



Jan 1st, 12:00 AM

## 05. Geography

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## **Abstracts from the 2013 Oklahoma Research Day**

**Held at the University of Central Oklahoma**

### **04. Liberal Arts**

### **05. Geography**

#### **04.05.01 Discourses of the Mother Road: Geographic Themes Along Eastern and Central Route 66**

**Adam Payne, Douglas Hurt, Sara Hawk,**

*University of Central Oklahoma*

Connecting Chicago to Los Angeles, Route 66 is a symbol of American history as well as an economic resource for local communities and individuals who have opened a series of museums and interpretive sites near the highway. In order to explore what cultural heritage images Route 66 tourist sites convey to visitors, we assessed the information presented at museums and historic sites astride Route 66. Our preliminary qualitative analysis suggests similar and unique ways that the American past is viewed in the eastern, central, and western portions of the route.