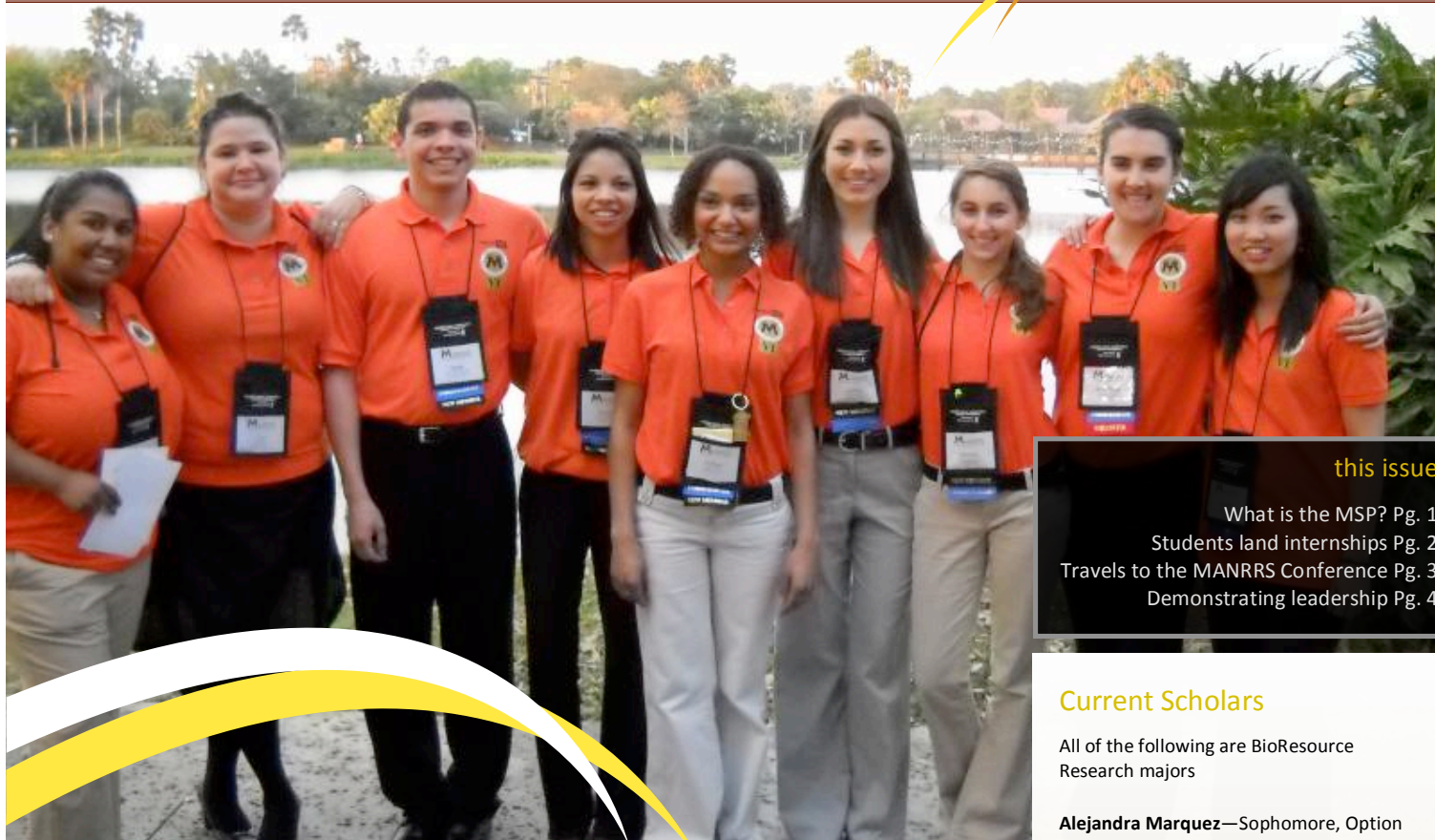


OSU Multicultural Scholars Program

Biennial Newsletter

Issue 1, Volume 1, July 2010



this issue

What is the MSP? Pg. 1
Students land internships Pg. 2
Travels to the MANRRS Conference Pg. 3
Demonstrating leadership Pg. 4

Current Scholars

All of the following are BioResource Research majors

Alejandra Marquez—Sophomore, Option Toxicology and Applied Genetics
Emily Rose Escobedo—Sophomore, Option Toxicology or Biotechnology
Omar Miranda Garcia—Sophomore, Food Quality or Sustainable Ecosystems
Tiffany Harper—Sophomore, Sustainable Ecosystems or Food Quality
Danielle Naylor—Sophomore, Option Animal Development and Reproduction or Toxicology
Ashley Seeley—Senior, Option Animal Reproduction and Development and Applied Genetics, and BS Animal Sciences
Martine Torres—Junior, Option Water Resources

Mentors and Associates

AnnaRose Adams—Mentor, Senior, Option Water Resources
Eva Arndt—Mentor, Senior, Options Biotechnology and Env. Chemistry, and BA Psychology
Vananh Nguyen—Mentor, Graduate Senior, Options Toxicology and Biotechnology, and BA International Studies
Dominique Sabedra—Associate, Junior, Option Animal Reproduction and Development, and BS Animal Sciences

What is the Multicultural Scholars Program?

