

Environmental Science Graduate Program

117 Life Science East, Stillwater OK 74078 | www.esgp.okstate.edu
Phone: 405.744.9229 | email: esgp@okstate.edu

Hello everyone and welcome to the Fall 2017 Newsletter. The last semester was full of activity and fun. Many of our students presented their research findings at the 26th Annual Oklahoma Clean Lakes & Watershed Association Conference, held at the Wes Watkins Center in April. I hosted an International Potluck Dinner with our students and we had food from China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Hungary, Mexico, and Sierra Leone. It was amazing.

The OSU-Tulsa Environmental Science Program has partnered with Spears School of Business to add a business sustainability option for undergraduates seeking a degree in Management. This will serve as a feeder program for our PSM degree or an MBA. We are very excited that Jason Aamodt has been hired to lead this effort! If you have not met Jason yet, please poke your head in and say hello.

Best of luck to all our students in the upcoming academic year!

-Dr. Scott Stoodley



Brown Bag Seminars

September 20

Natarianto Indrawan
Gasification Research Group

October 11

Megan Judkins
Grey Snow Eagle House

October 25

Sheyda Nazari Chamaki
Bioprocess Engineering

November 8

Dr. Kevin Wagner, Director
Water Resources Center

Award-Worthy Graduate



Dr. Caitlin Barnes, Fall 2016 ESGP graduate, received the Graduate Research Excellence Award in the Physical Sciences and Technology category at the Graduate College's spring awards ceremony. Her dissertation, titled *Evaluation of Hydrogeologic Data Associated with USGS Areas of Potentially Induced Seismicity*, addresses the data needed to adequately assess seismic hazards. Dr. Barnes is the Program Coordinator for OSUTeach.

Student Spotlight

Abubakarr Mansaray, Ph.D. Candidate

Abu Mansaray learned about Oklahoma State University through a network of former OSU students who conducted research at Njala University in Sierra Leone, where Abu earned his MS degree in Environmental Chemistry.

Abu's research uses remote sensing imagery of the Grand Lake, Oklahoma, watershed and *in situ* water quality measures to generate algorithms which can be used for predictive modeling. By combining Landsat's multispectral reflectance bands with temporally coincident water quality parameters, Abu is developing tools to assist managers in monitoring reservoir ecosystems and forecasting trends, such as imminent pollution spikes that lead to algal blooms. Abu's advisor is Dr. Scott Stoodley.

New Additions

Michael Thayer, Ph.D.

Dr. Thayer completed his Ph.D. in Environmental Science from OSU in the Spring 2017 semester and has re-joined the ESGP as an adjunct instructor. He developed and taught the original Clean Air Act course for the ESGP in 2011 and will return to teach this same class (ENVR 5313) this fall. Dr. Thayer has over 20 years of environmental management experience with a multinational Fortune 500 company and has been a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) since 2007. Dr. Thayer's doctoral research focused on the refinement of a holistic risk-based approach to identify significant environmental aspects within an environmental management system. Dr. Thayer and his wife reside in Sand Springs, OK and have three grown children.

Dr. Kerri Farnsworth-Hoback

Dr. Farnsworth joined ESGP in April as the Program Coordinator. She was previously a Professor of Biology at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. She is married to entomologist Wyatt Hoback; together, they have five children and one grandchild. Dr. Farnsworth is a Girl Scout troop leader and enjoys crocheting and making stained glass.

New ESGP Students (admitted for Spring, Summer, & Fall 2017):

Stephen Angle, Todd Autry, Lauren Branum, Melissa Gray, Alicia Hanson, Furzana Iqbal, Brandon Moore, Muhammed Al Radi, Ashley Rhea, Katie Smith, Marybeth Strothmann, David Taylor, Clark Watson.



Abu Mansaray (above) is a volunteer with the **Oklahoma Blue Thumb** program and serves as student board member of **OCLWA**. He is active in OSU's **Fulbright Students & Scholars Association** and **African Students Organization** and is President of the **Society of Environmental Scientists**.



Congratulations to our spring graduates!

Doctor of Philosophy:
Michael Thayer

Master of Science:
Adam Austin, Clayton Ferguson, Keima Kamara, Kanten Klinger, Jennifer Murphy, Jacob Pascoe, Shira Timmons

ESGP is proud to announce our new partnership with OSU's **Veteran Student Academic Services**.



universitycollege.okstate.edu/veteran