Announcements

- The Graduate School and the Graduate Council have identified academic milestones important to graduate student success. Forming a graduate committee and submitting a program of study are important foundation elements.

I am reaching out to tell you about implementation of a Graduate Council policy (see June 3, 2016 Graduate Council minutes: [http://senate.oregonstate.edu/graduate-council-meeting-fri-2016-06-03-1430](http://senate.oregonstate.edu/graduate-council-meeting-fri-2016-06-03-1430)) that requires doctoral students to submit programs of study after five terms of enrollment. I will regularly inform program directors of doctoral students who need to file program forms. Within the next 2-4 days, I will send initial lists of students enrolled for five or more terms who have not filed programs of study. Many students on these first lists have been enrolled for much longer than five terms.

When you receive your list, please work with the students and major professors to assure programs of study are submitted to the Graduate School before the end of spring term. I will also notify these students to contact their major professors.

In the future, I will send notices as students complete 4, 5 and 6 terms of enrollment. Beginning this summer, I will place registration holds after six terms.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about implementation of this policy.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Garagnani
Assistant Dean of the Graduate School
Oregon State University
541.737.1465

- Approximately 1,300 graduate students will complete degree requirements this academic year. The majority of degrees are completed spring term. The Graduate School staff provides support for students to ensure that they meet all the required milestones. Student success is of utmost importance to all of us.

In order to ensure timely completion of degree requirements, students must have a program of study (POS) filed no later than the first week of the term if they plan to graduate in spring.

Many students are not clear on expectations to complete their degree requirements. We find that students who submit exam scheduling forms late are often ill prepared in multiple ways:

- Some have not met with their committee members prior to the defense to know what their expectations are
- Some have not submitted a program of study
Some have not identified a graduate council representative by the time of scheduling.

In addition to filing the program of study, please have your students schedule their exams at a minimum two weeks in advance of their proposed exam time to lessen the chance of having to reschedule the exam. Scheduling rooms are often a concern. The Library has some great meeting spaces. Additionally, the Graduate Student Success Center in the MU will also has meeting space that can be reserved: http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/graduate-student-success/rooms-reservation-graduate-student-success-center

We will not process requests for scheduling final exams with less than two weeks’ notice. It often takes days to resolve issues with scheduling the exams, particularly if faculty members are listed on the committee and have not been approved for graduate faculty status. All committee members must be approved as graduate faculty for the appropriate activity level. Additionally, keep in mind that over the course of the next 10-12 weeks, our staff will need to confirm that hundreds of students have met programmatic and university requirements. We also must prepare for commencement: Please remind your students to apply for graduation and submit diploma applications by April 7. We rely on this information to order diplomas and determine who can attend the commencement ceremony.

We appreciate your help to inform students of the importance of planning ahead for completion of the requirements of their degrees during this spring term.

Rosemary Garagnani
Assistant Dean of the Graduate School
Oregon State University
541.737.1465

Julie Kurtz
Graduate School Commencement Contact
julie.kurtz@oregonstate.edu
541-737-1466

Important Deadlines

- **Important deadlines and instructions for those planning to complete their degrees this term or in Spring term**

Dear students and colleagues,

I have received a few inquiries about the requirements for graduation. Congratulations to those who are nearing degree completion. Thank you for looking ahead to make sure you know what to do and are meeting the required deadlines.

I also want to let you know that the information you need is at your fingertips! The Graduate School has worked hard to build a website that gives step by step directions to graduate students for making academic progress, including directions for degree completion and meeting deadlines.

Please go to the Graduate School website to read about the steps that need to be taken for completing the degree and to note the deadlines that you need to meet in order to graduate this spring term.

http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/progrss/deadlines
I will highlight below a few key elements covered on the Graduate School Website but you need to go to their website for the full and complete story:

1. Make sure you have submitted an approved program of study and that the Graduate School has also approved the program of study.

   If you are a Master’s student, and have not yet submitted a completed program of study and had that approved, then this is something you need to take care of before the end of Winter term. Doctoral students can wait till winter term of their second year to submit the signed program of study (but it is certainly fine to submit this earlier!).

2. Schedule the defense (under scheduling examinations)
   You will see on the Graduate School website that you need to fill out exam scheduling forms, and like all other important forms, those forms are available on the Graduate School website

3. following the defense, when you have finished all revisions to the thesis or dissertation, you will need to complete and have your major advisor and Director of the program (me) sign the Electronic Thesis Submission (ETS) form. You submit the thesis or dissertation online to ScholarsArchive as a pdf file along with the signed ETS form.

Read all about the thesis preparation and submission process here:

http://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/progress/thesis-guide

The Graduate School website is really the best source of up-to-date information about graduation requirements and thesis or dissertation submission requirements etc.

Please review their website when you have questions. If you still have questions remaining, then feel free to contact me or Annie Ingersoll and we will be happy to help.

