

SWAAG NEWSLETTER

<http://www.sw-aag.org/>



SWAAG Chair's Column: Out of the Comfort Zone

By Michaela Buenemann, SWAAG Chair,
New Mexico State University

While reflecting on potential content for this column, I kept returning to the thought that we [geographers] need to move out of our comfort zone and into some alternative zone to promote the well-being of our discipline and profession. It seems to me as if we have become perhaps almost too comfortable focusing on our weaknesses and problems: our identity crisis, the public's low esteem of our discipline, the challenges facing our departments and institutions (funding declines, enrollment pressures, new technologies, competition from unconventional education organizations, etc.), etc. It is critical that we recognize these issues to help map paths toward a sustainable future for geography. However, in addition to being reactive, I think we need to be more proactive to foster the long-term health of geography. In fact, we may even be able to identify new ways to reinvigorate our discipline and reinforce our profession by directing some positive energy toward recognizing our strengths and opportunities: our spatial, integrative, and applied nature; a diversity of complex global issues; changes in higher education; etc. We are already doing this to some extent, as illustrated by initiatives of the [AAG's Healthy Departments Committee](#) and indicated by the growth of some geography programs in our region. We can certainly do more. So, let's move out of our comfort zone and into a zone of learning, innovation, creativity, courage, and action.

Let's talk about these ideas and many more at our upcoming annual [SWAAG meeting in San Antonio, TX, 4-7 November 2015](#). The meeting will be held jointly with the Applied Geography Conference and thus promises to be a more-than-regional event with lots of

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opportunities for all participants to learn, network, inspire and be inspired. Colleagues at two host institutions (Texas State University, University of Texas at San Antonio) are in the process of arranging a spectacular program, with twelve field trips and paper, poster, and panel sessions covering the full spectrum of geography. AAG President and long-time SWAAG member Sarah Bednarz (Texas A&M University) as well as historical geographer John Morris (University of Texas, San Antonio) will give keynotes during the meeting. Undergraduate and graduate student paper and poster competitions as well as the first-ever SWAAG World Geography Bowl will allow students to demonstrate their talents, test their ideas, and build their résumés in a fun and friendly environment. The SWAAG business meeting and awards banquet will enable us to celebrate our members, region, and discipline and also to engage in formal and informal dialogue about geography's world of possibilities. The conference hotel is in walking distance to many attractions; the food and drinks will be excellent; and the company will be fabulous, as always. So, all in all, this is going to be an amazing meeting, and I hope that you'll be able to join us! All you have to do is move out of your comfort zone and into Texas [just kidding].

Message from the Past Regional Councilor

By Ron Hagelman, Past SWAAG Regional Councilor,
Texas State University

As an academic, I “grew up” in SWAAG. My first conference as a graduate student was a SWAAG meeting. I won my first research accolades in SWAAG student paper competitions. I made my first, and still most important, professional network connections at SWAAG meetings. And many of my most valued friends and colleagues in academia are SWAAG members themselves. It is, therefore, with some regret that I write my last missive as SWAAG Regional Councilor. Darren Purcell (OU) will take over this month and he will do a fantastic job, but I will miss the opportunity to speak up on behalf of our membership at the semi-annual AAG Council meetings.

Perhaps the most important news out of our meeting in Chicago is that our own Dr. Sarah Bednarz officially took over as President of AAG. You will be hearing from her over the next year regarding AAG initiatives, opportunities, and events. And we look forward to hosting her, as President, at our SWAAG conference this fall in San Antonio.

The Chicago meeting itself was one of the largest in AAG history and the membership of the organization continues to grow and diversify. The Council spent a good deal of time in Chicago discussing the ongoing issue of the AAG Archives. Our archives are currently held at the American Geographical Society (AGSL) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For a few years now, the AAG has been considering a move to the Library of Congress (LOC) to improve what some have seen as accessibility and technology issues at AGSL. After a series of site visits and subcommittee meetings, the Council reaffirmed its support of this move at the Chicago meeting. The transition will take some time, but eventually, you will be able to access AAG archives in Washington, DC as part of the overall LOC collection.

Lastly, if you have not spent time perusing the AAG website, please do. There have been many updates, additions, and improvements that are of value to geographers everywhere. My best to all and see you in San Antonio!

