The Graticule Weekly
UGA's Geography Newsletter

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH, 2023

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
Dr. Suzanne Birch Hosts a New 20- Episode Lecture Series

Dr. Suzanne Birch, Professor of Geography and Anthropology at UGA is the narrator and primary host for the new streaming series "Early Humans, Ice Stone and Survival." After more than a year in the making, the 20-episode lecture series debuted in April on the streaming service, Wonderium.

“The lectures span from our earliest origins in Africa to the emergence of agriculture, examines the role of climate and environmental change in driving these transitions, and how archaeological science is transforming this knowledge,” Birch said. The series also examines the initial peopling of Australia (ep 7) and North America (ep 15), the origins of music, language, art, and technology, and the origins of agriculture (the last four episodes).

“It's a very well-rounded exploration both in terms of temporal and spatial scope,” Birch said.

“We know people are interested in this topic. Yet, for some reason, pseudoarchaeology and conspiracy theories have dominated the narrative for the past several years,” she said, noting the shift in the History channel programming and one of its most popular shows, ‘Ancient Aliens’, as well as the Netflix show ‘Ancient Apocalypse’.

“Not only are these theories wrong, they are also dangerous in that many of them are rooted in colonial and racist, white supremacist ideologies. We need more programming that shares all the wonder and excitement of our ancient past without the need for false embellishment. It's interesting enough in its own right, and what makes it even more exciting is all that we can learn from the science,” Birch said.

The series “Early Humans: Ice, Stone, and Survival” is now streaming at Wondrium and also available as an audiobook through Audible. Learn more about Dr. Birch's research here!

PHD SPOTLIGHT
Jill Gambill, PhD candidate in Geography and Integrative Conservation (ICON), has been named Executive Director of Georgia Tech's new Coastal Equity and Resilience (CEAR) Hub in Savannah. Jill has also received a Senior Research Associate faculty appointment at Georgia Tech in the Institute for People and Technology. This appointment follows almost 13 years at UGA with Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, most recently serving as Coastal Resilience Specialist and Public Service Associate. Congratulations, Jill!

Learn more about Jill's research here!

General News and Announcements

The Graticule Weekly is distributed each Friday Afternoon. If you have any news or events you’d like to share throughout the semester, please share them with Matt Calonius well in advance.

Please download the new UGA Safe app from the Google Play or Apple App stores. Login using your UGA MyID or register as a guest to take advantage of a variety of safety features. For more information, please visit the UGA Office of Emergency Preparedness website.

Follow us on social media!
UGA Geography's Center for Geospatial research (CGR) has been assisting with the project to expand the depth of the Savannah River. The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) brings substantial resources to Georgia and the nation, as the deepening of the Savannah River allows for larger and more heavily-loaded vessels to use the Savannah Port. SHEP also brings environmental challenges and the need for monitoring the performance of the project's impact mitigation features.

CGR is helping the Department of Defense and the Army Corps of Engineers to monitor environmental impacts resulting from SHEP. The center is using GIS and other tools to assemble, analyze and share dozens of environmental layers for the project area, including real-time water quality from a network of stream gauges, fish movement, levels of cadmium in bird tissue, bathymetric surveys, as well as the monitoring of vegetation and associated vegetation restoration efforts.

Dr. Sergio Bernardes, the PI for the GIS/Database component of SHEP Monitoring Program, recently presented CGR's geospatial contributions to 12 federal and state agencies, including EPA, USFWS, USGS, the Army Corps, Departments of Natural Resources, and others. The SHEP project has brought over US$1.3 million to the Department of Geography at UGA and resources from SHEP have funded post-docs and graduate students, who assist with data processing/analysis and environmental database maintenance. For more information on SHEP, see here. Also, visit http://www.shep.uga.edu/ to learn more about the SHEP Monitoring Program, to access over 300 environmental reports and datasets, and to interact with the SHEP Map Portal.

Graphic and text provided by Dr. Sergio Bernardes
UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fri. 5/5**
Friday, May 5th
12-3 pm
Athens Public Library

Join us for presentations from students in the Community GIS class at UGA, hosted by the Athens Housing Advocacy Team. Free lunch for the first 50 people, local housing resources, free "know your renter's rights" workshop.

**Thurs. 5/11**
Thursday, May 11th
3:30 pm
GEOG Room 200C

Join us in celebrating our 2023 Geography graduates. Reserve your tickets here! Please note that tickets are currently limited to 4/graduate.

**5/15-5/17**
May 15-17
Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel

The 2023 Georgia Climate Conference aims to support and accelerate Georgia’s efforts to take practical steps to minimize the risks and maximize the opportunities associated with a changing climate.

**Wed. 5/17**
Wednesday, May 17th
GEOG Room 200D
Zoom
11am

Join us for a talk by Dr. Song Gao titled "GeoAI for Human Mobility Analytics and Location Privacy Protection" Scan the QR code to register for a live broadcast of the lecture via Zoom.

Departmental Events:

**Course Evaluations** April 21-
Evaluations May 15
Available Now

*Click here to complete your Spring 2023 Course Evaluations!* Student feedback on instructional effectiveness is an important tool. Your comments are appreciated!

