

OSU College of Forestry International Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary 28 September 2011

Prepared by Susan Morr 

Advisory Committee members present: Jim Johnson, John Bliss, Chris Knowles, Doug Maguire, Susan Morr , Robin Rose, Ari Sinha, Ashlee Tibbetts, David Zahler (Badege Bishaw 3 pm)

AGENDA

1. Thank yous to outgoing members and introductions of new members

Robin Rose directs the Vegetation Management Cooperative, has worked in 14 countries, and loves international work because he believes in it. He is a former mentor for the International Society of Tropical Foresters, specializes in seedlings and vegetation management, and is interested in cassava, guava, and other tropical fruits.

Doug Maguire did a six-week project in Pakistan in 1987, two weeks in India in 1997, two months in Spain in 2009, led a short study tour to Spain this summer, and has worked in Malaysia, Brazil, South Korea, Poland and an assortment of other countries.

John Bliss was a Peace Corps volunteer in Afghanistan, and participated in the only IUFRO group with their own journal (Small Scale Forestry). He conducts international research, teaching, and coauthorship, and has worked in Ethiopia and former Yugoslavian countries. He wants to pursue a study tour menu of locations, particularly Eastern Africa and Eastern Europe.

David Zahler is a returned Peace Corps volunteer from Guatemala, and has recently worked in Mexico. He directs the OSU Peace Corps Masters International and SEEDS programs, is a media specialist in the Forestry Media Center, and works with the Board of Visitors.

Arijit (Ari) Sinha is an international scholar from India and did his graduate work at OSU. He would like to see a more international outlook in education and a study abroad opportunity in India.

Chris Knowles is fairly new to international work. He does international market research, has led two study tours to Scandinavia (2009 and 2011), has attended IUFRO meetings, and thinks it is important to get more international focus in undergraduate programs, including teaching about global trade. He teaches in the Renewable Materials program in Wood Science and Engineering.

Ashlee Tibbetts is the outgoing International Forestry Students Association president. She attended the international IFSA meeting in South Korea, and two other IFSA members attended the recent meeting in Finland. She encourages more student international travel and study.

Jim Johnson started international work in 1988. He has been an IUFRO officer since 1993, serves as the USA delegate to the IUFRO International Assembly, and as a member of the IUFRO Conference Science Committee he is involved in planning the program for the 2014 IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City (theme: Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research). Jim is the current chair of the SAF World Forestry Committee, and is the current International Chair for the National Association of Forest Resource Programs (NAUFRP). He has worked in 30 countries including those in Europe, Africa, and South America, and is currently helping Bulgaria develop a program similar to our extension service. He suggests that the two North American IFSA chapters cohost the next IFSA International meeting, have participants visit both universities, then go to Salt Lake City for the IUFRO World Congress.

Susan Morr  has conducted international research on the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators, conducted research in Japan and Sweden, and visited numerous other countries. She works as the College of Forestry International Programs assistant and team teaches in the online Master of Natural Resources program while finishing her PhD.

Badege Bishaw (not here until 3 pm) has worked on several natural resources education projects in Africa with international partner institutions, and directs the online Sustainable Natural Resources Graduate Certificate and Master of Natural Resources degree programs.

IPAC overview (Jim):

IPAC advises the CoF International Programs office, takes the lead on international projects, and on a little budget we do a lot. The Starker Lectures was internationally focused last year and was very well-received.

2. *Spain Study Tour* (Doug Maguire) (PowerPoint show)

Doug led a group of 8 students to Spain from September 12 – 23, hosted by colleagues at University of Valladolid in Palencia. He thanked Susan for successfully presenting the Spain Study Tour proposal to the OSU Study Abroad Advisory Committee and assisting with study tour planning. His daughter from Western Oregon University and his son from University of Oregon joined him for a few days of the tour. Faculty introduced students to the complex cultural, physical, and biophysical aspects of Spain, stayed at a hostel in Palencia, and took long day trips to various types of forests around north-central Spain, including old oak coppice systems, eucalyptus plantations in the Cantabrian range, *Pinus pinea* and *P. pinaster* forests (managed for seed cones and resin, respectively), Scots pine, cork oak, mixed forest, a reforestation site, and La Dehesa silvopastoral system. Doug thought 8 students was a good number, and 15 would have been too stressful. Challenges: managing finances and adjusting to Spanish time (very late dinners followed by very early field trips). Next time he would take cash and give each student 250 euros at the beginning of the trip (instead of bankrolling them on his credit card and getting reimbursed). They can bring their own money for extras. The program received financial support from the Board of Visitors (\$7500) and from FERM (\$2500). The overall cost per student was approximately \$4500 for graduate students and \$3500 for undergraduates (including airfare and 6 credits). He administered a test at the end of the program, and will add a question next time: what would you do to improve the tour? He plans to lead the tour again in two years.