Message from the New Regional Councilor

By Darren Purcell, SWAAG Regional Councilor,
University of Oklahoma

SWAAG is special. Bear with me as I make such a claim, because unlike our outgoing regional councilor, Ron Hagelman, who is a SWAAG native and “grew up” in the region, I am an immigrant. My first SWAAG was the 1998 Baton Rouge meeting to which I traveled as a graduate student to participate in a session on necrogeographies (geographies of death). This and other sessions, along with a dugout canoe full of beverages and Zydeco music, made for a memorable experience unlike anything I had experienced at a SEDAAG meeting.

After ten subsequent SWAAG meetings and ample interaction with many of the people at the core of the organization, I remain convinced that SWAAG is special. Our convivial meetings rotate from larger to smaller cities. The ways that each meeting so richly reflects the local geography speaks to the efforts SWAAG conference organizers, and meeting participants, invest in our unique and high-quality conferences.

This makes serving the SWAAG membership as AAG Regional Counselor a privilege. Allow me to begin my duties by thanking SWAAG members for the opportunity to represent the region on the council. It will surely be exciting as the AAG continues to grow and foster our field. And let us *all* thank Ron for his years of hard work on the AAG Council. We appreciate his efforts to inform SWAAG members about the Council’s activities and to solicit our views on these and other issues. I hope I will also benefit from your input. Feel free to contact me at the University of Oklahoma’s Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability.



Breaking Boundaries in Albuquerque: SWAAG 2014

By Maria Lane, 2014 SWAAG Meeting Co-Organizer, University of New Mexico

Last year's 2014 SWAAG conference took place in Albuquerque, where delegates gathered under New Mexico's famous blue skies for a joint meeting with the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain region. The two regions brought more than 300 delegates together, creating a conference that was nearly twice the size of a typical SWAAG meeting. Hosted by the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies at the University of New Mexico, with assistance from GP/RM's Kansas State University, the weekend featured paper sessions, awards competitions, keynote speakers, and social events throughout downtown Albuquerque.



Research presentation at SWAAG 2014 conference. Photo credit: Willard Hunter, UNM Geography & Environmental Studies.

The festivities kicked off with concurrent paper sessions Thursday afternoon at the historic Hotel Andaluz, which was built by Conrad Hilton in 1939 and was at that time the tallest building in New Mexico and the only building in the state to boast air conditioning! Although Andaluz is now dwarfed by other downtown buildings, its recent renovation made it a fantastic location for the opening reception. Conference delegates enjoyed refreshments in the first-floor atrium and visited sponsor exhibits throughout the second-floor balcony. Later that evening, students from both regions gathered at Anodyne for a downtown social mixer.

On Friday, conference activities migrated from Andaluz to the Albuquerque Convention Center, due to the fact

that the joint meeting required a fairly large space to accommodate its many number of delegates, papers, and posters. The convention center's recent renovation had been completed the week before (whew!) and delegates enjoyed access to updated meeting rooms and a giant map of Albuquerque sewn into the new carpet for the atrium area.

Sessions were held throughout the morning, with a break for lunch featuring UNM's Dr. Scott Collins, an internationally recognized community ecologist and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) who has served as President of the Ecological Society of America (ESA). Dr. Collins spoke about his comparative research on tallgrass prairie ecology, discussing a number of experiments conducted at the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research site, just south of Albuquerque, as well as the Konza Prairie Long-Term Ecological Research site in South Africa.

After lunch, concurrent paper sessions continued at the convention center, along with poster competitions for both regions, and a GeoBowl competition for the Great Plains/Rocky Mountains region. The delegates then headed several blocks south of Hotel Andaluz to the Albuquerque Railyards site, where a conference banquet was held in the newly renovated Stockyards building. This historic structure, which is the first part of a massive redevelopment planned for long-abandoned areas of Albuquerque's downtown, provided a beautiful open-air backdrop for the evening event. The organizers were thankful that temperatures were much warmer than predicted, and delegates were able to enjoy a chile-roasting demonstration, margaritas, and site tours before a delicious dinner catered by Sadie's of Albuquerque.



The Albuquerque Railyards is undergoing renovation as part of a massive downtown redevelopment project. Photo credit: Willard Hunter, UNM Geography & Environmental Studies.

