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WFI Welcomes New Fellows from China and Australia

Two new Fellows recently joined WFI: in December, WFI welcomed Dr. Shouxin Xie, from Beijing, China, and in February, Ms. Roslyn Henricks from Mount Gambier, Australia.

Dr. Xie works for the Department of Forest Resources Management in the State Forestry Administration. His primary responsibilities are inventories and layouts of forest resources and supervising and management of forest harvest and resources utilization.

Shouxin will spend six months at WFI, researching the establishment and implementation of sustainable forest management policies in the US, especially in the Pacific Northwest. He hopes his research results will help improve the administration of China's forest resource laws, particularly the establishment of sustainable harvest levels.

Roslyn Henricks joins WFI as the twelfth fellow sponsored by The Gottstein Trust, Forest and Wood Products Australia, and the Harry Merlo Foundation. During her one year Fellowship, Roslyn's research will investigate the relationship between the visual impacts of plantation forestry, social



Shouxin Xie, with his wife (also a forestry professor), and eleven-year old son.

acceptability, plantation resource expansion, and landscape planning.

"Forest aesthetic value is strongly correlated with acceptance of forest management by a visually stimulated society," Roslyn says, "and understanding how aesthetic value can be managed is critical if a forest industry is to be sustainable in a region or community." Roslyn will compare plantation regions across Australia and the US, and hopes to recommend practical applications for improving aesthetic values and community support of plantations. Roslyn is well prepared for such a project, and has a combined degree in Forestry and Visual Arts at the Aus-



Roslyn Henricks joins WFI after working for Green Triangle Forest Products, a plantation management company located in the key forestry region around Mount Gambier, South Australia.

tralian National University in Canberra, which included a 12 month international exchange at Oregon State University.

Holiday Events



The WFI staff was in holiday spirits at WFC's annual fundraiser, O Tannenbaum.



Benefactor Harry Merlo explains the qualities of a good wine to Lanhui at a holiday dinner that he hosted for Fellows.



Program Manager Angie DiSalvo shows off sheets of ice that covered Portland.



Min Zhao learned how to sled on the World Forestry Center's snowy slopes.

December Snow Turns WFC into Winter Wonderland

December, usually a flurry of holiday activity and travel, slowed Portland to a crawl when the area received its largest snowstorm in forty years. Most Fellows remember Portland winters as long, gray days filled with mild weather and rain, but 2008 will be remembered as the year that buses did not run, skiers took over the streets, and stores ran low on groceries.

Fellows from cold climates were surprised at Portland's inability to deal with the two feet of snow and ice that fell throughout two weeks in December. "Traffic was in chaos, a lot of cars were off the road, and the buses didn't go," said Milan Mataruga, whose apartment sat at the top of a steep hill, where the city closed the street for a week. "I can't believe that nobody can go to their jobs, groceries, hospitals or similar. I was in the apartment, and spent that time usefully, reading a book about breeding Douglas-fir."

Who Will Own the Forest? 5 Dates set for September 14-16, 2009

Over the last 25 years, most publicly held forest products companies in the U.S. have either sold all, or most of their forestlands, or separated ownership of their forest assets from their manufacturing activities. Today, most of these lands are held either by Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs) or Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS), on behalf of large institutional investors such as public and private pension funds, private equity groups, endowments, and hedge funds. These investors have flocked to forest-



The World Forestry Center and Merlo Hall during the 2008 winter storm.

Other Fellows were ecstatic at the opportunity to play outside. "I have never experienced such heavy snow before, unbelievable!" exclaimed Min Zhao, who is from warm Shanghai. "The landscape around my living place was very beautiful, especially when the snow surrounded all of the conifers." When WFC was forced to close, Min was the only one who made it in, hiking from her nearby house, and stopping to sled

and play along the way. Min also led the other Fellows on a two-hour walking and busing trek to Director Sara Wu's house for Christmas dinner.

After what seemed like a very long wait, temperatures rose and Portland returned to its usual rain, melting all signs of the ice and snow that slowed the city. This holiday season will certainly be remembered by Fellows as a special one, filled with memories of snowmen and a white Christmas.

lands, seeking alternatives to the roller coaster equity market. The trend is also developing on a more global scale, as cheaper land, faster growing species and emerging markets provide investment potential offshore.

Since 2003, the World Forestry Center has invited investors and the forest sector together to discuss the dynamic opportunities and implications of investing in forestlands, through the popular *Who Will Own the Forest?* Summit series, held in Portland, Oregon.

2009 is expected to bring new challenges and raise more questions. How has the credit crunch affected land deals? How will forestland values trend in this market? How should carbon, biofuels and other non-timber values impact forestland appraisals? Where are investors going in search of more affordable properties? Will investors stay the course?

We invite you to join us in this always interesting, ever-evolving discussion. This is the forestland event to attend in 2009. Please save the dates!