3. *Scandinavian Study Tour* (Chris Knowles)

This was the second ScanTour that Chris and Eric led, and they also go on alternate years. This time they partnered with UofO architecture students. The students were great, but the UofO faculty didn't do their part administratively to arrange the planned sustainable housing tour, which was a problem. There were 10 students (5 UofO Master of Architecture students, 1 undergraduate and 3 graduate students from WSE, and 1 Nuclear Engineering graduate student). It was a very positive dynamic with mostly graduate students. They focused on sustainable natural resource management, sustainable architectural design, and renewable energy; toured Sibelius Concert Hall with its architect who critiqued the structure ten years after its completion (very cool); toured a rather famous kindergarten with its architect (requested by the UofO architecture students), and toured a low-medium level nuclear facility permanent waste site. They also met with a cooperative landowner group, visited their forest on Bergvik Skog land, and drove their forwarder. There was a great OSU/UofO bond, and it was interesting to see the differences in their journals in what they took away from each visit. Cost was about \$5500 for graduate students and \$4500 for undergraduates, and only the OSU students got Board of Visitors money. Chris and Eric would do it again if they can arrange a better way to deal with UofO faculty. They plan to make it an OUS-wide program focused on green building in 2013 and invite students from Portland State, OSU and UofO.

Students can do commercial study abroad programs or OSU faculty-led study tours. The College of Agriculture is collaborating with the CoF in developing a study tour in India. Ari, Chris, and

Sally Duncan are involved in the proposal. Gladwin Joseph from Ashoka Trust in India is coming to OSU next year as a Fulbright scholar.

4. *International Forest Film Festival* (Susan Morr )

Susan, David, and Ashlee have been planning an international forestry film festival to celebrate International Year of Forests 2011. We will be screening 16 of the winning films from the United Nations-sponsored competition (collaborating with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival). The films will run every other week, twice a week, from October 24 through January 26 in Corvallis, with some financial support from the International Programs office and the Student Sustainability Initiative, and discount venue rental from the Majestic Theatre. Other sponsors include IFSA and the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, who will let us advertise the festival through their extensive group email. (Post-meeting update: Sandie Arbogast created a great poster for the festival.) IFSA members will sell concessions and posters at the screenings to raise funds for IFSA travel.

5. *Peace Corps Masters International update* (David Zahler)

David anticipates one to three new PCMI students each year, with an average of six students in the program at once, and that they will be funded through teaching assistantships. They spend one academic year at OSU, then 27 months on their Peace Corps assignment, during which time they may work on their research project, then return to OSU to finish their degree. David talked with the Forest Service about PCMI Plus to get funding for PCMI students, similar to the SCEP program. Our PCMI contact is now Mary Wagner, and this discussion is on hold due to decreased FS funding. There is a link on the PC website to all PCMI programs, including 15 forestry schools.

Update on several PCMI students: Ramona Arechiga is a second-year PCMI student (John Bailey advisee) who is partway through her Peace Corps tour in Ethiopia. PCMI student Shannon Zuschlag Daniels (Dave Hibbs advisee) has been in Peru since September. There have been seven applications to the program this fall, and three placements. Newly admitted students are Daniel Ritter (Applied Economics student), Fey Egan (Arnie Skaugset advisee), and Kelsey Lee (Michael Wing advisee). PCMI students have difficulty accessing OSU library resources due to the loss of active-student status while they are not enrolled in courses during their PC stint. Suggestion: Brenda McComb and Eric Alexander could fix this by allowing them to have O-code enrollment status rather than being on leave.

Question: How do professors make sure their students are doing high quality research if they don't stay in regular contact? Students can do a paper/project like the FM degree program, rather than a thesis.

6. *International Fellows* (Susan Morr )

The World Forestry Center's World Forest Institute has several new International Fellows who have recently arrived or will be arriving very soon, several of whom are very interested in meeting with OSU faculty members who have expertise in their area of research. Those Fellows who are nearing the end of their 6 – 12 month fellowships are giving seminars at noon at OSU, approximately once each month. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to attend.

7. *Bulgaria Project* (Jim Johnson)

The America for Bulgaria Foundation is funding a project for OSU to help Bulgaria to develop an extension program similar to ours in Oregon. Following two visits by Bulgarians to OSU in 2010, Jim led a scoping mission to Bulgaria in April. Next Jim is headed to Bulgaria on September 30 to lead a ten-day training workshop. David Zahler helped Jim create a Natural Resources Extension Training Manual to be used in the workshop. Jim, Rick Fletcher, and Janean Creighton are the trainers, and there are 20 Bulgarian trainees who will participate. Next spring two or three trainees will come to OSU.

8. *SNR and MNR Program updates* (Badege Bishaw)

Badege gave an update on the two online graduate programs he directs in the College of Forestry. The Sustainable Natural Resources (SNR) Graduate Certificate program began in Winter 2007 and to date has 14 graduates and 24 current students. The Master of Natural Resources (MNR) degree program began in Winter 2011, and has already graduated two students in spring term and one in summer term. (They had previously completed the SNR program and many other courses while waiting for the MNR program to be approved.) There are currently 24 students in the MNR program and another 11 have applied for Winter term admission. Students are from Switzerland, Mozambique, and all over the US. We hope to acquire funding for scholarships to enable more students from developing countries to participate in the program.

9. *International Forestry Students Association (IFSA)* (Ashlee Tibbetts)

OSU was the only North America IFSA chapter for awhile, but now University of British Columbia has formed a chapter. We hope to get these two chapters together for an activity soon, and hopefully to cohost the next IFSA International meeting as Jim suggested.