WELCOME TO THE ACADEMIC YEAR!!

CALENDAR

August 29  Faculty meeting will be held from 11:30 – 1:00 in B5 JH

August 29  Faculty / Graduate Student Howdy-Do at 3:00 pm in the third floor common area. Hang out with fellow students, faculty, and staff, shake hands, rub elbows, eat snacks... It promises to be a jolly good time, followed by more jollies at Joe’s Place afterwards. 😊

FACULTY / STUDENT NEWS

Dr. George Malanson began a one- to two-year “rotator” appointment at the National Science Foundation (NSF), Division of Environmental Biology. Rotators are experts in their field who take a leave of absence from their home institution to help NSF design and implement research funding programs and evaluate research proposals. Through his work at NSF George will help establish the agenda for ecological research over the next several years. George has been invaluable to the department as the Director of Undergraduate Studies and a leader in geographic research. Marc Linderman has assumed George’s duties as Director of Undergraduate Studies.

***

Please welcome Dr. Elizabeth Ridder, Visiting Assistant Professor!! Liz is filling in for Dr. George Malanson for the next few years, and comes to us from the sunny land of Arizona from whence she received her Ph.D. in 2013. As a Fulbright Scholar in the Republic of Cyprus, Liz studied historical land cover change, modeled present-day species distributions, and projected future distributions given alternative climate change scenarios.

***

Give a warm hand to Dr. Nick Brown, Visiting Assistant Professor!! Nick received his Ph.D. in 2013 from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is teaching GEOG:4770 Environmental Justice this fall while Dr. Eric Tate is taking a Flex Load Assignment. Nick will also teach a brand new course, GEOG:2331 Human Dimensions of Climate, in the spring (be sure to check it out on ISIS October 13 when spring courses will be ready to view!).

***

Marc Armstrong and Gerry Rushton attended a two-day workshop in Rockville, MD at the end of July. The purpose of the workshop was to provide advice on the general topic of “Geographic Masking and Displacement of GPS Data for Household Surveys” and was run by the GIS group at ICF International, which is a contractor of USAID. ICF has been collecting household-level demographic and health information as part of the MEASURE DHS project for a
number of years and they have been releasing masked information since around 2001 using a protocol based on work reported in this publication: Armstrong, M.P., Rushton, G. and Zimmerman, D.L. 1999. Geographically masking health data to preserve confidentiality. *Statistics in Medicine*, 18 (5): 497-525.

Reminder: Please email any recently received awards, notable presentations or exciting news to angela-bellew@uiowa.edu by Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. to be included in the weekly newsletter.