DEPARTMENT NEWS

• Our recent PhD graduate, Dr. Oronde Drakes, won the Gilbert F. White Award for best doctoral dissertation in the Hazards, Risks & Disasters specialty group from the American Association of Geographers. Congratulations, Odonde!

• On March 23rd at 3:30pm US Central Time, Barbara Keino will be defending her thesis, “Spatiotemporal Trends of Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors, Overweight, Obesity, and Tobacco Use in East Africa”. If you are interested in joining to watch this thesis defense via Zoom, use this link: bit.ly/3JegY8t. Barbara Keino’s abstract can be found on the following page.

DRONE CERTIFICATION

Are you interested in becoming a certificated drone pilot? To fly a drone for anything other than for recreational purposes, you must get a Remote Pilot Certificate. A group is being assembled to study for the FAA Knowledge Test that is the main step in becoming certified drone pilot. This will be an informal group get-together (approximately 45 minutes; once per week) to review the material and run practice tests. If you are interested, please contact Marc Linderman at marc-linderman@uiowa.edu to express interest. A poll will be sent in the near future to help organizers arrange the best dates and times for which test review and practice runs can be scheduled. Please note that, until further notice, these sessions will be conducted virtually.

KOHN COLLOQUIUM

In lieu of a presentation this Friday, March 11th, the time slot set aside for Colloquium will be spent reviewing and discussing the Kohn code of conduct. Contact Susan Meerdink at susan-meerdink@uiowa.edu for the Zoom link.

Next Friday, March 18th, there will be no scheduled Kohn Colloquium due to spring break.
**Upcoming Events | Opportunities**

**EVENTS AND INFO SESSIONS**

**Exploring Careers in Environment and Sustainability | Virtual Event**

On March 29th, the Pomerantz Career Center is organizing a career-exploring event in collaboration with academic units (including the Department of Geographical and Sustainably Sciences) and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. Panelists will include: Jason Schatz, Science Team Lead Sustainability at Descartes Labs, Justin Streit, Senior Project Manager, Avian Ecologist, Golden Eagle Science Team, at SWCA Environmental Consultants, Tamara Marcus, Linn County Sustainability Manager, and Cate Holston, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, US EPA Criminal Investigation Division, Kansas City Investigations Section. Register online via Handshake at bit.ly/pcceces. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this event, please contact Joanna Halsch in advance at (319) 353-2816 or joanna-halsch@uiowa.edu.

**INTERNSHIPS & JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

- Get your start in conservation as an Anna Beal summer intern! Undergraduates, you are invited to apply for a summer internship with The Nature Conservancy in Waterloo completing 11 weeks of stewardship work between May 23rd and August 5th (2022) throughout the state of Iowa on Conservancy preserves and public agency properties for a $5000 educational scholarship. Those interested in applying should visit nature.org/careers. Email applyhelp@tnc.org if you are experiencing technical difficulty with the application, or ccarter@tnc.org for any questions related specifically to the internship itself. See the full internship description and requirements at: clas.uiowa.edu/geography/anna-beal-summer-internship-waterloo-ia

- Are you looking for a hands-on experience in agriculture? Abbe Hills Farm is currently hiring for the summer of 2022. Located in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Email laura@abbehills.com for details.

**THESIS DEFENSE: BARBARA KEINO**

**Abstract:** All too often health and disease patterns in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are studied at a regional, i.e., East Africa, or national level. Analysis at these levels mask place-specific information that is necessary to create targeted policy and public health interventions that meet community needs. Cardiovascular disease (CVD), such as stroke, and heart attacks, has rapidly increased in SSA since the early 2000s. Factors that contribute to the onset of CVD include overweight/obesity and tobacco use. This dissertation addresses a critical knowledge gap about the spatial and temporal patterns of factors associated with CVD in SSA. Data from five East African nations over a 10-year period is used to show that the rates of tobacco use and overweight/obesity varies across and within nations. Although overweight/obesity is increasing in all the countries, the rate of increase differs between and within countries. A closer look within national borders, using spatial analysis methods, reveals that although overweight/obesity rates are higher in urban areas, rural areas are experiencing a significant increase in overweight/obesity. The opposite is true for tobacco use, where rural populations are more likely to use tobacco compared to urban population, and use is declining in rural areas and increasing in and around urban centers. These findings show that to understand CVD in SSA, we must look beyond regional or national level analysis and use other methods, such as spatial analysis, to determine place-specific patterns which will better inform policy and health intervention strategies.
Campus Resources

Career Advising via Pomerantz Career Center

♦ The Pomerantz Career Center at C310 PC is open for drop-in peer advising Monday—Thursday between the hours of 10am and 2pm only, with Zoom appointments available via MyUI.

♦ Employers post open positions on Handshake for internships and full-time job opportunities for students of all degree levels.

Writing Assistance Available via the Writing Center

♦ The Writing Center is fully online and available to all students, faculty, and staff. They can provide feedback on any kind of writing—from reading responses, course papers, capstone projects, and theses to cover letters, emails, scholarship applications, and creative projects.

♦ Use the Online Feedback button to upload a piece of writing and get written comments and suggestions on it, allowing at least two business days for a response.

UI Service Center

♦ The UI Service Center is open and available to help students with a multitude of tasks including: changing registration, checking on the progress of scholarship submissions, graduation services, transcripts and verifications, ID card programs, billing, and loan collections.

♦ The Service Center strongly encourages you to schedule an appointment through MyUI using the “Advising Appointment” feature and selecting the Service Center before your in-person visit.

University Virtual Counseling Service Programs

♦ The University Counseling Service is still offering several programs to help students virtually.

♦ Let’s Talk Hawks! consultations are a weekly drop-in service that provides students the opportunity to have informal, confidential, and anonymous conversations with a UCS therapist. No appointment is needed; these services are offered on a first come, first serve basis.

♦ The Solidarity Support Group is a safe space for students of color to talk about concerns, share experiences, and stay connected with one another and the other UI communities. They meet between 12:30pm-1:20pm on Friday afternoons.

♦ Other UCS programming can be found here.

Other Campus Resources

♦ Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology Resources

♦ ITS Student Resources & Services

♦ GIS Library Research Guide

♦ UIowa COVID Spring 2022 Guidelines