Advanced GIS students pose for a picture in Selman Cave located at UCO’s Selman Living Lab in northwestern Oklahoma. Clusters of bats can be seen at the top of the picture (April 2008).

Study Tours 2009

The Department of History and Geography and the College of Liberal Arts are offering a number of field classes this summer for university credit. Study Tours combine campus coursework with experience beyond UCO’s campus. The 2009 classes will visit Rome, China, Germany, London and Dublin. Space is still available. For more information, or to reserve your spot, please contact the faculty advisor listed for each course.

The following Study Tours will be offered in 2009:

**Rome** (24 May-8 June 2009)
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen
(jsheetznguyen@uco.edu)

**Germany** (7-21 June 2009)
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Michael Springer
(mspringer@uco.edu)

**China** (10-22 June 2009)
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Bing Li (bli@uco.edu)

**London/Dublin** (2-12 August 2009)
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen
(jsheetznguyen@uco.edu)

Diane Kremm Endowment Fundraiser

The UCO College of Liberal Arts Department of History and Geography has the opportunity to increase the Diane Kremm Fund Endowment by up to $10,000, as part of the 100th anniversary of John Kirkpatrick’s birth.

John Kirkpatrick, who founded the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, which manages the Kremm Fund Endowment, is offering a special centennial endowment challenge which will match every gift, dollar-for-dollar that is given to the Kremm Fund by December 31, 2008.

The Diane Kremm Fund is one of the largest in the College of Liberal Arts, and last year we distributed more than $1300 of valuable student aid to six students. These funds helped the students pursue research, present conference papers, and attend professional meetings.

In December of 2000, UCO alumnus and Distinguished Former Student award recipient, Mark Kelly established the Kremm Fund in honor of Dr. Diane Neal Kremm. Dr. Kremm was a teacher and mentor at the University of Central Oklahoma and was very active in the Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Program (OSLEP) and the history and geography department.

"This matching grant is a wonderful way for alumni to support the history and geography department. With every gift doubling, we will have the opportunity to provide more support to our students," says Dr. Stanley Adamiak, Chair of the UCO History and Geography Department. "We hope our alumni will respond to this exciting offer by the December 31st deadline. Every gift, any size matters." To make a donation to the Dr. Diane Kremm Fund please visit www.occf.org and click the "Donate Now" button.
Museum Studies

Graduating Students Find Success

The department is pleased to announce the success of the 2007-2008 Museum Studies MA graduates. Amanda Cagle has accepted a position as Coordinator for the Museum of Pioneer History. Stephanie Coon has gone to work for the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. Stephanie Fields works as curator for the Oklahoma Territorial Museum. And Jason Harris serves as the Curator of Education at the Oklahoma Museum of History. The fifth student, Justin Castro, is now working on a history PhD at the University of Oklahoma. Congratulations to these outstanding students and we wish them well in their careers.

Museum Studies Students Present Papers

A number of students in the History-Museum Studies program presented, or will present, papers at conferences this semester. Corey Ayers, Erin Brown, and Erin Karl presented and led a panel discussion at the annual conference of the Oklahoma Museums Association in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. In addition, two graduate students, Felicia Harrison and Erin Karl, will present papers at the annual conference of the Mountain Plains Museums Association—a ten-state regional museums association—in October in Kansas City, Missouri.

Summer Internships

Several History-Museum Studies students participated in summer internships in Oklahoma and abroad this year. Participants included Thomaira Babbit and Samantha Samuel (Mount Zion Archaeological Excavation in Jerusalem, Israel), Anne Alford (Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans), Cory Ayers (Oklahoma Museum of History), Lindsey Johnston (UCO archives), Erin Karl (UCO Laboratory of History Museum), Lori Ackman (Oklahoma Territorial Museum), and Felicia Harrison (Oklahoma History Center). These internships provide students with important experience in the field. If you would like to know more about internship opportunities, contact Dr. Carolyn Poole, Director of Museum Studies.

