

April 5, 2023

Geography Weekly

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- April is Earth Month! Refer to the next page for upcoming Earth Day and Arbor Day events, as well as Iowa City Darwin Day!
- Dr. Susan Meerdink was a recent recipient of the ICRU Distinguished Mentor Award. Congratulations, Dr. Meerdink!
- Last week, three students mentored by GSS Department Faculty presented at the 2023 Spring Undergraduate Research. Hannah Bäck is pictured below with her poster, featuring her research presentation on “Remote Detection of Harmful Algal Blooms Using Trail Cameras”; photo courtesy of Hannah Bäck and Susan Meerdink.

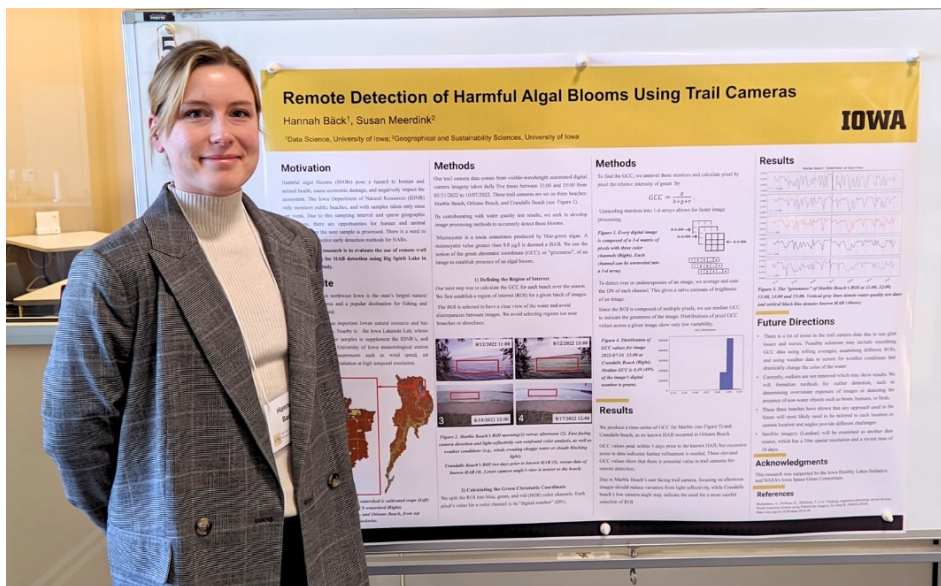
CALENDAR

APR 07

Faculty Meeting
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

APR 07

Kohn Colloquium
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM



KOHN COLLOQUIUM

This Friday's Kohn Colloquium will be held in-person on March 31st from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM in 219 JH. Our speaker will be Viridiana Hernández Fernández, who will be presenting “Avocado Landscapes: Agriculture and Deforestation in Twentieth-Century Mexico”, an abstract for which can be found on the following page.

HAVE UPDATES TO SHARE?

Send news items, information on thesis defenses, awards, publications, events, and more to adrian-sandersfeld@uiowa.edu by 1:00 PM each Tuesday to have them featured in the upcoming Geography Weekly newsletter.

KOHN COLLOQUIUM

Viridiana Hernández Fernández will be presenting Avocado Landscapes: Agriculture and Deforestation in Twentieth Century Mexico for Kohn Colloquium this Friday, April 7th. Viridiana Hernández is a historian of modern Latin America, specializing in the 20th-century environmental history of Mexico and Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa.

Talk abstract: Latin American food exports often invoke images of gigantic plantations, estates, haciendas, and ranches, like the production of sugar in the Caribbean, cattle in Argentina, or bananas in Central America. However, unlike what occurred with other Latin American food commodities, most avocado growers in the western Mexican state of Michoacán are not big-scale farmers growing fruit in large estates. They are a heterogeneous group of indigenous and non-indigenous campesinos (peasants) who, in most cases, grow avocados in their communal lands or small orchards from one to three hectares. Still, Michoacán is the largest avocado grower region in the world, cultivating around 30 percent of global avocado production and about 80 percent of avocados consumed in the United States every year. This talk will discuss how a local ecosystem was transformed in response to worldwide people's craving for avocados. The rise and expansion of the Mexican Avocado Belt in the mid-twentieth century redefined the Michoacán's landscape and economy, reducing biological diversity and increasing environmental injustice for local communities.