**Final Exam** May 3- May 8 Week

Good luck on your final exams of the semester! Please remember that help is always available at UGA for those who need it. [Click here for a list of UGA's various mental health resources.]

**2023 Graduation Celebration**
GEOG UGRD May 11th
Graduation 3:30pm
Celebration Room 200C

Join us in celebrating our 2023 Geography graduates. Reserve your tickets here! Please note that tickets are currently limited to 4/graduate.
OPPORTUNITIES AROUND CAMPUS

Fresh Express is a new student-led emergency food assistance program, striving to serve University of Georgia students with balanced meals. Sign up here.

Join us every Friday for International Coffee Hour from 11:30am to 1:00pm in the Memorial Hall Ballroom! 11:30am - 1:00pm | Memorial Hall Ballroom

Social Media
Want to stay up to date with all things UGA Geography? Follow us on our social media accounts. If you have any events, news, awards, or other information you’d like to share on our social media, please reach out to Matt Calonius.

https://www.facebook.com/GeographyDepartmentUGA/

https://twitter.com/ugaGeography

https://www.instagram.com/geographyuga/

https://geography.uga.edu
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Shell to Shore Internship Opportunities**
  
  Shell to Shore is an oyster recycling program based in Athens. They are transporting oyster shells from inland tables to the shore. Their goal is to connect this natural resource to restoration projects on the Georgia coast.

  The main responsibilities during the internship include assisting with collecting oyster shells from restaurants weekly in Athens, Augusta and Atlanta as well as helping expand the network of restaurants they work with. Additionally, interns will learn about oyster culture, help expand educational capacity as well as assist finding new sources of funding to expand the project among other opportunities.

  Internships can be taken for academic credit with me (through GEOG 3990; see link for internship policy: https://geography.uga.edu/internships). Please reach out to Dr. Nik Heyen (nheynen@uga.edu) directly if you have any questions and/or are interested in applying for an internship.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Postdoctoral Opportunity: Remote Sensing Of Agricultural Systems**
  
  The College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University invites applications for a Geospatial Science Instructor in the Geography and Geospatial Sciences Program. The successful applicant will develop and deliver on-campus and eCampus undergraduate and graduate courses in geospatial science, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), spatial analysis, spatial statistics, programming, and/or remote sensing. The successful applicant may also advise student research projects, serve on student committees, support outreach and recruitment, and provide service to the broader community. The full consideration date is May 28, 2023. Please see [https://beav.es/Sb2](https://beav.es/Sb2)

- **Postdoctoral Opportunity: Remote Sensing Of Agricultural Systems**
  
  The Center for Geospatial Research at the Department of Geography and the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia, in collaboration with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service, are seeking a Postdoctoral Associate to investigate relationships between plant biometrics collected in the field and plant descriptors derived from drone-based remote sensing. The selected candidate will join a team of researchers and will collect, assemble and analyze geospatial datasets including direct field measurements and remotely-sensed observations of plot and field areas in support of long-term agroecosystem research.

  The successful candidate will hold a PhD degree with training in plant ecology, agronomy, geography, or related physical sciences, with specific expertise in analytical methods and techniques, including remote sensing and the processing of datasets collected directly in the field.

  Interested candidates should send a CV, statement of research interests (no more than two pages) and a copy of graduate transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) to Dr. Sergio Bernardes (sbernard@uga.edu) and to Dr. Alisa Coffin (alisa.coffin@usda.gov). This is a one-year position renewable for three more years, based on performance and availability of funds. The position is based at the USDA-ARS facility in Tifton, Georgia. Expected start date is Summer/Fall 2023.

UGA Spring Academic Calendar 2023

As we wind down another Spring semester, it may be helpful to keep these key dates in mind!

**Spring 2023**

- Orientation/Advisement... Jan. 5
- Classes Begin... Jan. 9
- Drop/Add... Jan. 9-13
- MLK Holiday... Jan. 16
- Midterm... Mar. 2
- Spring Break... Mar. 6-10
- Withdrawal Deadline... Mar. 23
- Classes End... May 1
- Reading Day... May 2
- Final Exams... May 3-9
- Graduate Commencement... May 11
- UG Commencement... May 12
- Grades Due... May 15

Follow us on social media!
Knowing how to plan, prepare, and respond to disasters is an increasingly employable skill set among government agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector.

At the Institute for Disaster Management (IDM), we strive to make the student experience the best that it can possibly be – from engaging coursework and hands-on training to rigorous research experiences and meaningful interactions with fellow peers, faculty, and staff.

The minor consists of 15 hours of engaging and applicable coursework, focusing on the societal impacts and causes of natural and human-made hazards, including how these disasters can be mitigated, planned for, and adapted to. Add it at any time on Athena, no application required!

For more information, contact the undergraduate program coordinator, Dr. Michelle Ritchie at Michelle.Ritchie@uga.edu or book a meeting at calendly.com/michelleritchie/meet

LEARN MORE BY VISITING IDM.PUBLICHEALTH.UGA.EDU OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Institute for Disaster Management
College of Public Health
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