BIG congratulations to the A&GS students who won academic awards, honors, scholarships or fellowships this year. Award winners and their guests were honored at a special reception last Monday, April 27, in the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Photo by Kari Roop.

This is EXAM WEEK for the spring 2015 semester.

ALERTS:

- Everyone is invited to attend the memorial service for the legendary Dr. Yoshi Sasaki, on Saturday, May 9, at 10:00 AM in the National Weather Center Atrium. A reception will follow the service. The
Biennale will be closed from 10:00 AM to noon, and there will also be no NWC tours conducted during this time.

- **AGSC 3011, Career Planning & Development**, will be offered this fall! We strongly encourage all A&GS juniors and seniors to take this course. It will be taught Kari Roop, the College’s Manager of Public Relations and Marketing. It meets on Tuesdays, from 4:00 PM – 4:50 PM in the National Weather Center, Room 5930. If you run into any trouble adding it, contact Asst. Dean Hempe at mahempe@ou.edu for permission to enroll.

- **Can it be?** Is it possible that only 25 of the 100+ undergraduate degree candidates have taken the A&GS Graduation Survey?! If you’re one of the 75+ undergrads who have not taken the survey yet, **PLEASE take a few moments now to do so!** You will find the survey [here](#).

- **We DESPERATELY need USHERS for CONVOCATION!** If you are interested in ushering at this year’s A&GS Convocation, please contact Mona Springfield at mspringfield@ou.edu. **MUCH MORE CONVOCATION INFO BELOW!**

- This is your **final “Monday Memo”** for the 2014-2015 academic year; your next “Monday Memo” will be sent the week before fall 2015 classes begin, on Monday, August 17, 2015. The Fall 2015 semester begins on Monday, August 24, 2015.
Spring 2015 Final Exams are HERE!

Make sure you know where and when your finals are by going here: http://www.ou.edu/enrollment/home/final_exams.html.

UC's Student Learning is in full swing now for finals spring 2015. Their most recent schedule is attached. You can also go online to review at: http://www.ou.edu/univcoll/action_tutoring.html#schedule.

Our Top Ten Favorite Studying Tips:

Research has found that the act of holding a pen and creating shapes on paper sends feedback signals to the brain, leaving a "motor memory" which makes it easier to later recall the information. Typing or digitally recording did not have the same cognitive effect.

If you start to lose motivation, switch to a new study location, e.g., if you've been studying in your room, go to the NWC library. "When the outside context is varied, the information is enriched, and this slows down forgetting," psychologist Dr. Robert Bjork told the New York Times.

Try Meditation. Meditation has been shown to boost focus and improve test scores. Or take a breather; taking a 10-minute walking break can improve your focus for up to two hours afterwards.
Put your electronics away – especially your cell phone. Dedicate all your attention to studying, and not to answering calls, texts, or tweets that you can easily respond to later.

Giving yourself a practice test is a great way to ease pre-exam jitters and point out gaps in your knowledge – and it’s much more effective than highlighting and hoping you’ll remember.

Drink Lots Of Water – especially if you’ve been drinking a lot of coffee or energy drinks, which are dehydrating. Even mild dehydration can impair cognitive functioning and mental performance. So make sure to keep a bottle of water next to you at all times when you’re studying.
DO NOT CRAM. Cramming is actually counterproductive. Not only will you be exhausted the morning of exam, but your brain won’t be able to remember what you studied. **You must sleep after study**, to allow your brain time to “soak in the knowledge.” Pace yourself and get some sleep the night before.

Make It A Group Effort. Studying in a group can be helpful, if you choose the right group and stay focused on the material so that your studying doesn’t veer off-course.

