WFI welcomes two new Fellows to the program: Jagdish Poudel from Nepal and Vijay Kolinjivadi, a dual citizen of India and the US.

Jagdish arrived from his home city of Kathmandu at the beginning of April. He is WFI’s second Nepalese Fellow and we’re very excited to have him here. Jagdish received his BS and MS degrees in environmental science from Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. He has worked as a high school environmental science teacher as well as a researcher and consultant for a non-profit group called Living Earth Nepal. With experience in providing practical solutions to environmental problems, he comes to the WFI to study the role of forest management practices in carbon sequestration and climate change. One of his objectives is to learn about the effects of forest management practices on forest cover change and carbon availability. He will study methodologies of calculating carbon stock in forests and focus on applicability for Nepal. Ultimately, Jagdish is interested in the long-term socio-economic implications of management practices which aim to increase carbon sequestration in order to better understand the effects of climate change. Jagdish will use this information to determine the feasibility of forestland owners in Nepal getting involved in carbon trading.

Vijay arrived from the distant shores of Florida at the end of April. He is our first US citizen to join the fellowship program. Although he holds dual citizenship with India, Vijay grew up in Ohio. He completed his undergraduate work in Scotland, and his graduate work in the U.K. at the London School of Economics. Additionally, he has traveled extensively to places such as Ecuador, Singapore, and Kenya studying biodiversity and researching market schemes and methods of payment for ecosystem services. Vijay will spend his 6-month fellowship here learning about the ecosystems service markets in the Pacific Northwest and will focus on how buyers of services have entered into markets and projected outcomes of these projects. He hopes to understand the many different markets that are emerging in Oregon for ecosystem services such as biodiversity, wetlands, and water and air quality, and carbon. Ultimately, Vijay hopes to be directly involved with helping people get payments for ecosystem services in rural and developing areas of the world.

We welcome both Jagdish and Vijay to WFI and wish them the best of luck in their research.
Global Connections: Forests of the World Goes to Baja

Fellow Aline Moreira of Brazil and Senior Fellow Rick Zenn recently traveled through Mexico’s northwest “border country” in the state of Baja California for a series of trainings, tours and meetings to promote the World Forestry Center’s Global Connections: Forest of the World curriculum, the International Educators Institute (IEI) and the WFI fellowship. Aline and Rick were guests of Carlos Yruretagoyena and Claudia Leyva, both IEI alumni from Mexico, who organized the 8-day tour. The team traveled south from San Diego to the Pacific coast town of Ensenada where they worked for three days with biology students and local conservationists at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) where Claudia is a faculty member. During a seminar at the university, Aline presented the results of her year-long fellowship developing support materials for teachers and workshop trainers using the FOTW green book. “The UABC students were very interested in our Global Conservation leaders and local educators at the famous Parque Nacional Constitución de 1857. Established in 1962, this 5000 hectare national park is one of Mexico’s “green islands in the sky” and is the northern most protected forest area in the mountain chain extending down the Baja peninsula. At the park’s rustic Laguna Hanson camp, staff of the Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONAP), Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), state agencies and NGOs shared information about their public outreach programs. Before heading back to the US, Aline and Rick visited the regional capital of Mexicali for a tour of Fábrica de Papel San Francisco paper mill and their environmental facilities located outside of town. Aline commented that “…all of our hosts and guides were inspirational. I am really impressed with what they are trying to accomplish. The coast and mountain scenery was spectacular and the local foods exceptional. This was an eye-opening trip for me.” As Aline summed up the tour, “It was much more of an adventure than I expected and I am grateful for the opportunity to meet with and work with these wonderful colleagues from Mexico. We have so much in common. This was a very rewarding way for me finish up my fellowship at the World Forest Institute.”
Fellows Dine with Harry Merlo

WFI Fellows and staff were treated to an elegant and entertaining evening at Harry Merlo’s house in late April. “This is the most amazing night of my life” commented Nepalese Fellow Jagdish while touring around Harry’s property. The extraordinary surroundings, combined with a world-class dinner and stimulating conversation made the entire evening eventful and enjoyable.

