COLLOQUIUM BY DAVID M. BAKER

IDEA TALK WITH MARINE BIOLOGIST DAVID BAKER

TIME: 4:00-5:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, 08 MARCH 2017

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

Idea Talk with Marine Biologist David Baker

Speaker: David M. Baker, Assistant Professor, University of Hong Kong

ABSTRACT:

When David Baker arrived at Jeju Island, off the southern coast of Korea, he saw reef-building corals that few people saw decades ago. At this new frontier, corals are thriving while they expand northbound. As tropical and subtropical corals are degraded by environmental changes, temperate areas like Jeju are serving as coral refugia. David's research is helping us understand how coral is coping with stress in an era of ocean warming.

In the meantime, David is in touch with fellow geologist and archeologist, who are using pushcore samples to study historic ecosystems and archaeological field techniques to examine lime kilns. David is reconstructing historical coral communities dating back several centuries, and is analyzing biodiversity in light of human impact.

David is also advising researchers in presenting their conservation forensics results in Africa. A global epicenter for wildlife trade, Hong Kong serves as a gateway to markets where demand

has led to poaching and many species, such as sharks and rhinos, are pushed to the brink of extinction. Under David's guidance, researchers use genomics to identify species and geographic origin, and radiocarbon dating techniques to determine the age of wildlife products, and thereby their legality to support efforts to curb illegal trades.

Such is the day in the life of a modern-day Indiana Jones in marine science. To learn more, please join Prof. David Baker for an engaging talk, sponsored by Nature Pacific Foundation, on his research adventures from ridge to reef - across the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

BIO:

David M. Baker is an assistant professor at the University of Hong Kong where he leads an international team of scientists to study and restore coral reefs. David received his PhD from Cornell University, conducted post-doctoral research at Smithsonian Institution, and was elected as Board Councilor of the International Society of Reef Studies.

This event is open to all and entry is on a first come, first served basis. For any queries email yg73@duke.edu or call 3665 7149.