Not all exams are created equal, so don’t feel the need to divide your studying equally between different subjects. Assess each exam in terms of difficulty and your own level of knowledge, and spend more time on the sections that you know will be more challenging for you.
Listening to soothing classical or instrumental music can help a wandering mind stay focused. Workers who listened to music completed their tasks more efficiently and came up with better ideas than those who didn’t. This year, we’re recommending Italian composer Ludovico Einaudi’s gorgeous “Divenire” (in English, “Become”). You can listen to the whole album on YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWKgHFFKA-c

Make the NWC Library your Study Destination

Remember, **ALL** A&GS majors have access to the NWC Library! The NWC Library remains open this week, 24/7, until Friday, May 8 at 5:00 PM. There will be lots of snacks and drinks and a great study atmosphere to keep you motivated.
CONGRATULATIONS to all spring and summer 2015 A&GS bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree candidates!

Commencement and Convocation events this week include:

Event: **A&GS Graduation Reception**  
**Date:** Friday, May 8, 2015  
**Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
**Location:** Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. No tickets required.  
**Details:** Join us for tasty pre-commencement food and drinks in the beautiful Sam Noble Museum. There will be plenty to eat, so you won’t have to worry about going out for dinner before commencement. The museum’s galleries will be open if you would like to visit them (no food or drinks allowed in the galleries, though). You can walk up to the Stadium for commencement (it’s about four blocks), drive (although it will very difficult to find parking at that point), or better yet, take the A&GS Express (special bus service) from Sam Noble to the stadium. The A&GS Express will also bring you back to Sam Noble afterwards – so you won’t have to worry about parking.

Event: **The University of Oklahoma Spring Commencement**  
**Date:** Friday, May 8, 2015
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Location:** Oklahoma Memorial Stadium. No tickets are required.  
**Details:** Are available here: [http://www.ou.edu/commencement](http://www.ou.edu/commencement)

**Event:** College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences Convocation  
**Date:** Saturday, May 9, 2015  
**Time:** 8:00 PM  
**Location:** Catlett Music Center. No tickets are required.  
**Details:**

- Catlett Music Center is located on the corner of Elm & Boyd. The A&GS Convocation will be the last of five convocations held there on Saturday. The Convocation right before ours begins at 5:00 PM and should end by 6:30 PM (we hope!). As you arrive, you will be directed by a designated Special Events staff member to park in either the parking garage right by Catlett or the parking lot behind it.
- Guests from the previous convocation will be leaving as you arrive; doors to Catlett will be marked “ENTER” and “EXIT” so please pay close attention to prevent any collisions!  
- **PLEASE ARRIVE AT CATLETT NO EARLIER THAN 7:00 PM AND NO LATER THAN 7:15 PM** that evening and go directly to Pittman Recital Hall (to your left as you enter Catlett) to check in and fill out your photo card, where you will also indicate what generation of graduate you are (first, second, etc.) if you would like us to announce it during Convocation. **You must wear a cap & gown.**
- In Pittman, there will be a seat with your name on it. Once you're ready, sit down and wait until we give the final (all-important) line-up instructions, at around 7:40 PM. At around 7:50 PM, your faculty marshals (Dr. Jad Ziolkowska and Dr. Steven Cavallo) will lead undergraduates to the lobby, where you will join the faculty and the Dean's Platform Party. Asst. Dean Hempe will line up graduate students. There will be a short wait and then you will process into the Sharp Concert Hall, where the actual ceremony takes place.  
- **DO NOT LEAVE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS BEHIND IN PITTMAN.** We cannot stress this enough! This room is **not** locked or secure during the ceremony.  
- Sharp Concert Hall has seating on the main floor and in the balcony; just an FYI for guests with babies or small children – even though it involves stairs, it is still easier to exit from the balcony than from the main floor if you need to make a quick exit.  
- Party Pix of Norman will be there to take your picture as you receive your diploma cover, and another picture after you leave the stage.  
- If you have not already RSVP’d to Events Planner Mona Springfield ([mspringfield@ou.edu](mailto:mspringfield@ou.edu)) **please do so immediately!** We cannot stress enough how important it is to RSVP, so that we can make sure everyone has a seat. If any of your guests require special accommodations (e.g., wheelchair seating), please let Ms. Springfield know so we can plan accordingly.
The entire program should last about 95 minutes. While we are the last event of the day, please note that the Catlett technicians will have been hard at work since 7:00 AM that morning and will begin clearing the stage immediately after our convocation is done so that they can go home. If you'd like to take a few more pictures onstage before you leave that's fine, just be aware that you'll need to be very quick about it!