The **Multicultural Scholars Program at OSU** is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to offer competitive scholarships to undergraduate students of diverse cultural backgrounds who are interested in Agriculture, Natural Resources, Food Science, or Human Health and Nutrition. OSU's Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP) is for student members of groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the food and agricultural sciences, or first-generation college students, who are looking for research experience, professional development, good mentoring and support, and a relevant college education that will lead to a productive career or graduate/ professional school.

MSP Scholars receive tuition scholarships for up to a four-year period. They pursue a B.S. degree in BioResource Research in the College of Agriculture, and join MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences).

MSP Associates (2nd-year students) and MSP Mentors (3rd and 4th-year students) are BRR students who are already active in MANRRS. Students selected as MSP Associates or Mentors receive small scholarships and funding to pay for a trip to the National MANNRS conference. They participate in MSP program activities and serve as peer mentors for MSP scholars.

MSP Scholars, Mentors, and Associates fill their summer with internship experience

BRR Students enter the job market in full force

Success comes through expertise. This summer, MSP students are spreading themselves across the globe to gain valuable job experience through internships.

Emily Escobedo is a PROMISE intern at the National Pesticide Information Center located in Corvallis, Oregon. The center is a cooperative program between Oregon State University and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Escobedo will use her experience to further her career goal to protect migrant workers and their families from pesticide exposure.

Omar Miranda Garcia is an intern with Oregon State Extension's Nutrition Education Program. Garcia is providing English and Spanish educational outreach to low income families in Linn and Benton counties about nutritional eating habits. This experience will help Garcia towards his career aspiration to improve the nutritional quality of life for minority populations.

Martine Torres spent the beginning of her summer in Honduras with the non-profit Water Brigades. As part of her experience, Torres built canals to bring water to villages. Now back in the United States, Torres is an intern for Dr. Ganti Murthy through Oregon State's Subsurface Biosphere Initiative. She is engaged in research directly related to her interest in water quality control.

Ashley Seeley is currently spending the first five weeks of her summer on a study abroad program to Spain. Upon her return to the United States, Seeley will work with Dr. Michelle Kutzler at Oregon State's Veterinary Medicine School. Both opportunities will prepare her to be a veterinarian who can serve Spanish-speaking populations.

Tiffany Harper is spending her summer working with Dr. Sujaya Rao on native pollinators in Oregon. This experience is one step towards her goal to work in sustainable agriculture.

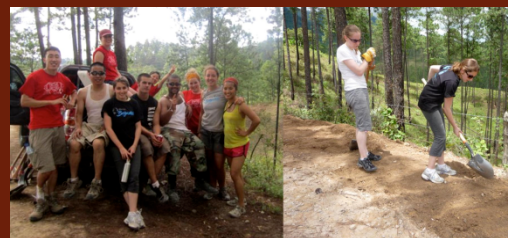
AnnaRose Adams is a marine policy intern with Oregon Sea Grant. Her experience in Oregon public policy will prepare her for a career in marine resource management and conservation.

Dominique Sabedra is continuing her internship from the academic school year working with Dr. Gerd Bobe and master's candidate Erica Ramsing. She is studying the effects of yeast supplements on post-partum metabolism energy and milk production in dairy cows. Her work will lead her towards a career in large animal science.

Danielle Naylor spent her academic year developing exotic animal educational exhibits at Brad's World of Reptiles. As part of her work, she cared for amphibians and reptiles.

Alejandra Marquez is a laboratory assistant for OSU's Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. Her work will provide her valuable experience in genetics to prepare her for medical school.

Eva Arndt is an intern with the City of Gresham working on wastewater treatment improvements. This July, she attended the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) professional meeting in Salt Lake City, receiving travel scholarship and mentoring from water quality professionals from across the country. Arndt's hard work will prepare her for a career in environmental forensics.



Torres travels to Honduras with Global Water Brigades

Nearly half of the world's population lives without access to clean water and sanitation. This June, MSP Scholar Martine Torres set out, along with 13 Oregon State students, to help solve this problem in Honduras.

Global Water Brigades is a nonprofit dedicated to connecting professionals and students to projects improving water and sanitation. Torres spent a week dedicated to improving water access in the village of Joyas Del Carballo, Honduras.

"A big challenge to the trip was waking up early and having to travel two hours to our destination, where we worked in the hot sun doing manual labor," said Torres, "It was also hard to communicate my feelings and questions towards the villagers because I know very little Spanish."

