

U.S. Department of Agriculture AD-421 Progress Report (investigator copy) U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and Other Institutions			Date (Month, Day, Year) 09/15/2008
1. Accession 0203484	Agency Identification No. 2. CSREES 3. NC.Z	5. Work Unit/Project No. NCZ09455	6. Status Progress
7. Title Strengthening Global Competence of Students and Faculty Through Collaboration in Forestry			
12. Investigator Name(s) (Last Name and Initials) Sills, E. O.; Allen, H. L.; Frederick, D. J.; Moore, S. E.			
20. Termination Date 09/30/2009		40. Period Covered (mo/da/year): 07/01/2007 TO 06/30/2008	
Students Funded: 14		Faculty Hours Funded: 40	
41. Progress Report: <p>During the first six months of 2008, there were three primary activities related to the project: (a) a study tour of southern Chile, (b) research in Chile by a NCSU doctoral student, and (c) progress towards expanded educational exchange programs with UdC in Chile. (1) On March 1 a group of 14 students, faculty and staff traveled to Chile for the one week 2008 Forestry Study Tour. The study tour focused on the native forests of southern Chile. The group was led by local host Dr. Pablo Donoso of Univ. Austral de Chile (UACH), as well as Drs. Doug Frederick and Susan Moore. The itinerary included an afternoon visit to UACH to meet with faculty and graduate students of the School of Forest Sciences in order to exchange information on current research and future interests, and how our universities can continue to collaborate following the completion of this grant funding. Tour sites visited included several research forests where the group learned about the challenges and opportunities for managing the native forests of the region. Additional graduate students from Univ. Austral accompanied the study tour on an overnight trip to the San Pablo Research Forest where hardwood research plots are installed and monitored. The NCSU students greatly enjoyed and benefited from this collaborative time with the UACH students, giving them a perspective unattainable in the USA. Tour participants were overwhelmingly positive about the cross-cultural interaction and experience, with multiple ideas for future collaboration vetted. One impressive tour stop was the Llancahue watershed where NCSU Ph.D. student Scott Sink has completed his field research. Scott led a tour of this forest and his study plots while explaining the silviculture and land use history of the watershed. Scott also identified the native canopy species as well as the various plant communities encountered. Through this tour, the NCSU students were inspired to consider future international study or work. (2) NCSU doctoral student Scott Sink spent 6 weeks in Valdivia, Chile (January 21 - March 1), where he measured trees, inventoried understory plants, and recorded coarse woody debris in 25 0.1-hectare plots in the Llancahue watershed. He also collected tree cores from 75 trees and measured their recent growth and total age while in Chile. He is currently completing analysis of the data collected in preparation for composing three journal articles. (3) In March, Dr. Barry Goldfarb (head of the NCSU Dept of Forestry and Environmental Resources) met with Miguel Espinosa, Dean of the College of Forest Science at the University of Concepcion, to discuss collaboration in undergraduate and graduate education, including possibility of a dual doctoral degree program. Dr. Goldfarb was in Concepcion with three other NCSU faculty members to lecture in the Forest Genetics and Biotechnology International Short Course, which was jointly sponsored and put on by U de C and NCSU.</p>			
43. Publications No Publications Reported			
Products The graduate students who participated in the study tour created a poster about the trip. This colorful, informative poster will be displayed in the lobby of the Forestry and Environmental Resources building and will be used to inform and recruit future students and faculty to participate in international study tours. Scott Sink's research is the basis for his dissertation, which he expects to complete in 2009. As a result of meeting in Concepcion, a draft MOU for a dual doctoral degree has been developed and is under consideration by the NCSU and UdC faculties.			
Outcomes The study tour and Scott Sink's successful research experience laid the groundwork for two formal collaborative projects, one by Susan Moore and one by NCSU graduate student Michelle Moorman, with UACH, which will initiate in November 2008.			

Dissemination Activities

Study Tour participants delivered two seminars on the experience. The first seminar was given at a meeting of the NCSU Chapter of the International Society of Tropical Foresters on March 13. The second seminar was delivered to the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources on April 21, in combination with a research seminar by Scott Sink. Both seminars included powerpoint presentations and handout materials for attendees. In addition, we continue to use the project website as a dissemination tool.

Future Initiatives

During this time period, arrangements were made for Dr. Susan Moore to go on sabbatical to UACH during which she will lead the development of a plan for an extension and outreach program in forestry. Dr. Moore will work with Dr. Pablo Donoso and students of UACH on this project. She will travel to Chile from November 5, 2008 to February 12, 2009. In addition, another NCSU Ph.D. student, Michelle Moorman, will begin a project in the Llancahue watershed. As a result of Dr. Moore's and Dr. Donoso's collaboration, as well as the groundwork laid by Ph.D. student Scott Sink, a project was developed for Michelle to do a stakeholder analysis of the Llancahue watershed and develop a plan for maintaining and enhancing the ecosystem services of the watershed while engaging the local communities. Michelle will begin the field work for this project in November. She will work under the direction of Drs. Susan Moore and Pablo Donoso.

Impacts

The involvement of NCSU students, faculty and staff in the study tour to Chile, as well as Scott Sink's research experience, has ripple effects when they return to the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources and disseminate information about their experiences. Both students and faculty at NCSU are more aware of forestry issues in Chile. We expect this to encourage students to take advantage of the dual degree and other educational exchange programs being developed with UdC.

Approved (Signature)	Title	Date

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