

July 2020

Notes from Beneath the Blue Awning

Hello UWF Faculty and Staff-

Congratulations on making it to and through the recent summer solstice. I personally love the fact that every day gets a bit shorter between now and the winter solstice, but I am decidedly not a native Floridian.

I'm going to keep this brief this month with a couple of recent COVID-19 research guidance updates, namely:



1- Face coverings are required of all researchers at all times if more than one person is working in a lab space. Face coverings can be removed if researchers are alone in a lab (or sub-lab) separated by a closed door.

2- All car/van travel is subject to social distancing requirements, so travelers must maintain 6-foot separation at all times (e.g., by staggering travelers* in a departmental van). Considering the small spaces, face coverings should be worn while maintaining social distancing. If possible, travelers* should explore the option of traveling* separately*

*Remember that UWF still has a travel ban in place. So the travel here is assumed to be local/regional “day” travel.

Like you, we at RAE are looking forward to the time when these measures are not required. In the meantime, we'll continue to do our part to slow and eliminate the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Best wishes to you and yours for what I hope is a productive (and perhaps even restful) summer.

Regards and best wishes,

Social media helps researcher disseminate work during COVID closure

By **JEFFREY CASSADY**

RAE Staff Writer

jcassady@uwf.edu

Pensacola – Getting timely, reliable information to the public can be a real challenge in the best of times. A fast-spreading disease like COVID-19 makes it even more difficult.

Dr. Raid Amin, distinguished professor in the University of West Florida Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has found a way to get his work quickly to the audiences he wants to reach. Since March, Amin **has been using the social media site LinkedIn** to publish cluster maps that show COVID-19 cases and deaths.



“The situation (with COVID-19) changes every day,” Amin said. “It didn’t make sense to submit (smaller projects) to journals for peer review. Why keep everyone waiting?”

Amin worked with several students during the latter half of the Spring semester to produce heat maps that tracked new cases of the virus as they clustered in and around cities such as Detroit and New York City.

Originally, Amin considered submitting his work to a journal. But the speed at which COVID-19 spread and the pace at which the public’s understanding of the disease evolved made the lengthy process of getting published impractical, Amin said.

“By the time you write it up, you know the data is already three weeks out of date,” Amin said.

So, Amin and his students broke their work into small chunks and released it bit by bit over social media outlets LinkedIn and **Twitter**.

Amin said publishing on LinkedIn, which promotes itself as a network for

professionals, quickly put his work in front business leaders, policymakers and other academicians. He added that his posts on Twitter have generated interest from journalists.

“An academician needs a record of work,” Amin said. “As we learn more, I might create a link, go to LinkedIn and update our maps there.”

Amin is currently working on mapping emerging COVID-19 clusters with a particular interest in hotspots in Florida, he said.

In the NEWS!

UWF, Escambia County partner to test local waters for Vibrio bacteria



University of West Florida researchers are working with the Escambia County Natural Resources Management Department to test local waters for the presence and abundance of various Vibrio species, including those associated with the "flesh-eating"...

[Read more](https://news.uwf.edu)
news.uwf.edu

[Funding Opportunities](#)

Watch this space! RAE is currently re-working how we share funding opportunities to our faculty and staff.

In the meantime, feel free to access **GrantForward**—UWF faculty and staff can sign up with their UWF account to create a free profile with this funding search tool! For a step-by-step guide, please refer to our **GrantForward Handout**.

Grant Forward Quick Tip



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