DGE Newsletter, May 2007

Field & Berry Labs

May 2: Amy Wolf presented the basis of her thesis proposal on the effects of ant-plant mutualism on nutrient distribution and cycling in a Kenyan savanna. It's amazing that four different species of ants colonize thorny Acacia trees. Amy's problem is to sort out what evolutionary advantages this may be for both ants and trees.

Tasting: Amy brought three dips for strawberries. They were 1. sour cream with or without brown sugar, 2. cream cheese mixed with yogurt & ginger, and 3. marshmallow fluff mixed with mayonnaise I preferred #2.

May 30: Carolyn Snyder presented the proposal that she submitted to IIASA for her work this summer in Austria on Coupled human-climate-carbon cycle feedbacks: A characterization of uncertainty in the consequences of land use change. The group offered her many suggestions.

Tasting: Carolyn brought six nut butters including cashew, soy, dark roasted peanut, macadamia, hazelnut with cocoa, and home ground. Most were purchased at the Country Sun Store on California Ave., PA.

Seminars


May 9: F. Stuart Chapin, III, Inst. Arctic Biology, Univ. Alaska, Fairbanks spoke on the topic: Social-ecological sustainability in a changing world: Concepts and policy strategies to address climate change in Alaska. Because long-term, global climate change may cause rapid change at the local level, he emphasized policies that may help groups (e.g. the Athabasca Indians) to adapt by changing their hunting practices.


May 10: Chris Field gave the Townsend Lecture at the Univ. South Carolina. His title was Climate change: Impacts, adaptation, and solutions.

May 16: Greg Asner conducted a public presentation about the CAO technology at the Hawaiian State Capitol auditorium. It was co-sponsored by the Hawaii Statewide GIS Program, the DLNR Div. of Forestry & Wildlife, and the Hawaii Geographic Information Council.

May 21-29: Chris Field attended an EcoSummit Meeting in Beijing. In addition to speaking at the Meeting, he also visited field stations in Inner Mongolia and noted how the desertification of that land can cause dust storms in Beijing. Chris was also featured in a cover story in the May 22nd edition of USA Today.

Outreach


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Recognition

May 15: The San Francisco Chronicle ran a long article about our Department as a result of the AIA award mentioned in the April Monthly News. It included a photo of our building and description of why it's especially "green" architecturally. (With warmer weather approaching, Chris reminded us of some of the best ways to keep the building comfortable by judicious opening and closing of windows & doors. You may also check out the System by clicking on Projects on the main DGE Web site and then on Building Energy Monitor. Fascinating!)

Congratulations to Linda Longorio, the Department's Administrative Assistant, who was granted a Masters of Art in Anthropology (emphasis in archaeology) from The University of Texas at San Antonio this month. Her thesis concerns the economic and social implications of a global luxury item, Chinese export porcelain, which was found in the impoverished missions and presidios of eighteenth century Spanish colonial Texas.

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