The evening keynote address was delivered by AAG President Mona Domosh, who presented results from her recent archival research into American agricultural policy for the American South. She argued that early forms of American postwar international development policy had been pioneered domestically in the southern states, where notions about race, gender, and the rural “home” were integrated into policy understandings of both development and governance.¹ The evening concluded with award presentations and was punctuated by an extremely loud whistle from a passing train that earned a rousing ovation from those gathered in the banquet hall.



Delegates attend the conference banquet at Albuquerque's historic Railyards site. Photo credit: Willard Hunter, UNM Geography & Environmental Studies.

Saturday featured a variety of field trips hosted by UNM geographers and others who have conducted research in New Mexico and the Southwest. Although a number of the field trip attendees looked a little worse for the wear after enjoying a late night on Friday, I am happy to report that everyone who departed for a field trip early on Saturday morning returned successfully that afternoon.

Overall, the conference highlighted Albuquerque's ongoing downtown re-development focus, offering delegates a view of several different sides of the city. The joint-meeting format was a great success, and the UNM organizers were immensely grateful for the support provided by colleagues at Kansas State University in handling the registration and creating the program. We look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio in 2015!

¹See also: See also: Domosh, Mona. 2015. *Practising Development at Home: Race, Gender, and the "Development" of the American South*. *Antipode* 47(4): 915-941

2014 SWAAG Student Competition Winners

By Laurel Smith, SWAAG Secretary,
University of Oklahoma

Congratulations to the winners of the SWAAG Student Competitions at the 2014 SWAAG Meeting in Albuquerque, NM! And many thanks to the SWAAG members who judged these competitions winners!

1st place Undergraduate Paper Competition

Texas Elections 2014: Mapping Wendy Davis's Prior Electoral Credibility

Brooks Heitmeier, University of Oklahoma

1st place Undergraduate Poster Competition

Space, Time and Crime – A Spatiotemporal Analysis of Criminal Activities on the Campus of University of Oklahoma

Thuso Motselebane, University of Oklahoma

Matankiso Phooko, University of Oklahoma

Benjamin Ignac, University of Oklahoma

1st place Graduate Paper Competition

Urban Transport Governance and Public Dialogue: A Transition to Compressed Natural Gas in Bolivia

Jerl Levi McCollum, University of North Texas

2nd place Graduate Paper Competition

Agricultural and Residential Land-Use Effects on North Eastern Cross Timbers Forest Structure and Composition

Ingrid Dunn, University of North Texas

2015 SWAAG Student Competitions

By Jason Julian, SWAAG Treasurer
Texas State University

All students, both graduate and undergraduate, are encouraged to participate in the student paper and poster completions this year at SWAAG. For competition guidelines and instructions, visit:

<http://www.sw-aag.org/student-competitions.html>

SWAAG Election Results

By Laurel Smith, SWAAG Secretary
University of Oklahoma

Nominations for the three SWAAG offices and the SWAAG regional councilor were solicited at the 2014 SWAAG meeting and via email. Murray Rice (University of North Texas) then conducted a SurveyMonkey survey (completed in November 2014). Members of SWAAG cast a total of 117 votes. The elected officers include: Michaela Buenemann (New Mexico State University) chair, Laurel Smith (University of Oklahoma) secretary, and Jason Julian (Texas State University) treasurer. Darren Purcell (University of Oklahoma) was elected SWAAG regional councilor position. Thanks to all who allowed their names to stand in this election!

The Southwestern Geographer

By John Tiefenbacher, Senior Editor of *The Southwestern Geographer*
Texas State University

The editors of *The Southwestern Geographer* would like to draw SWAAG members' attention to the several articles that have been published so far in this year's volume of *The Southwestern Geographer*. Volume 18 (2015) includes:

- A commentary in response to the articles comprising volume 17's Special Issue: Advice to Early Career Academic Geographers: "On Making and Becoming a Graduate" by M. Anwar Sounny-Slitine, Kaitlin A. Tasker, Kalli F. Doubleday, Molly H. Polk, Brandee R. Knight, and Caitlin Schneider
- Two research papers, "The Evolution of Agricultural Adaptations in the Sierra Tarahumara" by Joshua Martin Rudow, "El Cabron: The Spring Wind of the Southwest" by Daniel Dugas and John B. Wright, and "Forging New Paths: Examining the Transnational Social Networks behind Latino Migration in the American South" by James Chaney

Please know that:

- Numerous submissions are in review or revision and the editors welcome all faculty and students to consider and encourage new submissions at any time.
- The editors would like to thank those who have given their time to review submitted manuscripts, particularly when their reviews were turned around quickly and within the desired time-frames to enhance the speed to publication. Please encourage your colleagues to provide timely review if they agree to assist. Your help is very important for enhancing the quality of the journal and is very much appreciated by the editors.
- Comments on, advice about, and reaction to issues related to the *Southwestern Geographer* are always welcome. Please don't hesitate to contact either John Tiefenbacher (tief@txstate.edu) or Erik Prout (prout@geog.tamu.edu) with your thoughts.

