



Office of International Programs *Monthly Newsletter*

January 2011

Future Research Opportunities in Feeding the Future

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is looking for impact to alleviate poverty and enhance human health in the U.S. global hunger and food security initiative that is still evolving, Feed The Future (FTF).

Dr. Schuyler Korban, Director of the Office of International Programs, recently participated in a Feed the Future: Global Food Security Research Strategy planning workshop from January 12-14 at Purdue. A white paper will be shared with the research community, and another workshop will be held in the spring.

“Research figures prominently in FTF because it is critical to enhancing and sustaining agricultural productivity growth, which is strongly linked to economic growth in developing countries and reduced poverty—both essential elements of sustainable food security” (*Feed the Future: Global Food Security Research Strategy Draft*, p.39)

Broad themes that have been identified include:

- Advancing the Productivity Frontier
- Transforming Key Production Systems
- Enhancing Food Safety and Nutrition

Three cross-cutting issues are:

- Gender
- Climate Change
- The Environment

For more information, download the full FTF research strategy pdf at: <http://global.aces.illinois.edu/FTF>.

US-European Collaboration Researching Parallel Landscapes

Dr. Courtney Flint, Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES), and a 2010 Seed Grant recipient, seeks to understand how rural stakeholders, communities, and regions respond to ecosystem changes and disturbances.

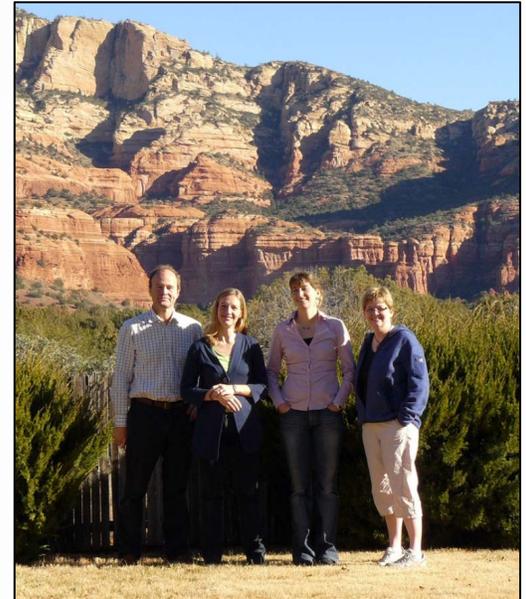
While participating in a workshop held in Lunz, Austria in 2009, Flint’s exposure to rural Austrian landscapes led her to see close parallels with landscapes in Southern Illinois—where diversified, small scale farming and forests are highly valued and part of regional identity and economic development initiatives.

Based on these ideas, she initiated efforts to develop a comparative study of cultural ecosystem services in the US, Austria, France, and Switzerland with colleagues Dr. Andreas Muhar and Dr. Marianne Penker at BOKU University in Vienna, Austria; Dr. Adrienne Grêt-Regamey at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland; and Dr. Olivier Aznar at CEMAGREF in Clairmont-Ferrand, France. Initial research also involved understanding agri-environmental policies as they relate to cultural landscapes. Dr. Kathy Baylis (ACE) was very helpful in this regard and will likely be involved in ongoing research, Flint said.

Seed grant funds from ACES-OIP and the UIUC Environmental Change Institute were obtained to initialize research collaboration and exchange visits, which have brought two initial areas of research and engagement to the forefront.

The first is comparative research on human-nature relationships and cultural landscapes in the US and Europe. Graduate students from both UIUC and BOKU University in Austria are being recruited to work in tandem.

The second area is comparative research on forest management and decision-making in rural landscapes. Data and



Dr. Andreas Muhar, Dr. Marianne Penker, Dr. Adrienne Grêt-Regamey, and Dr. Courtney Flint.
 Photo courtesy of Andreas Muhar

research findings from independent studies in Switzerland and Illinois will be integrated and compared to assess forest landowner and stakeholder decision-making processes in the face of risks and disturbances.