Regards,
Dr. Mary Santelmann, Director
Water Resource Graduate Program

Funding, Research and Job Opportunities

➢ Here is a great opportunity to engage in an international network of researchers to focus on impact evaluation of REDD+.

CIFOR is seeking eight PhD scholars to work on REDD+ impact evaluation study in Brazil, Peru and Indonesia. CIFOR will provide scholarships to cover field costs related to the socioeconomic and environmental data collection at eight predetermined sites in Brazil, Indonesia, and Peru, where CIFOR has previously gathered data. For more information, please check this link:

http://forestlivelihoods.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e5445ad35c4409f648bdc26f9&id=e85fac5072&e=8edfffa11b
SESYNC Feedbacks

News from the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center

Research Opportunities
SESYNC Invites Proposals for Collaborative Pursuits & Workshops

SESYNC invites proposals for collaborative team-based research (Pursuits) that synthesize existing data, methods, theories, and tools to address a pressing socio-environmental problem. Researchers are encouraged to develop research questions and methods that can be applicable across multiple places and scales and have the potential to inform decision makers. We are particularly interested in novel, actionable synthesis efforts that employ synthesis methodologies in new ways. Projects that bring together quantitative and qualitative data and knowledge are of special interest. In this Request for Proposals we are introducing two NEW Themes, and have a particular interest in developing portfolios of projects to address aspects of each.

New Themes:

- **Environmental Dynamics and Food Systems**
- **Sudden or Unexpected Events: Environmental Recovery, Reorganization, or Restoration**

Please note that proposals do not need to fall within one of SESYNC’s previous Themes or the new Themes listed above. Applicants are encouraged to examine existing SESYNC funded Pursuits for examples of successful proposals.

SESYNC is also accepting proposals for Workshops that are single meetings of up to ~25 participants that focus on a broad topic or a set of topics related to socio-environmental science.

Proposals for both Pursuits and Workshops are due May 15. [Click here](#) to find out more about SESYNC’s Requests for Proposals.

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**SESYNC Requests Proposals for Graduate Student Research**

In addition to the above Request for Proposals, SESYNC is also accepting applications for Graduate Student Pursuits, with the same Themes. [Click here](#) to find out more about SESYNC’s Grad Student RFP.
For interested graduate students, Nicole Motzer will be hosting two informational webinars at 1:30pm EST on March 17 and March 24.

Apply for SESYNC’s Summer Short Courses!

Summer Institute:
Cyberinfrastructure for Socio-Environmental Synthesis

SESYNC invites applications to a short course on data and software skills for socio-environmental synthesis (SES). The 4th annual Summer Institute will be held July 18-21 at SESYNC in Annapolis, Maryland. The short course will combine lectures, hands-on computer labs, and project consultation designed to accelerate the adoption of cyber resources for all phases of data-driven research and dissemination.

Want to learn more? Click here for more information and for online application instructions.

Bayesian Modeling for Socio-Environmental Data

Solutions to pressing environmental problems require understanding connections between human and natural systems. Analysis of these systems requires models that can deal with complexity, are able to exploit data from multiple sources, and are honest about uncertainty that arises in different ways. Synthesis of results from multiple studies is often required. Bayesian hierarchal models provide a powerful approach to analysis of socio-environmental problems that are complex and that require synthesis of knowledge.

SESYNC will host a nine-day short course
August 15 - 25 covering basic principles of using Bayesian models to gain insight from data. Click here to find out more information and to apply online.
Teaching Socio-Environmental Synthesis

SESYNC invites applications for the Teaching Socio-Environmental Synthesis with Case Studies short course to be held **July 25-28** at the Center.

**We seek a diverse group of participants, including faculty, postdocs, and graduate students from both the social and natural sciences.** Participants should have a strong interest in learning about and teaching S-E synthesis and be willing to commit to writing a case study related to S-E synthesis. We welcome applications from individuals or small teams (four people max) that will collaborate on writing a case study. Teams are strongly encouraged, but not required.

Find out more and apply online on **SESYNC's website.**

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**New Publications**

- **Interpreting beta diversity components over time to conserve metacommunities in highly-dynamic ecosystems** - Published by SESYNC Postdoctoral fellow Albert Ruhi and colleagues in the journal *Conservation Biology*.


- **Science and Federal Environmental Decisions**: A Survey of Interactions, Successes, and Difficulties - Published by James Boyd and Jonathan Kramer as a collaboration between Resources for the Future and SESYNC.

- **Social-ecological enabling conditions for payments for ecosystem services** - Published in *Ecology and Society* by Heidi R. Huber-Stearns and colleagues, as part of the [Enabling Payments for Watershed Services](https://www.sesync.org/enabling-payments-for-watershed-services) Graduate Student Pursuit.

Book Chapter in *Impact of Biological Invasions on Ecosystem Services* titled [Non-native Species and the Aesthetics of Nature](https://www.sesync.org/non-native-species-and-the-aesthetics-of-nature) authored by Christoph Küffer and Christian Kull (and partly funded by SESYNC).
Join Our Team!