Finally, the editors would like to reiterate their call for a colleague to join us: Drs. Erik Prout and John Tiefenbacher, the co-editors of *The Southwestern Geographer*, extend invitations for applications for a co-editor position with the journal. We invite faculty members of the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) who may desire to participate in the processing of submitted manuscripts, the extending of invitations to review manuscripts, and the evaluation of reviews to contact us. The position will be filling our need for assistance to ensure that submissions are reviewed in a timely fashion. The demands on time will be fairly minimal as the other editors will share the load. Ideally, the additional co-editor (or co-editors) will be tenured faculty at a university within SWAAG, but outside of Texas; we desire to expand the editorial team to other areas of the division, as all past editors were employed in Texas during their periods of service. Co-editors may, eventually, desire to take over the operation of *The Southwestern Geographer*, but this is not a requirement. If interested or have any questions, please contact John Tiefenbacher (tief@txstate.edu).

New Appointments

By Laurel Smith, SWAAG Secretary,
University of Oklahoma

SWAAG welcomes the following geographers to new positions in our region:

- **Laura Alvarez** (*Fluvial Geomorphology, Hydrology, Sediment Transport, Hydroinformatics, River Bank Stability, River Restoration; PhD in Geography Arizona State University*) Lecturer in Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma as of Fall 2015
- **Thomas Ballinger** (*Climate and Environmental Change, Cryosphere-Climate Interactions, Synoptic Meteorology and Climatology; PhD in Geography, Kent State University*) Assistant Professor at Texas State University as of Fall 2015
- **Sean Crotty** (*Urban economic geography, informal labor markets; PhD in Geography, San Diego State University and the University of California at Santa Barbara*), Assistant Professor of Geography at Texas Christian University as of Fall 2015
- **Rebecca Davio** (*Solid Waste Management and Recycling, Management; PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Texas at Austin*) Director of the Government Partnership Program and Assistant Professor of Practice at Texas State University as of Spring 2015
- **Jennifer Devine** (*Latin American Politics, Human-Environmental Change, Critical Race, Gender and Feminist Theories; PhD in Geography, University of California Berkeley*) Assistant Professor at Texas State University as of Fall 2015
- **Suzon Jammes** (*Geophysics/Geology, Tectonics, Geodynamics, Numerical Modeling, PhD in Geology/Geophysics, University of Strasbourg (France)*) Senior Lecturer in Geology at Texas State University as of Fall 2015
- **Ellen Kohl** (*Environmental policy, environmental justice, nature-society interactions, PhD in Geography, University of Georgia*) Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University as of Fall 2015
- **Timothy Loftus** (*Water Resources; PhD in Geography, Southern Illinois University*) Meadows Endowed Chair in Water Conservation and Professor of Practice (joint appointment Department of Geography and Meadows Center for Water and the Environment) at Texas State University as of Fall 2015
- **Julie Loisel** (*Climate change impacts on terrestrial and aquatic systems, Lehigh University PhD*) Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University as of Fall 2015
- **Rebecca Loraamm** (*Geographic Information Science, Modeling, Network Analysis, Road Ecology, Wildlife Ecology and Management, Landscape Ecology; PhD Geography and Environmental Science and Policy, University of South Florida*) Assistant Professor in Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma as of Fall 2015
- **Hernan A. Moreno** (*Watershed Processes, Hydrologic Modeling, Flood Forecasting, Hydrologic Effects of Land Cover and Climate Change, Remote Sensing and Hydrology; PhD Civil, Environmental and Sustainable Engineering Arizona State University*) Assistant Professor in Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma as of Fall 2015
- **Thomas Neeson** (*Conservation Biology, Landscape Ecology, Freshwater Ecosystems, Simulation and Modeling, Statistics; PhD Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan*) Assistant Professor in Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability, University of Oklahoma as of Fall 2015