Students also spent time educating school children about the water cycle, which was a memorable experience for Torres.

"We helped them (students) draw their own representation of what water meant to them."

In the future, Torres hopes to work in international development and water security. Her trip to Honduras was her first trip out of the United States.

"I was surprised at how my representation of what developing countries were like was quite different than what I had actually encountered during my stay in Honduras. People can be friendly, even if you are a foreigner and don't speak the same language."

Torres hopes that her future work will take her to Africa, where she will use her fluency in French to facilitate non-governmental work in water quality.



Early one cold March morning, a groggy group of Oregon State students gathered at the Portland International Airport. Their destination? The Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

This past spring break MSP students traveled to Walt Disney World for the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) national conference. Students, professors, and employers from around the country came to participate in the highly anticipated event. The conference offered career fairs, professional development workshops, and contests for college students to demonstrate their communication and research skills.

"Attending the conference is an unforgettable life experience. The incredible advice and knowledge that I gained was more than I could have ever imagined. Networking with many different people and organizations, helped me get my foot in the door towards my future," said Omar Miranda Garcia.

Mentors Vananh Nguyen and AnnaRose Adams represented Oregon State in the oral and poster research competitions. Nguyen presented a poster on her thesis research, bringing home a 4th place award. Adams also received an award, winning 1st place for her oral presentation on her research in atmospheric science.

"I was so excited to receive my award," said Adams, "I hope to compete again at next year's conference."

Outside of professional development, OSU MANRRS members also took away another important item from the conference: friendship.

"Because of this conference I feel like I can fit in more with the OSU MANRRS chapter and I look forward to being a part of the upcoming events," said MSP scholar Emily Escobedo.

Scholar Martine Torres stated "I am very grateful for all the connections I made from the conference. I met people from across the United States, and some international students, whom I have been staying in contact with. It was nice to be around people from all over the world who are brought together by MANRRS and have similar interests and aspirations as I do."

Next year, OSU MANRRS and MSP Scholars will travel to Kansas City, Kansas for the next MANRRS national conference.

MSP Mentor to complete thesis in the Caribbean

AnnaRose Adams will spend four months in Bonaire, an island 50 miles north of Venezuela, this fall to complete her thesis. Along with taking classes on coral reef ecology, Adams will undertake research on invasive lionfish. Her work will build upon prior research completed by Dr. Mark Hixon, professor of Zoology at Oregon State University. For more information, you can follow her weekly blog updates:

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/annaroseandthesea>



Congrats to our new MSP Scholar Marquez!

Alejandra Marquez, a new student to the BRR, has been accepted to the family of MSP Scholars. Marquez is pursuing an option in Toxicology and Applied Genetics, along with a minor in chemistry. She plans to attend medical school to become a physician.

Marquez will replace Danielle Naylor's vacant MSP scholar position. Naylor is transferring to school in Texas to pursue an art degree. We will miss her, but we are also excited for our new addition to the group!

Nguyen graduates from Oregon State



MSP mentor Vananh Nguyen graduated this spring from Oregon State University with a BS in BioResource Research and BA in International studies. She is currently applying to graduate school in Public Health. She hopes to work in international health care.



Students demonstrate community leadership

A common thread shared among all MSP students is their commitment to volunteer service. All MSP students are active members of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. As part of their involvement students plan professional development workshops, lead K-12 environmental education activities, and fundraise for charitable works (and that only scratches the surface!). What is remarkable about the MSP students is their willingness to commit to additional volunteer organizations on top of their studies, work, and involvement in MANRRS. Here are some of the other activities our students are involved in:

Eva Arndt is a member of the Native American Longhouse and the Concillio group.

AnnaRose Adams is a founder of Student Alliance for Environmental Justice and member of the Triathlon Club.

Tiffany Harper is a member of Future Farmers of America and the Black Student Union.

Vananh Nguyen served as an Oregon State Peace Jam mentor for multiple years.

Ashley Seeley is a regular volunteer for the Oregon Humane Society.

Dominique Sabedra is an ambassador for OSU's College of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences.

Emily Escobedo and Omar Miranda Garcia both assist with EOP (Educational Opportunities Program) and CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) recruitment and outreach activities.

Danielle Naylor served as a member of OSU's Sustainability Center, Green Operating Fund, and Food Group.

Martine Torres is a founding member of OSU Global Water Brigades and a member of Engineers Without Borders and Sigma Alpha Sorority.

Editor

AnnaRose Adams is the contributing editor to the MSP's first edition newsletter.

Contact information:

Annarose.adams@gmail.com

OSU USDA Multicultural Scholars Program

Department of BioResource Research
Oregon State University
137 Strand Agriculture Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331
<http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/brr/msp>

Contact: Wanda Crannell, BRR advisor
541-737-2999