CALENDAR

October 31  Undergraduate Program Committee meeting will be held from 11:30 – 1:00 in 314 JH

October 31  Kohn Colloquium at 3:30 pm in 221 JH

Speaker: Joe Coulter, Professor, Department of Community and Behavioral Health, The University of Iowa

Title: Health Disparities and Environmental Justic

Refreshments will be provided by the Geography department at 3:00 pm in the foyer

ABSTRACT

The leading determinates of health disparities are generally considered to be Life Style (diet, exercise, substance abuse), Social Structure (racial/ethnic discrimination, stress, low socio-economic status), Health Systems (access to quality health care), and Environment (natural/built, weather, geography), all ultimately manifested through Biological/Genetic mechanisms, including changes in gene expression (epigenetics). Rapidly growing evidence has linked environmental agents, pollutants and living/working conditions with epigenetic variations that appear to promote dramatic increases in susceptibility to develop disease. Further, the effects on gene expression by the environment, life style, social structural determinants, and inadequate health care appear to be heritable. In other words, what your grandparents were exposed to may affect your own health and you will pass this on to your grandchildren in the absence of any continued exposure. This new understanding of environmentally mediated changes in gene expression also provides for plausible treatment or prevention prospects for diseases previously thought to be hard-coded into the genome (DNA).

FACULTY / STUDENT NEWS

Cristina Muñoz, Ph.D. candidate, has been awarded the Kasperson award for her abstract submission on her research paper regarding property acquisition mitigation and equity. Her paper will be highlighted in the J. X. Kasperson Student Paper Award Session at the 2015 AAG annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The session is sponsored by The Hazards, Risks & Disasters Specialty Group (HRDSG) honoring the memory of Jeanne X. Kasperson.

FACULTY / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

James W. Hegeman, Vivek B. Sardeshmukh, Ramanathan Sugumaran & Marc P. Armstrong (2014)
Distributed LiDAR data processing in a high-memory cloud-computing environment, *Annals of GIS*, 20:4, 255-264
DOI: 10.1080/19475683.2014.923046

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.