- **Jamie Shinn** (*Political Ecology, Environmental governance, climate change, vulnerability, Africa; PhD in Geography, Penn State University*)
Assistant Professor in Department of Geography at Texas A&M University as of Fall 2015
- **Jayne Walenta** (*Economic Geography, PhD in Geography, University of British Columbia*)
Visiting Assistant Professor in Department of Geography at Texas A&M University as of Fall 2015

The Department of Geography at the University of New Orleans

By James Lowry, Executive Secretary, Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographic Honor Society
Georgia Gwinnett College

Just prior to Hurricane Katrina the Department of Geography at the University of New Orleans lost a few faculty to retirement and to other institutions, but it remained a vibrant department with 8 faculty lines and both BA and MA programs. Only 4 full-time faculty remained after the storm. I was hired as an associate professor one year later in 2006. But all subsequent hires were as precarious as UNO's budget and the UNO Department of Geography had a full-time GIS faculty member only 2 out of the 9 years since Katrina. This greatly restricted our GIS course offerings, which in turn had a sizeable impact on enrollment.

In 2008 the State of Louisiana (both the Board of Regents and the governor) decided to eliminate low completer degree programs (a move the governor touted as a reduction in the size of government). Our MA program, which had barely made the list and had improving numbers, was terminated (with no budgetary savings at all). Two years later a similar process determined our geography BA missed a threshold by a fraction of a student. It was merged into (largely unchanged) BS in Urban Studies degree. In the time from Katrina to these decisions UNO had lost 30-35% of its students (the rate is now 60% of the pre-K numbers). Hundreds of degree programs around the state were terminated, but UNO was hit particularly hard because

it was still trying to recover from Katrina. As a result of the "death spiral" the UNO administration decided to eliminate geography from UNO (in order to save approximately \$500,000 per year).

The day before Thanksgiving in November of 2014 the geography faculty all received an email from the (then) interim provost informing us that not only may the geography degree be eliminated, but our positions as well. This was news to all of us. A week later we learned geography was indeed being eliminated, our one instructor (Juana Ibáñez, who is currently completing her PhD at LSU, loves SWAAG, and will soon be on the market – hire her!) would be terminated in May, and the 4 of us with tenure would be terminated in December of 2015.

Merrill Johnson, professor, has moved on to Colorado State and I, associate professor, have moved on to Georgia Gwinnett College. Peter Yaukey, professor, and Mahtab Lodhi, professor, will be at UNO for the fall semester. I have been told, unofficially, that the Department of Geography would be dissolved on August 13 and the remaining faculty will be assigned to the College of Liberal Arts.

Many may blame Governor Bobby Jindal and his (selfish) political aspirations for our demise. Although he gets much of the blame, one should not overlook incompetent and dishonest "leadership" at UNO. The decision to eliminate geography and terminate the faculty (even those with tenure) was made solely by the current president of UNO without any faculty participation in the decision and his public statements as to the reasons for his decision do not match the historic record (i.e., the facts). A once vibrant department was killed by a storm, politics, and incompetence.

News from Across the Region

By Laurel Smith, SWAAG Secretary,
University of Oklahoma

Society of Environmental Journalists 25th Annual Conference at the University of Oklahoma on October 7-11, 2015. The University of Oklahoma is hosting the SEJ's Environmental Journalism 2015 conference "Weather, Water, Energy: New in Every Neighborhood." This event features workshops, field trips, exhibits, and a wide range of sessions, including the opportunity for Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), who is Chair of the Committee on Environment and Public Works to share his thoughts on climate change and the future of our planet alongside U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. More agenda and registration details, see <http://www.sej.org/initiatives/sej-annual-conferences/AC2015-main>

The University of Arkansas Fort Smith Department of Geography added a geography minor to curriculum in 2011 and now proudly announces that our first six geography minors completed their course of study during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Andrew Sluyter of the Department of Geography & Anthropology at Louisiana State University has been appointed executive director of the Conference of the Latin Americanist Geographers (through 2019), bringing the position back to SWAAG for the first time in a decade. Details are here <http://clagscholar.org/about-clag/board-of-directors/> He also has a new book out this year on New Orleans, one of SWAAG's more unique cities. See: <http://lsupress.org/books/detail/hispanic-and-latino-new-orleans/>

The Texas State University Department of Geography announces the formation of the *National Center for Research in Geography Education* in 2014. This Center represents a partnership between the Association of American Geographers and the Texas State Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education. See the NCRGE website for details <http://www.ncrge.org/>. Also, the university notes that on January 9, 2015, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the application to rename our PhD in Environmental Geography to a PhD in Geography, without the "Environmental" qualifier. Students started enrolling in

the renamed program this Fall 2015 semester. We retain our other two PhD programs in GIScience and Geographic Education. Lastly, the university celebrates graduating its 100th PhD student in Fall 2014!