Fellows wholeheartedly thanked Harry for his contribution to their fellowship program and enjoyed providing him some feedback on how their fellowships have helped shape and change their thinking of global issues in forestry. Throughout the evening, discussions on politics and economics were paired with delicious wine from Harry’s own vineyards.

It was a treat to dine with Harry and an evening to remember for everyone at WFI.

Fellows Lead Students in Earth Day Celebrations

Fellows led groups of 6th and 7th-graders from Salem area schools through work stations at the World Forestry Center’s 80 acre tree farm Johnson-Swanson to celebrate Earth Day. WFC tree farm manager Bill Wood and education director Rob Pierce paired off Fellows with three groups of 30 children each. Fellows talked to the school kids about forests in their home countries, shared facts and pictures, and then led them through some practical work exercises. “It was fun interacting with the kids. They get so excited when you show them pictures of different places” said Nepalese Fellow Jagdish.

The kids accomplished some great clean-up and preparatory work out at the farm, but most importantly, they were engaged and communicated with Fellows about the natural resources of the world.
**Recent Events**

Australian Fellow Sue Baker has been exploring parts of Oregon and getting involved in different community activities. She recently traveled to Sisters to help teach high school students about the role of entomology research in developing ecologically sustainable forestry practices. She also visited the Olympia DEMO site with local forest ecologists. DEMO tests several alternatives to clearcutting, and results from the biodiversity research will be included in Sue’s analysis of biodiversity benefits of variable retention harvesting methods.

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**Fellows See More Than Waterfalls at Silver Falls**

In late March, Fellows went on a guided tour of one of Oregon’s most popular state parks, Silver Falls State Park near Silverton. Oregon State Parks forester Craig Leech and his team of forestry and natural resource professionals led Fellows through the backwoods of the park. Fellows toured six different sites within the park boundaries throughout the day and, despite the cool spring weather, enjoyed good discussion about the different treatments and management objectives at the various sites.

Forest management goals of Oregon State Parks differ greatly compared to those of other state and federal agencies, the Fellows learned. The fact that these lands are managed strictly for health and aesthetics to benefit the public rather than for timber and money was a key lesson.

With the focus on silviculture treatments, Fellows saw firsthand how different methods of thinning are implemented to improve stand health and structural diversity. Australian Fellow, Sue Baker, was impressed to see a stand where they had practiced variable-density thinning. “I was impressed by the varying density within the stand and how they catered to habitat structures. I think they did a very good job” she said. The parks team led Fellows “off-trail” into an older Douglas-fir stand marked for treatment this summer. Eventually, the route led along a planned road through the thinning area and Fellows discussed the logistics of forest engineering during the walk and also learned about culverts and fish passage plans for the area.

Overall, it was an amazing setting to learn about forest management in the park. The day was so full of seeing the woods, that Fellows didn’t even make it to the waterfalls until nearly the end of the day! But, of course, no trip to Silver Falls is complete without at least one viewing of the waterfalls, and the nearly 200 feet of water flowing over the South Falls was spectacular! Besides, Fellows got to see the behind-the-scenes Silver Falls that most people don’t even know exists.

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**WFI says Goodbye to Congolese Fellow**

In early April, WFI bid farewell to their first Fellow from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr. Elikia Amani. Elikia was not only the first Fellow from the DRC, but was also the first WFI Fellow that was supported, in part, by the International Tropical Timber Organization, based in Japan. Elikia came to WFI to study sustainable forest management practices. His goal was to learn how to manage forests for the greater benefit and livelihood of local communities that rely upon forest resources.

Elikia accomplished much during his short six-month program. His favorite saying when asked how his research was progressing was, “I’m finding that Americans love the tree.” Elikia gained practical knowledge of forest management plans, sustainable harvest methods, and educational programs.

We wish him the best of luck and hope that he will have much success in implementing some of these standards at home in the DRC.