Geography Students Help in El Cerrito

Dr. Doug Hurt

In May 2008, seven students participated in the school reconstruction project in El Cerrito, New Mexico as part of a one credit-hour intersession Field Geography class taught by Dr. Doug Hurt that emphasized service learning. Each May, a group of volunteers gather to reconstruct the El Cerrito-school building. After the empty building burned in the early 1980s (due to population decline classes had not been held in El Cerrito since the 1950s), the village was missing a structure that served as a social node and community gathering location (hosting events including dances and regular meetings of the irrigation ditch association). Using traditional building techniques in order to make the new building look like the original, the work on the school began in 2005. Over the course of five days in May, we installed water lines and plumbing infrastructure, poured concrete footings for the floor, and dug a crawl space under the future kitchen and bathroom. Upon return to campus, the students reflected upon how El Cerrito compared to the fictional Hispano town of Milagro discussed in the novel The Milagro Beanfield War (John Nichols, 1974).

Western Pacific Institute Hosts Delegation

The Western Pacific Institute in the Department of History and Geography hosted a Chinese delegation from the China Society of Strategy and Management Research (CSSM), Beijing, on June 2-23. During their visit, they met Dr. Washington, Dean of College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Richard Bernard, Dean of College of Graduate Studies, Dr. Stan Adamiak, Chair of Department of History and Geography, and faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts.
Phi Alpha Theta
Dr. Jeff Plaks reports that Phi Alpha Theta has been very active. A great number of PAT members and faculty professors participated in the Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference at Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma City on March 7-8, 2008. Thirteen PAT members presented scholarly papers, five of which earned prestigious prizes. PAT members did volunteer work at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma in March and again in November. In April members went on a field trip to Tulsa to see the Gilcrease Museum’s collection and the special exhibit on loan from the Uffizi at the Philbrook Museum. On May 1, 2008, PAT hosted a special presentation featuring Holocaust survivor Eliezer Ayalon. More than 300 students, professors, and Edmond residents attended to hear his tragic story. In September PAT members and fellow travelers journeyed to the Oklahoma City Museum of Art to see the Rome Exhibit. It has been a great year and PAT members are looking forward to celebrating a job well done at the Holiday Party on December 12 at President Phredd Evans’s home.

Laboratory of History Museum
Director Heidi Vaughn reported that work continues on the museum this fall. Staff members Tabby Toney, Sheridan Dunn, and T.A. Leslie Jones completed an inventory of items on exhibit and are now working on an inventory of items in storage. They are joined in this work by two Museum Studies students, Autumn Weimer and Clary James. The staff and students are entering information about the inventoried items into the PastPerfect museum software program and have completed over 200 entries. They are recording very detailed information about each artifact and digital images of the item.

New exhibits are also in development. Lori Ackman, a Museum Studies student, is working on an independent study project developing the script for the future "Central State Normal School" exhibit. What was previously the "Pioneer Gallery" has been closed to the public until the new "Territorial Normal School of Oklahoma Gallery" is completed. The staff members are currently working on a small display at the front of the museum for interpretation of the Pioneer and TNSO story until the new gallery is completed.

New Domain Name
The University of Central Oklahoma has changed its domain from “ucok.edu” to “uco.edu”. Please be aware that the web and e-mail addresses are changing. We are currently in a period of transition and both domains will work. After 1 January 2009, only the new domain (“uco.edu”) can be used.

Congratulations to:
Jaye H. Flynn, who recently accepted a position teaching seventh-grade geography at Cooper Middle School (Putnam City School District).

Rho Lambda chapter of Phi Alpha Theta for receiving the 2008 Best Chapter Award, division IV.

Faculty Updates
Dr. Xiaobing Li was invited to the West Point Military Academy and gave a guest lecture on “Maoist Warfare” at the West Point Summer Seminar on June 15-17. In addition, he recently published his co-edited book (in Chinese), New Historiography in the Contemporary West (Shanghai: Lexicographical Publishing House, 2008).

Recent Publications
The Department of History and Geography's Newsletter is produced twice a year and is available in electronic format. To view the newsletter, go to http://www.libarts.uco.edu/history/news.htm. If you would like to receive a PDF version sent directly to you, please send your address to Dr. Michael Springer at mspringer@uco.edu.

### Mark Your Calendar

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<tr>
<td>13 December 2009</td>
<td>Commencement for Fall Graduates</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 January 2009</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
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<td>25 February 2009</td>
<td>2009 Liberal Arts Symposium</td>
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<td>(Contact Dr. Brad Watkins for details.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-19 April 2009</td>
<td>Geography Student Organization Panhandle Field Trip</td>
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Do you have news or events you would like to see in the newsletter? Would you like to have an electronic copy sent directly to your email account? If so, we would like to hear from you. Please contact the editor, Dr. Michael Springer, at mspringer@uco.edu.