Jim Norwine, Regents Professor Emeritus of Geography, Texas A&M-Kingsville featured on Tulsa Public Radio discusses his interdisciplinary textbook *A World After Climate Change and Culture-Shift* during a 28-minute interview that can be heard here <http://publicradiotulsa.org/post/world-after-climate-change-and-culture-shift-stream/0>. Now retired to Oologah Lake in northeastern Oklahoma and he can be reached at jnnorwine@gmail.com.

CALL FOR PAPERS The editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research* (IJAGR) is encouraging manuscript submissions for regular issues from across the physical, environmental, and human geographies. This journal offers policy analysts, geospatial practitioners, and academicians with studies exemplifying various application domains within applied geospatial research. Manuscripts can be uploaded to IGI Globe's Journal Online Submission System available from <http://www.igi-global.com/submission/submit-manuscript/>. For more information visit IJAGR's website: <http://www.igi-global.com/IJAGR> or contact Donald P. Albert, editor-in-chief, *International Journal of Applied Geospatial Research*, Department of Geography and Geology, LDB #332, Sam Houston State University, 1900 Ave I, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2148, USA. Phone: 936-294-1453; E-mail: geo_dpa@shsu.edu.

Dr. Campbell W. Pennington, Professor Emeritus, and former Head, Department of Geography, Texas A&M University "departed this vale of tears," 13 June 2015, San Marcos, Texas. A memorial statement is forthcoming, and a gathering of his friends will be held at the upcoming SWAAG meeting in San Antonio. The day, time, and venue will be listed in the program.

Dr. Harley Jesse (Jess) Walker, Boyd Professor Emeritus at the Department of Geography & Anthropology, Louisiana State University passed away at his home at the age of 93 on May 30, 2015. Please visit <http://ga.lsu.edu/in-memoriam-harley-jesse-jess-walker-1921-2015/> for a memoriam written by Dr. Kent Mathewson.

Managing for a Changing Climate is a new course offered by the University of Oklahoma for the Fall 2015 semester. The course will be co-taught by Dean Berrien Moore III (College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences), Dr. Elinor Martin (School of Meteorology), and Dr. Renee McPherson (Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability). This course will provide an integrative understanding of the components of the climate system, the range of natural climate variability, external drivers of climate change, impacts of changing climate, and adaptation, mitigation, and geo-engineering policy solutions. Guest instructors from the South Central Climate Science Center research and stakeholder networks will be solicited for their area of expertise to discuss targeted course topics. For an introduction to this innovative course, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=In7dmLnfi4Q> and for further information, contact Aparna Bamzai aparna@ou.edu

Climate Science Grant Writing Workshop for Tribal staff on December 17, 2015 in Albuquerque, NM. South Central Climate Science Center, OU Center of Research Program Development and Enrichment, and OK & NM EPSCoR are partnering to offer a workshop titled “Developing a Funding Strategy for Your Tribal Vulnerability Assessments and Climate Adaptation Plans.” This workshop will focus on developing the social skills or “soft skills” needed to create a successful grant proposal link how to approach potential partners, talking to a program officer, and talking with a scientist. For further information, email Kim Merryman at Kim.Merryman@chickasaw.net

Vulnerability Assessment training for Tribal staff on Oct 26-29, 2015 at Pueblo of Pojoaque. South Central Climate Science Center, The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and National Conservation Training Center are partnering to host this training. It will focus on developing a vulnerability assessment training for

culturally significant species and will include a field trip to the Pueblo of Pojoaque bison refuge. For further information email April Taylor at April.Taylor@chickasaw.net

Tribal College Conference Series on Climate Change for Tribal college students on April 7-8, 2015 in Okmulgee, OK. South Central Climate Science Center, OK EPSCoR, and the College of Muscogee Nation are partnering to offer this conference. It will include a mentoring dinner, breakout sessions, and a poster session. For further information email April Taylor at April.Taylor@chickasaw.net.