**Associate Director for Actionable Science and Associate Director for Research**

SESYNC is currently accepting applications for two Associate Director positions. For more information, read the full job descriptions on SESYNC’s website. Please share with potentially-interested colleagues. Applications due March 30.

**Research Accounts Coordinator**

SESYNC's Research Accounts Coordinator will be responsible for managing the financial aspects of multiple research accounts, assisting with new grant proposal routing and budget preparation, sub award monitoring, accurate reporting, and compliance with federal and state regulations. Click here for more information and to apply online.
The Smith Richardson Foundation is pleased to announce its annual *Strategy and Policy Fellows* grant competition to support young scholars and policy thinkers on American foreign policy, international relations, international security, military policy, and diplomatic and military history. The Foundation will award at least three research grants of $60,000 each. The deadline is **June 23, 2017**.

For further information, please visit: [https://www.srf.org/programs/international-security-foreign-policy/strategy-policy-fellows-program/](https://www.srf.org/programs/international-security-foreign-policy/strategy-policy-fellows-program/).

Please submit your application to [strategyfellows@srf.org](mailto:strategyfellows@srf.org); do not mail a hardcopy.

Smith Richardson Foundation
60 Jesup Road
Westport, CT 06880
Environmental Education Employment Opportunity
Faculty Instructor
Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies, Summer 2017
A 16-credit college quarter hosted by Wrangell Mountains Center
and accredited through The Evergreen State College

Imagine guiding students through a rocky and glacier-laden landscape, mentoring them on timely scientific studies, and sharing your passion for wild land. The Evergreen State College seeks an intellectually engaged and enthusiastic educator with expertise in backcountry travel and earth science, alpine or boreal ecology, or environmental change. The educator will co-lead a summer-long, interdisciplinary, for-credit natural history field course for upper level undergraduate students in a trail-less, dynamic backcountry setting. Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies is hosted through Wrangell Mountains Center (WMC), a non-profit organization committed to connecting people with wildlands through art, science, and education in the Wrangell Mountains of Alaska. The field study operates out of the off-grid WMC campus in the rustic community of McCarthy.

Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies consists of seven weeks beginning June 22, 2017. During the seven weeks, up to 16 enrolled students spend a total of four weeks backpacking through the trail-less mountain wilderness, learning about the ecological, geological, artistic, and human history of the landscape. During the latter part of the course students carry out independent research or artistic investigation, entirely while in the backcountry. At the conclusion of the course, students present their research findings to peers, local management agency representatives, and members of the local McCarthy community. With glaciers flowing from 16,000-foot peaks, canyons deeper than Yosemite, and spruce-forested valleys, this study area is in the middle of the world’s largest international complex of protected wilderness lands. Glaciation, volcanism, erosion and ecological succession are exposed and active, making it an ideal natural laboratory in which to study Alaska’s landscape of extremes. This is also an opportunity to explore how national park gateway citizens and environmental professionals grapple with sustaining the Alaskan bush lifestyle in the face of increasing tourism.

The Faculty Instructor should be proficient at teaching through lectures, informal discussion, and mentorship of student research groups on topics such as: a) the tectonic history of Alaska and glacier change, b) successional changes in the fluctuating glacier-edge environment and ecological characteristics in the alpine habitat of Dall sheep, brown bear, and other mammals c) adaptations of plants and animals to the stresses of sub-arctic existence, and/or d) the effects of climate change on the landscape.
Primary responsibilities:
• Maintain contact with the lead faculty member, Dr. Aliette Frank, for approximately five half-days prior to the field study (beginning April) in order to suggest readings for the course reader, and help plan the course schedule
• Work with other faculty to integrate an interdisciplinary curriculum during the backpacking trips
• Arrive in McCarthy three days in advance of the quarter to help prepare for the course
• Work with the lead faculty member to lead backcountry travel, coordinate daily camp life, and make decisions regarding participant safety during the backpacking trips
• Work with other faculty to oversee and help students carry out research projects
• Promote the WMC culture of collaborative living and sustainable practices

Minimum Qualifications:
• M.S. in relevant discipline
• Experience teaching interdisciplinary field courses
• Ability to lead backcountry travel groups
• Current Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification

Desired Qualifications:
• Experience traveling in Alaskan wilderness
• Experience guiding backcountry travel groups
• Familiarity or past experience with WMC

For more information on Alaska Wrangell Mountains Field Studies please visit www.wrangells.org/fieldstudies, or direct questions to Dr. Aliette Frank (aliette@wrangells.org).

Compensation is approximately $6,000 as well as food, and while in McCarthy, rustic accommodations.

Interested candidates should send a Letter of Interest, professional CV including backcountry leadership skills, evidence of professional or community contribution in the field of study, and contact information for three references to Dr. Aliette Frank, Member of the Faculty, The Evergreen State College (aliette@wrangells.org). Review of applications will begin March 12th.