Robes, Hoods, Tassels

- Tassels for undergraduates are “Alice” Blue & Brown
- Tassels for master’s candidates are Black; master's candidates wear their hoods into the ceremony.
- Tassels for PhD candidates are Gold; PhD candidates carry their hoods into the ceremony.
- Master’s candidates may be joined onstage by their faculty advisor(s) for a photo.
- PhD candidates will be hooded onstage by their faculty advisor(s)

We strongly recommend that you dress lightly under your academic gown; i.e., do not wear a full suit or heavy fabrics, as you will be too hot and uncomfortable. Also, you will be going down a long flight of stairs when you enter Catlett. They’re big, wide stairs, but they’re still stairs – and they’re carpeted – so keep that in mind when choosing footwear.

If you’re graduating this spring, your degree will be officially posted around mid-June, 2015. After your degree is officially posted, it will appear on your official transcript.

- Undergraduates: If you need proof you have completed your degree before is officially posted, please contact Assistant Dean Hempe in the Dean’s Office at mahempe@ou.edu to request a Completion Statement Form.
- Graduate students who need proof of graduation prior to the official posting should contact the Graduate College.

Your diploma will be mailed to the permanent address you listed on your graduation application, approximately two months after your degree is posted.

If you’re graduating this summer, your degree will be officially posted in late August, 2015 and you should receive your diplomas in early October. If you need proof you have completed your degree before the end of August, please note the instructions above for contacting Asst. Dean Hempe about a Completion Statement Form.

Please note that all tuition and fees must be paid before your degree can be posted and an official transcript released.

This week’s Seminars:
Dr. William Skamarock, from the Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Laboratory at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, will present "Convective Forecasts with a Global Atmospheric Model? Possibilities for Numerical Weather Prediction in the Next Decade" on Tuesday, May 5 at 4:00 PM in the National Weather Center, Room 1313.

Paul Flanagan, master's degree candidate in the School of Meteorology, will present "The Dryline, Convective Initiation, and Rapid Evolution of Drought in Oklahoma During 2011" on Wednesday, May 6 at 1:00 PM in the National Weather Center, Room 5720.
Weather-Related Careers are HOT!

We're very excited to hear that weather-related careers are on the upswing; check out this recent article that recently ran in the *Chicago Tribune*.

Stay in touch over the summer
Are you completing an internship this summer? Traveling? Studying abroad? We’d love to hear from you! Send pictures and updates about all your summer activities to Kari Roop, Director of Public Relations and Marketing at fyi@nwc.ou.edu.

Announcements for the first Fall 2015 MM?

Don’t forget to forward information about any Welcome-Back Events, pre-semester happenings, or just general announcements for the edition (August 17) of “Monday Memo” this fall. Please forward all announcements to Asst. Dean Hempe (mahempe@ou.edu).

The iconic photo of Kent State victim Jerry Miller. The woman kneeling by him was not a fellow student, but a 14-year-old runaway from Florida.

On this Day in History:
In 1626, Dutch explorer Peter Minuit landed on Manhattan Island and quickly bought the entire place for about $24 worth of cloth and buttons from the Native American tribe living there, the Lenape. The Lenape, however, were probably unaware they had sold anything, since the notion of selling was not part of their culture – especially not when it came to water, air, and land. No man could own those things.

In 1776, Rhode Island became the first North American colony to renounce its allegiance to England’s King George III. They dragged their feet making it official, though. Rhode Island was the last state to ratify the new American Constitution fourteen years later on May 29, 1790.

