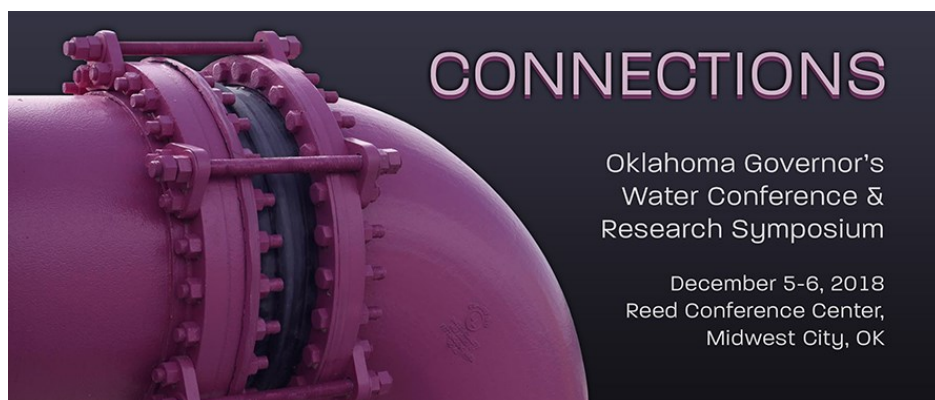
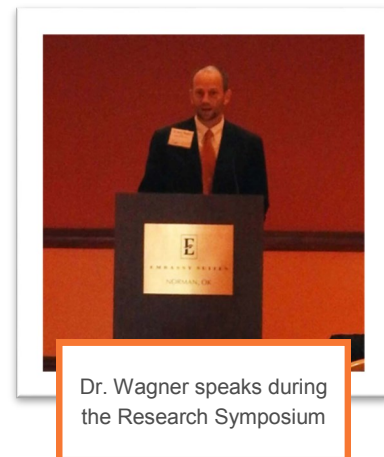


# Currents

September 2018

## “Connections” (by Dr. Kevin Wagner)

The 2018 Governor’s Water Conference and Research Symposium’s theme is “Connections.” Connections are critical for addressing today’s complex water issues and this conference is a great opportunity to connect with other professionals, and learn about the latest water science and policy. I recently celebrated one year as Water Center director, over which I spent reconnecting with old colleagues and making new connections with the water community. We are now embarking on a survey effort to better understand public perceptions on water issues and learn how best to connect with them. I look forward to sharing those results with you at the Research Symposium and “connecting” with you there.



The Call for Abstracts is now open!  
Visit [water.okstate.edu](http://water.okstate.edu) to connect and be a part of this year’s event.



Nominations due 9/28

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Tyson Ochsner



Dr. Tyson Ochsner utilizing his PHD (post hole digger) skills

I grew up on a [third-generation family farm](#) in Tillman County, Oklahoma, where my parents, Arthur and Linda, raised wheat and cotton and four children. I graduated from Chattanooga (OK) High School and went on to earn a B.S. in Environmental Science at Oklahoma State University in 1998. A month later I married my Iowa sweetheart, Stephanie Haas, who I met in Washington D.C. on a high school FFA trip. I then studied Soil Science and Water Resources at Iowa State University earning a M.S. in 2000 and a Ph.D. in 2003.

From 2003 through 2008, I worked as a soil scientist for the USDA Agricultural Research Service in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since then, I have served as assistant, associate, and full professor of applied soil physics in the department of Plant and Soil Sciences at OSU.

The aim of my work is to help people better understand and appreciate the soil, the soil water balance, and the surface energy balance so that we can more wisely manage and conserve the land and water with which we have been entrusted. My team’s primary research focus is on multi-scale soil moisture monitoring and improved utilization of soil moisture data in agriculture, meteorology, environmental modeling, and drought adaptation. You can learn more about our work through our [Soil Physics website](#), our [Soil Moisture website](#), our [mobile app](#), and our [YouTube channel](#).

In addition to my roles at OSU, I enjoy being a husband to Stephanie, a father to our five children (Audrey, Isaac, Annelise, Eli, and Abel), and a member of Eagle Heights Baptist Church.

## Opportunities

### Funding

- **USGS:** National Land Remote Sensing Education Outreach and Research Activity (due 9/4/18)
- **EPA:** Practical Methods to Analyze and Treat Emerging Contaminants in Solid Waste, Landfills, Wastewater/Leachates, Soils, and Groundwater to Protect Human Health and the Environment (due 10/2/18)
- **National Geographic Society:** AI for Earth (due 10/8/18)
- **NSF:** Division of Environmental Biology
- **NSF/NSFC** Joint Research on Environmental Sustainability Challenges
- **NSF:** Environmental Engineering
- **NSF:** INFEWS
- [\[more info\]](#)

### Events

- **Unwanted Pesticide Disposal Collection** (Woodward County Fairgrounds; 9/26, 8-1)
- **Oka Institute 2018 Sustainability Conference** (ECU; 10/2-3. Early-bird registration ends 9/12.)
- **Global Water Security for Agriculture & Natural Resources** (Hyderabad, India; 10/3-6)
- **2018 NIWR Regional Symposium "Water Resources of the U.S. Great Plains Region: Status and Future"** (Lincoln, NE; 10/24-26)
- **Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference and Research Symposium** (Midwest City, 12/5-6. Early-bird registration ends 10/1.)
- [\[more info\]](#)

## Comprehensive Soil Moisture Estimation (by Brittany Davis)



Briana Wyatt, a doctoral student in Plant and Soil Sciences, was among our first crop of student recipients for an Oklahoma Competitive Water Research Grant through the USGS 104(b) program, initially opened to students in 2017. That year Briana, along with Drs. Tyson Ochsner and Chris Zou, began working to create a computational model capable of estimating soil moisture under various vegetation types and creating soil moisture maps for Oklahoma. Early results from the model, which is currently being run for Payne County, Oklahoma, suggest this is an appropriate method for estimating soil moisture with varying land cover. Completion of the project will lead to a better understanding of the variability of soil moisture under the many vegetation types covering Oklahoma and, ultimately, high-resolution maps of daily soil moisture under intermixed vegetation for Oklahoma available online for use by producers, researchers, and water managers.

Attend the [2018 Research Symposium](#) to hear more about this project and speak with the researchers.

## New Website Design for the Oklahoma Water Resources Center (by Leslie Elmore)



I've been busy working behind the scenes to update the look and content of water.okstate.edu. Newly reorganized pages will help visitors connect to the information they need more quickly. The look is bolder and cleaner. A simpler menu along the top of the page makes navigation more user-friendly.

What hasn't changed is our commitment to serve the citizens of Oklahoma, provide the latest research to managers and policy-makers, and build strong bonds among our faculty to help them achieve success

We remain a go-to site for water-related research and extension efforts around the entire state, providing a variety of resources for homeowners, producers, municipalities, students, and citizens who want to stay informed.

[Visit our site](#) and have a look. What will you learn today?

### Oklahoma Water Resources Center

Oklahoma State University | 139 Agricultural Hall | Stillwater, OK  
<http://water.okstate.edu> | 405.744.5615 | [water@okstate.edu](mailto:water@okstate.edu)