Strategic Planning and Interpretation Explored at Tillamook Forest

Fellows visited with managers at the Tillamook Forest Center, a forest-based learning center and outdoor classroom facility in the heart of Oregon's coast range. The center showcases the story of the Tillamook burn, a series of wildfires that occurred in the 1930s and 1940s. The burn was followed by Oregon's first large reforestation effort.

Of particular interest to Fellows was the planning process, which took over ten years, and the education objectives of the center. Interpretive themes were developed in the planning process, and are carried out throughout the exhibits, trails, and education programs.

"The Tillamook Forest Center tied in very well with my Fellowship aims," said Victor Kawanga, "as it is a special place to develop a deeper connection to Oregon's forests and has free programs for schools and community groups." Victor will take planning and education lessons back to Zambia, where he is involved in planning similar projects.



Shouxin Xie and Lanhui Wang at the Tillamook Forest Center. In 2000, Shouxin visited the site as part of a delegation from China, when the center was in the planning stages. He was excited to see the final results.

Danish Alumnus Joins WFC Board of Directors

When Jes Munk Hansen joined WFI as the Danish Fellow in 1994, he hardly imagined that one day he would sit on the organization's Board of Directors. Jes became the first alumnus to be voted in as a board member, and he is eager to contribute. "As a former Fellow I know the value of having senior executives on the Board who can guide the center and open doors for the activities and the interns at WFI," he says.

Jes has come a long way in the past fifteen years since he researched shipping projects and pricing for special forest products at WFI. He completed his Masters in forestry at the

University of Copenhagen, as well as an MBA from London Business School. In 2000 he joined Grundfos Group, a company which develops, sells and produces pumps. Although Grundfos is not in the forest industry, his business and management training plus forestry's long term perspective prepared him well. "I am looking forward to reconnecting with my background in forestry," says Jes, "an industry which will always be close to my heart."

"I am very excited to rejoin WFC. The World Forest Institute was fundamental in getting my personal career started - now I want to contribute to further develop this great institution."



In 2008 Jes became President, Regional Managing Director for Grundfos North America. His region has sales of \$450 million and 1,400 employees. His job includes developing and implementing strategies, such as acquiring companies into Grundfos' operations.

Weyerhaeuser Aurora Nursery Amazes Fellows with Production

In well organized, machine-like precision, 160 contractors rapidly processed newly lifted seedlings for shipping at Weyerhaeuser's Aurora Forest Nursery. With only 11 permanent staff members, and a large crew of seasonal labor, the nursery produces 28 million seedlings for reforestation and Christmas tree stock.

About half of the seedlings are used on Weyerhaeuser's lands and the rest are available to the public, in quantities of one to one million. Many are grown under contract, with provided seed, or using Weyerhaeuser's improved seed. Thirty-five different species are grown on the 190 acre site, which was one of Oregon's original homesteads in the 1850s.

Generally, lifting seedlings begins in December, but with Oregon's unusually cold winter, nursery activities were delayed six weeks. Manager Mark Triebwasser was confident that all orders would be filled, although it means long hours and few days off for staff. The intense schedule doesn't deter Mark from enjoying his job: he has worked for Weyerhaeuser nearly thirty years and was still smiling as he explained the production process to Fellows.



Above: Nursery manager Mark Triebwasser explains the importance of good root structure. Below: contractors sort, grade, and pack Douglas-fir seedlings for shipping.



Updates from our Alumni Around the Globe



Jaakko Rantanen (Finland, 1997) sent in this photo of his baby boy born December 11. Jaakko says wife Minna is doing well, and that their “made in Oregon” baby started life big at 10.5 pounds (4.775 kg). “In America,” says Jaakko, “everything is big!”



Matthew Pope (Australia, 2008) recently moved from Tumut to Grafton, New South Wales, to take another position with his company, Forests. Matthew and wife Ainsley are enjoying the warm weather and beaches just outside their new home. Their sons Will (above) and Keegan (below) are doing great, says Ainsley, “growing like weeds.”



Chilean and Korean Fellows Converge in Chile

Mario Angel (Chile, 1998) recently visited clients and friends of the forest products industry in Chile in order to understand how they have been affected by the U.S. financial crisis. Eagon Lautaro was one of the companies visited, and is also where **Inchul Jung** (Korea, 1996) and **Kyungtae Park** (Korea, 2006) work.

As Mario expressed, “it was great to see both of them. I appreciate their hospitality and the opportunity to learn more about their plywood operation and the current economics of the lumber industry in Chile.”



Kyungtae Park, Mario Angel, and Inchul Jung at Eagon Lautaro. To learn more about Mario's trip to Chile, or other aspects of forestry in South America, contact Mario at mario_angel@hotmail.com.



Jamie Morton (Australia, 2001) is now the Catchment Coordinator with Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority in Byron Bay, New South Wales. His wife Teresa, whom he met in Oregon, is studying part-time to become a Steiner teacher and is also enjoying her ashtanga yoga practice. Their children, McKenzie (5) and Hannah (3) are doing well. McKenzie is starting kindergarten at the Cape Byron Steiner School in February and has taken up ballet and Hannah will be starting preschool in April.

Send us your updates and photos for the next issue!