In 1865, Abraham Lincoln was buried in his hometown of Springfield, Illinois. His funeral train had traveled through 180 cities and seven states; at each stop mourners paid their respects to the fallen president, who had been assassinated on April 14.

In 1886, a peaceful labor protest in Chicago’s Haymarket Square quickly became violent when someone threw a bomb into the crowd. The ensuing riot left 100 people wounded and eight police officers dead, seven of them at the hands of their fellow officers, who fired wildly into the crowd in the chaos that followed the bombing.

In 1886, Chichester Bell (Alexander Graham Bell’s cousin) and Charles S. Tainter patented the gramophone, the first practical phonograph.

In 1904, US Army engineers began work on the Panama Canal. It officially opened more than ten years later, on August 15, 1914.

In 1970, without firing a warning shot, the Ohio National Guardsmen, discharged more than 60 rounds toward a group of Kent State University student demonstrators in a nearby parking lot, killing four and wounding nine. In 1974, at the end of a criminal investigation into the Kent State incident, a federal court dropped all charges levied against eight Ohio National Guardsmen for their role in the students’ deaths.

In 1977, British journalist David Frost interviewed disgraced former President Richard Nixon. In the televised interview (considered to be quite sensational during those pre-internet days), Nixon answered questions regarding the Watergate scandal and his resignation, admitting that he had let the American people down through his role in the 1972 Watergate burglary and cover-up. The interview was the inspiration for a 2006 stage play by Peter Morgan, who also wrote the screenplay for the 2008 film version, “Frost/Nixon,” which starred an Oscar-nominated Frank Langella as Nixon.

In 1979, Oxford-educated chemist and lawyer Margaret Hilda Roberts Thatcher aka “The Iron Lady” became Britain’s first woman prime minister. She was elected to two more consecutive terms. In 1992, she was made a baroness and took a seat in the House of Lords. The Iron Lady died on April 8, 2013, at the age of 87.
In 2010, Pablo Picasso’s 1932 painting "Nude, Green Leaves and Bust" sold for $106.5 million. It broke the record price for an art work sold at auction until it was surpassed by the selling of The Scream on May 2, 2012 for $120 million. Not to be outdone, Picasso’s “Women of Algiers” will hit the auction block a week from today, the painting is expected to sell for at least $140 million.

**And your parting shot(s):**

Since your next “Monday Memo” is 105 days away, we wanted to leave you with a gallery of glorious shots, with each one honoring a major in the college.

*Geography...*
These are the awe-inspiring Dynjandi (also known as Fjallfoss), a series of cascading waterfalls located in the Westfjords (Vestfirðir), Iceland. There are a total of seven waterfalls, with a cumulative height of 330 feet. It used to be quite the hike to see all seven falls, volunteers built a hiking path in 1996.

Meteorology...

These are noctilucent clouds, or “night clouds.” They are the highest clouds in Earth's atmosphere, located in the mesosphere at altitudes of around 47 to 53 miles. They are only visible when illuminated by sunlight from below the horizon while the lower layers of the atmosphere are in the Earth's shadow. Noctilucent clouds are not fully understood and are a recently discovered meteorological phenomenon; there is no record of their observation before 1885. They have been growing in number and brightness in recent years.

GIS...
This beautiful half-meter satellite image of Australia’s famous Great Barrier Reef was captured by the WorldView-2 satellite sensor.
This magnificent bicycle arch in California is the work of artists Mark Grieve and Ilana Spector, who collected the 300 bicycles that make up the arch from the debris piles of nonprofit bicycle organizations.

And finally, remember to never give up....
Dashrath Manjhi cut down a mountain single-handed for 22 years - day and night, to ensure no one else dies without medical care like his wife. Reducing the distance from 70 km to just 1 km from his village to hospital.
Have a fantastic summer! We’ll see you in August!

Please remember to like us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/OUAGS) and follow us on Twitter (@OUAGS)!

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