Steven Sewell, Dean of Academic Programs, College of the Mainland (Texas City, TX) publishes chapter, “The Spatial Diffusion of Beer from its Sumerian Origins to Today” in volume titled *The Geography of Beer* (edited by Mark Patterson and Nancy Hoalst-Pullen and published by Springer, 2014). See <http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789400777866>

National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research collaboration that spans the Red River Researchers Jason P. Julian (Texas State University, Geography), Kirsten de Beurs (Oklahoma University, Geography), and Christopher Weaver (Oklahoma University, Computer Science) garnered \$227,816 from the NSF’s Geography and Spatial Sciences Program (GSS) for their project “Cross-scale Interactions among Climate Change, Land Use Change, and River Water Quality.”

William E. Doolittle, Erich W. Zimmermann Regents Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment, The University of Texas at Austin, will be the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Stockholm University this September.

SWAAG Budget (31 July 2015)

By Laurel Smith, SWAAG Secretary,
University of Oklahoma

| Date | Description | Receipts | Disbursements | Balance |
|----------|---|----------|---------------|-----------------|
| 8/31/13 | Balance forward | | | \$3,974.48 |
| 10/30/13 | Verma - 3rd Place SWAGG Grad. Paper Award | | -100.00 | 3874.48 |
| 10/30/13 | Leon - 3rd Place Undergrad Paper Award | | -100.00 | 3774.48 |
| 10/30/13 | Fromknecht - 2nd Place Undergrad Paper Award | | -150.00 | 3624.48 |
| 10/31/13 | Aucoin - 1st Place Undergrad Paper Award | | -200.00 | 3424.48 |
| 11/21/13 | 75Q:Texas State Univ check | 63.03 | | 3487.51 |
| 11/4/13 | Blinn Geographic Society - 2nd Place Undergrad Poster Award | | -150.00 | 3337.51 |
| 11/5/13 | Jia - 2nd Place Poster Award | | -150.00 | 3187.51 |
| 11/7/13 | Lester - 2nd Place Graduate Paper Award | | -150.00 | 3037.51 |
| 11/8/13 | Medel Valdivia - 1st Place Graduate Paper Award | | -200.00 | 2837.51 |
| 11/14/13 | Jones - 1st Place Grad Poster Award | | -200.00 | 2637.51 |
| 12/9/13 | Brady - 3rd Place Grad Poster Award | | -100.00 | 2537.51 |
| 1/31/14 | Rentschlar - 3rd Place Grad Paper Award | | -100.00 | 2437.51 |
| 1/31/14 | Nguyen - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award | | -200.00 | 2237.51 |
| 2/12/14 | Rice - Reimb. for SWAAG website exp. | | -97.17 | 2140.34 |
| 3/31/14 | Stephen F Austin State Univ | 666.21 | | 2806.55 |
| 8/29/14 | SWAGG capitation FYE 2014 | 1,500.00 | | 4306.55 |
| 8/31/14 | BALANCE | | | 4,306.55 |
| 8/31/14 | Balance forward | | | \$4,306.55 |
| 10/9/14 | Collins - honorarium | | -600.00 | 3,706.55 |
| 10/29/14 | Dunn - 2nd Place Grad Paper | | -150.00 | 3,556.55 |
| 10/29/14 | McCollum - 1st Place Grad Paper | | -200.00 | 3,356.55 |
| 11/18/14 | Heitmeier - 1st Place Undergrad Paper Award | | -200.00 | 3,156.55 |
| 11/18/14 | Phooko - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award | | -100.00 | 3,056.55 |
| 11/18/14 | Ignac - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award | | -100.00 | 2,956.55 |
| 11/18/14 | Rice - Survey Monkey for elections | | -26.00 | 2,930.55 |
| 1/29/15 | Smith - SWAGG domain renewal | | -18.17 | 2,912.38 |
| 2/5/15 | Univ of New Mexico reimb to SWAAG | 2,224.00 | | 5,136.38 |
| 4/2/15 | Motselebane - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award | | -100.00 | 5,036.38 |
| 7/31/15 | BALANCE | | | 5,036.38 |