EVENTS ON AND OFF CAMPUS

[Iowa City Darwin Day](#) | Iowa City Darwin Day Science Fest is a grand celebration of science and its many contributions to humanity. On Friday, April 7th in Krollos Auditorium (101 Biology Building East), attend Patricia Brennan's 3:30 PM talk on "Genital Coevolution in Vertebrates" and, at 4:30 PM, Kim TallBear's talk, titled "Beyond Inclusion and Reconciliation". On Saturday, April 8th, attend talks in 100 Phillips Hall Auditorium: at 10:00 AM, Natalie Mueller will be presenting "The Taming of the Weeds," at 10:45 AM, Patricia Brennan will be presenting "Oddball Science" and, to close out Darwin Day talks, at 11:30 AM, Kim TallBear will be presenting "The Vanishing Indian Speaks Back." All events are free and open to the public. Learn more at iowacitydarwinday.org

[Earth Everyday](#) | Join the Office of Sustainability and the Environment on April 22nd for an afternoon of arts and entertainment celebrating nature. The UI community is invited to participate in this event. The Office of Sustainability and the Environment is currently accepting applications from individuals and organizations interested in hosting a nature-inspired demonstration, arts/crafts activity, exhibit, or performance. This portion of the Earth Everyday event will take place in and around MacBride Hall and will compliment other activities taking place on the Pentacrest. The event theme is art and nature which are both things we feel can bring people together from across disciplines, across cultures, and across generations. We hope the UI community will join us in using art to celebrate and tell their stories of nature. Please complete the application by March 31st for consideration. Space is limited but all applicants will be notified by April 7 with further instruction.

INTERNSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

- HRGreen is seeking a full-time Outside Plant Specialist for their location in Cedar Rapids. This position is responsible for field survey of outside plant aerial and underground network facilities and associate infrastructure. Learn more and apply for this job at bit.ly/hrgreenjob
- The City of Clive, Iowa is seeking a student with GIS experience to work with City staff to complete a Professional Project. The Professional Project is primarily focused on advancing the City's efforts to protect local water resources in the Walnut Creek Watershed through the evaluation of a potential stream buffer protection ordinance. This is a remote-optional seasonal position which pays between \$16.00 and \$22.00 hourly. Learn more and apply at governmentjobs.com/careers/cityofclive/jobs/3976851/community-development-professional-project-intern
- The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center is seeking a remote sensing data technician for a 1 year appointment. The Blue Methane Project is a NASA Carbon Monitoring Systems-funded program hosted at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Tidal wetlands have the capacity to remove massive amounts of atmospheric CO₂ by forming soil carbon, but they can also produce a variable and uncertain amount of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Monitoring and forecasting the dynamics of "Blue carbon" in these ecosystems is a major priority for state and national governments, as well as the local entities that manage coastal wetlands. The project seeks to improve short-term forecasting of methane dynamics at two focal sites in Louisiana and the Chesapeake Bay, as well as improve the national scale mapping of the variables used to estimate methane emissions. They are searching for a data technician to collaborate with a multi-university and multi-agency team on developing GIS and remote sensing workflows and preparing mapped data products for publication. Read more and apply at serc.si.edu/gis-technician-opening
- The Conservation Interns and Fellows service, hosted by AmeriCorps, is currently seeking applicants for their Conservation Fellow and Conservation Intern positions. Conservation Fellows and Interns work under Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) staff and host site supervisors to complete projects. The specific tasks of each position will vary by host site. Work includes natural resource projects and MCC program elements. This position will need to develop positive working relationships. This position is expected to participate in all parts of the MCC program to the best of their ability. Fellows and Interns will keep host site supervisors and MCC staff informed through bi-weekly paperwork. Fellows and Interns are AmeriCorps participants. They have access to the benefit package offered to all AmeriCorps participants. Learn more and apply now at mtcorps.org/joinmcc/individual-placement-programs/conservation-interns-and-fellows.html
- Green Iowa AmeriCorps is now hiring for 6-month service positions (full-time and part-time positions available) and 3-month summer service positions (part-time work available). Green Iowa AmeriCorps consists of three branches: Energy & Community, Sustainable Schools and Land & Water Stewards. Each branch of the program provides AmeriCorps members with the unique opportunity to enhance their professional development goals, cultivate community-wide relationships, and work toward making Iowa a more sustainable, eco-nomic state. Learn more and apply for open positions at greeniowaamericorps.org/open-positions

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.
- ◆ Other UCS programming can be found **here**.

Other Campus Resources

- ◆ [Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology Resources](#)
- ◆ [ITS Student Resources & Services](#)
- ◆ [GIS Library Research Guide](#)
- ◆ [Ulowa COVID Spring 2023 Guidelines](#)