Tomorrow, April 7th, at 3pm US Central Time, graduate student Seungwon Kim will be defending his thesis, “Spatio-temporal dynamics of the evolution and spread of influenza A/H1N1pdm09 virus.” Contact Adrian Sandersfeld at adrian-sandersfeld@uiowa.edu or Margaret Carrel at margaret-carrel@uiowa.edu for the Zoom link and meeting credentials.

Abstract: Recurrent influenza A pandemics have been major concerns for global public health. The H1N1 strain that emerged in Mexico in 2009 and became a global pandemic was also devastating, resulting in a heavy economic burden and human toll. Better understanding of the geographic patterns of the evolution and spread of pandemic virus will help us prevent and predict the next influenza pandemics. This work used gene sequences of pandemic influenza virus and their geographic sampling locations to investigate how the viruses interacted with humans in various physical landscapes to evolve and spread across space and time. The pandemic influenza virus that emerged in North America migrated to Asian countries via East Asia during the early phase of the pandemic, and then circulated and evolved in South Asia over the summer in temperate regions. Some seasonal climate factors, such as relative humidity and precipitations, and human populations in the regions determine the geographic characteristics favorable for viral circulation in the United States. Lastly, viral genetic data was used to elucidate how the geographic distribution of human populations and their movements are associated with the spread of the viruses across space in mainland China. Evidence suggests that periodic population movements are responsible for spreading the virus from urban to urban, and urban to local areas. The findings provide better understanding of the evolutionary mechanisms of human influenza pandemic virus, therefore contributing to our ability to limit the spread of future pandemics and lessen the impact on global public health.

DARWIN DAY SERIES

This Friday, April 8th, in lieu of Kohn Colloquium, students are invited to attend Dr. Kelly Weinersmith’s presentation for the Darwin Day talk series hosted by Iowa City Darwin Day. Join us in 101 Biology Building East at 3:30pm for Dr. Weinersmith’s talk titled “Welcome to Zombieland: Real Tales of Parasites Manipulating Host Behavior.”
IOWA CITY DARWIN DAY

The New Tangled Bank: How Ecologies and Interactions Drive Evolution

On April 8th at 4:30pm in 101 Biology Building East, Dr. C. Brandon Ogbunu will be talking as part of Iowa City Darwin Day events programming. Dr. C. Brandon Ogbunu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Yale University and a visiting research scientist at the American Museum of Natural History. He uses experimental evolution, mathematical modeling, and computational biology to better understand the underlying causes and consequences of disease. He is a recipient of the UNCF-Merck Award, the Broad Institute Diversity Fellowship and the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Are Tiny Ancient Algae the Canaries of our Oceans?

On April 9th at 10am in Macbride Hall auditorium, Dr. Shamar Chin will be talking as part of Iowa City Darwin Day events programming. Dr. Shamar Chin is Assistant Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Iowa. Dr. Chin is a micropaleontologist, specializing in nanofossils, which she uses to understand climatological and ecological histories. This talk is part of the 2022 Iowa City Darwin Day Science Fest. All events are free and open to the public.

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.
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