DEPARTMENT NEWS

Seungwon Kim has successfully defended his thesis and will soon be graduating with his Ph.D. in Geography. Congratulations, Seungwon!

KOHN COLLOQUIUM

This Friday, April 15th, Dr. Andrew VanLoocke will be presenting “What’s the name of that giant grass you’re working on?: An overview of research on the agronomy and sustainability of biomass crops in Iowa” from 3:30pm until 5pm in S107 PBB, as well as virtually via Zoom: uiowa.zoom.us/j/97733817214

Abstract: Bioenergy has been identified as a strategy to mitigate climate change, and in the early 2000s, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a plan called the renewable fuels standard (RFS) to scale up the production of a new generation of renewable energy by the year 2022. It is now 2022, and the production of advanced fuels mandated by the RFS is far from the target set. Despite the shortfalls of cellulosic ethanol production mandates the bioeconomy still has the potential to induce major shifts in Iowa agriculture. The development of carbon and other ecosystem services markets combined with advances in biotechnology and increasing impacts of climate change all continue to be significant driving factors affecting the bioeconomy. Many questions still need to be answered regarding where and how to grow biomass crops and how to account for their ecosystem services. In this presentation I will 1) briefly recap some of the events that have led us to where we are today 2) introduce (or reintroduce) the giant grasses and define ecosystem services that are central to the research and development on biomass crops 3) highlight bioeconomic activities around Iowa City and the state of Iowa today, and 4) share some research from the ISU Biomass research team on the potential of future biomass crops in our region.

EARTH MONTH

April is Earth Month. In addition to Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment has many events happening all month long. Find out more about opportunities you can take to participate in Earth Month at sustainability.uiowa.edu/campus-initiatives/earth-month-2022
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Plant Potting Event** | On April 14th, from 5pm to 6pm in Hubbard Park, the Office of Sustainability and the Environment will be hosting a seminar to offer information on the sustainable practices that are undertaken by the University of Iowa and what each student can do in order to be as sustainable as possible. There will be an emphasis on the scientific aspect of these sustainable practices. In addition to the seminar, the OSE will be offering students the opportunity to pot their own plants (pots and plants will be supplied)!

**Glass Upcycling** | On April 16th, 2pm, at the Student Garden, join the UI Gardeners club at the Student Garden to upcycle some glassware! Bring any used, clean mason jars, kombucha bottles, salsa jars, or other glassware to upcycle into new home décor. Painting supplies, macrame, burlap, twine, and other items will be provided to refurbish your old glassware. Feel free to bring any additional supplies if you have them. Please do not purchase any new or unused mason jars for this event.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Looking for jobs that utilize your degree-specific knowledge and skills as a geographer?** Contact adrian-sandersfeld@uiowa.edu if you’re interested in signing up for EcoJobs, a job-posting site that is geared toward helping you start a career in your scientific field of choice.

- The Northwest Mosquito Abatement District in Wheeling, Illinois (NW suburbs of Chicago) is offering a GIS Internship to all summer seasonal employees. The opportunity is open to Field Technicians and Field Technicians with a research focus. Both positions require 2, 8-hour days a week dedicated to field operations. For participants that can work 3-5, 8-hour days per week, there is the opportunity to have days dedicated to applied research and GIS during work hours. Contact Dan Bartlett, dbartlett@nwmadil.com, for any additional information you may need without obligation of applying for the positions.

- **Project Engage: become a Latham Fellow in science engagement:** Are you interested in joining the Latham Science Engagement Initiative Fellowship Program? Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior University of Iowa students with a 3.0 GPA or higher and at least one semester of undergraduate research experience are encouraged to apply. Apply online by May 15th, 2022. Read more at latham.uiowa.edu/program/application.

- **JCG Land Services** is looking to hire a full-time Geographic Information System (GIS) Technician to join their growing team. JCG is an Iowa-based Real Estate and Right of Way firm where their primary role is to bridge the gap between engineering and private property owners by acquiring property rights for the buildout of infrastructure projects. See the JCG job listing for more information and apply before April 29th.
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