Paper Session. Room: Hoover, Marriott, Mezzanine Level

9:55am - Fernanda Ramirez Saenz, Female Inclusion and Gendered Equality in the Southern Great Plains Agriculture

Historic American Landscapes II Paper Session. Room: Virginia B, Marriott, Lobby Level

10:35am – Kimberly Johnson Maier, Shaping Contemporary Social Memories of the American West at Little House Tourist Sites

UAS Symposium: Geospatial Research Using UAS - Pix4D Poster Competition. Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level

Christina Woehrle, Three-dimensional characterization of grapevine canopy using UAV-SfM point clouds

1:10-2:50pm
Education and Careers Poster Session. Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
Allen Finchum, Kellen Bullock: Analysis of College Student Migration in Oklahoma
Political Geography Poster Session. Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
Shelby Rider, Does Uncle Sam Really Want You? An Analysis of Oklahoma National Guard Recruiting Patterns

Untapped: Fresh Voices in Water Resources Geography 3. Paper Session. Room: Roosevelt 4.5, Marriott, Exhibition Level
1:50pm - Puja Jana, Kashmir the Problem State: Impact of the Transboundary Water Distribution Agreement Between India and Pakistan

Proposal-Writing Strategies for the NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences Program 1. Paper Session. Room: Roosevelt 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
Jackie Vadjunec, Session chair

3:05pm – 4:45pm Panel - Room: 8228, Park Tower Suites, Marriott, Lobby Level
Alyson Greiner: Author Meets Critics: Richard L Nostrand's "The Making of America's Culture Regions"

5:00-6:40pm Monuments, Memorials, and the Politics of Place IV Paper Session. Room: Roosevelt 3, Marriott, Exhibition Level
5:20pm – Rebecca Sheehan, Dialogic Memorial Public Spaces: Linn Park & Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham, Alabama and (Missed) Opportunities to Promote Racial Justice

FRIDAY APRIL 5

9:55-11:35am Cultural Geography Specialty Group Poster Session Competition: Methods, Objects, Meanings, Publics. Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
Amanda Weber: Staten Island Marine Hospital Quarantine: A Case Study in the Shaping of New York Public Health Policy

10:35am - Tessa Cook: The Impacts of Public-Private School Choice on Public Schools in the St. Louis Area

1:10-2:50pm Physical Geography in Environmental Science. Poster Session. Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
Mark Mahar, Stakeholder-centric Research Methods for Representative Mountain Bike Impacts in Drinking Water Source Drainage Basins

Jackie Vadjunec, Session chair

6:50-7:50pm Paleoenvironmental Change Specialty Group Business Meeting. Room: Washington 3, Marriott, Exhibition Level
Carlos Cordova to be recognized with a book award
SATURDAY APRIL 6

8:00-9:40am
Elections and Electoral Geography Poster Session. Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
  Jesse Andrews, Distance and State Legislators Occupational Composition

Cultural and Political Ecology Specialty Group Poster Session. Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
  Dale Lightfoot: Mine Adits, Bierkellers, and the Qanats of Bavaria-Bohemia

Transportation and Urban Planning Poster Session. Room: Lincoln 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
  Jamey Voorhees, Bicycle Networks, Recreation vs Transportation: An examination of how bicycle infrastructure is marketed to the citizens who eventually have to pay for the system.

  Hongbo Yu, Evaluating the Impact of a Proposed High-speed Rail (HSR) on Modal Competition for Intercity Travels

9:55-11:35am
Forests and Ecological Services Paper Session. Room: Jackson, Marriott, Mezzanine Level
  11:15am - Siewe Siewe, The Dynamics of Biodiversity in the Korup National Park, Cameroon

3:05- 4:45pm
Reading the AP Human Geography Test: The Craziest, most Rewarding 7 Days of Your Life. Panel Session.
Room: Washington 2, Marriott, Exhibition Level
  Amanda Weber, Panelist

Q&A with an NSF Program Officer. Panel. Room: Wilson C, Marriott, Mezzanine Level
  Jackie Vadjunec, Chair

Addressing Inequalities in the Sustainable Development Agenda: Case Studies from Africa. Paper Session. Room: Directors Room Omni, West
  3:25 pm - Michael Acheampong, Oil extraction and fisherfolk: Does Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Number One stand a chance in Ghana’s oil region?

5:00-6:40pm
Land Systems Science at AAG: Open discussion of future directions and funding. Panel Session. Room:
  Marshall North, Marriott, Mezzanine Level
  Jackie Vadjunec, Panelist