In summer 2011, Flint plans to travel to Europe to continue this research with her colleagues. Flint will teach a graduate seminar in Fall 2011 (*NRES 508 Community & Natural Resources*), which will focus on a comparison of US-European rural cultural landscapes, communities, and policies.

Flint is also on the executive committee of the new UIUC Center for Transformative Climate Solutions, which will facilitate collaborative international climate change research. Flint, Dr. Don Wuebbles, and CTCS are working closely with *Earth Knowledge*, an independent information networking firm, to develop research and stakeholder engagement tools to connect climate and landscape decision making efforts across diverse regions of the world.

Don't Miss Out: Be Featured in ACES International Profile



Once completed, the ACES International Profile Survey Results for 2010-2011 will highlight faculty international involvement and international graduate student mentoring. If you have not yet submitted your information for the survey, you still have a chance to do so.

To enter your information, log in to: <https://illinois.edu/sb/sec/5047717>.

Thank you to the faculty who have taken a few moments to complete the survey. Your information on your international connections and scholarly work will be featured in the final report.

Apply Now: Funding Opportunities

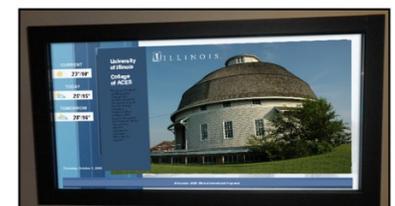
Make the most of funding opportunities to explore research and cultural interests. One such opportunity:

International Seed Grants Program—The ACES Office of International Programs is soliciting proposals for funding international activities undertaken by faculty and staff in the college. Applicants may request funds of up to \$2,500 per proposal to create or support international opportunities in research, teaching, and outreach. Deadline: Feb. 7, 2011 at 5 p.m. For more information, please visit <http://global.aces.illinois.edu/node/501> or contact Ms. Theresa Miller at tboian@illinois.edu.

Please be sure to visit our website (<http://intlprograms.aces.illinois.edu>) for a complete listing of funding opportunities.

ACES International Programs on Campus Digital Signage

The north end of the first floor of Mumford now features a digital monitor that provides the latest information, events, funding opportunities, and photos from international programs taking place in the College of ACES.



Faculty Feature: Dr. John Masiunas Associate Professor, Food Cropping Systems

Q: What is your research focus?

A: My research focus is on export orientated horticultural production (sometimes called nontraditional agriculture exports) as a development strategy in East Africa. Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania are all striving to increase ornamentals (cut flowers and seeds), fruits, and vegetables to primarily European markets. Kenya is the leader in horticultural exports, specializing in high quality roses and prepackaged green beans for the Dutch auctions and UK supermarkets, respectively. My group is interested in the impact on smallholder, mainly women, farmers and methods to measure the impact that intensification of inputs has on carbon and nitrogen footprints.



*Dr. Vasey Mwaja and Dr. John Masiunas visiting Star Flowers International which exports high quality roses to Europe, Asia, and Middle East markets.
Photo courtesy of Melissa Wade*

Q: What international ties do you have?

A: My research has ties with institutions and colleagues in both Africa and Latin America. I am working with former students and colleagues at Egerton University and the National Science Foundation of the Kenyan Government. I have been hosting colleagues from Kenya, Dr. Francis Itulya from Egerton University in 2009, and Dr. Vasey Mwaja, Director, Kenya Plant Inspectorate Service in 2010. During spring 2011, Dr. Joseph Aguyoh will be a visiting scientist.

Q: What is the end goal of your project?

A: The end goal of my project is to strengthen ties between the College of ACES and scientists in Kenya. ACES had a close relationship with Egerton University during the late 1980s and early 1990s, with a number of faculty members at Egerton University receiving graduate degrees at the University of Illinois. We want to rebuild those connections and foster exchanges of Kenyan and Illinois students. My immediate goal is to develop and lead a study abroad tour to Kenya for winter break 2012.