



Fall 2013 RSP Newsletter

We have included you in this mailing list because of your interests and previous affiliation with the program. If you do not want to receive future mailings, please send an email to: rsp@oregonstate.edu.

Binational Learning Community on Food, Culture and Social Justice in Oregon and Ecuador



An exciting collaboration led by RSP Faculty Affiliate **Joan Gross** and including RSP Faculty Affiliate **Mark Edwards** has been underway since August. This innovative exchange program gathered a group of ten Ecuadorians and ten Oregonians who together are attempting to answer the big question, “What does a food system that is fair and healthy for everyone look like and what steps can be taken to help create it?” Professors, students and community members are exploring various agricultural systems within the framework

of food sovereignty and giving special attention to alternatives put forth by contemporary agri-food movements, highlighting the heterogeneity that exists in every human society. They are examining practices of alternative food producers that have successfully integrated themselves into a variety of markets: local, regional, national and international, as well as initiatives that opt for culturally important foodways outside of the market system. We will pay particular attention to indigenous efforts to revitalize culturally important foodways in both Oregon and Ecuador. Through cross-cultural dialogue, collaboration, and experiential learning, participants are developing their knowledge, social networks and their capacity for engaging food systems issues as global citizens, rooted in local realities.

Community Economist Returns to OSU



The Rural Studies Program is glad to welcome **Mallory Rahe** back to Oregon State University and the Rural Studies Program. Mallory worked at Oregon State University and then took a two-year leave of

absence to complete her PhD at the University of Illinois. She is currently working on projects around the state, including Tillamook County and Brookings. In addition, Mallory will be teaching classes on-campus and on-line. We are glad she is back!

ICRPS 2013 - Italy

The 2013 ICRPS (International Comparative Rural Policy Studies) Summer Institute took place in Bertinoro, Italy (one hour from Bologna). Program leadership included RSP Faculty Affiliate **Brent Steel** and the Director of the OSU School of Public Policy Denise Lach, OSU faculty, who participated in the program included Allison Davis-White Eyes, Philipp Kneis, and RSP Director **Bruce Weber**. Six OSU rural policy graduate students were participants.



During the two weeks intensive program, both workshops and field visits allowed the participants to explore the various issues, potentialities, and problems of the Italian rural areas, with a focus on the Emilia Romagna region. The main themes of this year Summer Institute were: Italian rural and regional policy; food systems and food networks; food waste (in collaboration with [Last Minute Market](#) and the multi-year project "[A year against Waste](#)"); rural tourism; in and off farm renewable energy; cooperatives; social farming; diversity; and migrations.

Upcoming Rural Studies Courses

Winter 2014

RS 512 – Introduction to Rural Studies – Introduces students to the emerging theoretical perspectives, methodologies, and critical themes that define rural studies in the U.S. and elsewhere through examination of issues of concern to rural people and places.

ANTH 466/566 – Rural Anthropology - Study the socio-cultural dynamics of rural communities in contexts of political and economic change.

Spring 2014

RS 513 – Contemporary Rural Issues

RS 521 – Economics of Rural Poverty and the US Social Safety Net (to be taught on-line through e-campus).

AREC 554 – Rural Development Economics and Policy (to be taught on campus and on-line through e-campus).

Toward One Oregon – Oregon Humanities Conversations

Oregon Humanities

The Conversation Project, sponsored by Oregon Humanities, offers Oregon nonprofits free, humanities-based public discussion programs about provocative issues and ideas. For this year and next year, one of the conversations will be led by RSP Director **Bruce Weber**, along with Mike Hibbard (University of Oregon) and Ethan Seltzer (Portland State University). The conversation they are leading is “Toward One Oregon: Bridging Oregon’s Urban and Rural Communities.” The discussion will focus on what ties Oregon’s communities together, and how they can envision a common future. Conversations are being scheduled for a diverse set of communities around Oregon, including Portland, Beaverton, Damascus, Grants Pass, Lakeview, Paisley, and Christmas Valley.

Rural Studies Class Studies Falls City



As part of the Spring 2013 Rural Studies seminar course, Contemporary Rural Issues: Rural Community Sustainability, students applied what they learned in a real life setting. The students applied the lessons they learned in class to Falls City, Oregon – a small timber town in Polk County about an hour from Corvallis. Students met with the city manager in class, as well as spent a day touring and visiting with residents (including the mayor) in Falls City. As a final project, the students submitted a report to the city which was well received (and some of the suggestions were quickly implemented). The Polk County [Itemizer-Observer](#) covered the story.

New Blogs

Some Rural Studies Faculty Affiliates have recently started blogging! RSP Faculty Affiliate **Lena Etuk** has a blog about [Oregon's People, Places and Society](#). RSP Faculty Affiliate **Mallory Rahe** has a blog about [Rural Communities and Their Economies](#). And RSP Faculty Affiliate **Bruce Sorte** has a blog about the [Economic Impacts of Immigration](#).

Publications

RSP Director **Bruce Weber** and former OSU RSP student Paul Lewin (now a professor at the University of Idaho) wrote an issue brief entitled "[How Does Domestic Food Assistance Affect Rural and Urban Household Incomes](#)."

Presentations

RSP Director **Bruce Weber** discussed the role of rural-urban partnerships in rural development as part of an invited panel at the 9th Annual OECD Rural Development Policy Conference in Bologna Italy in October 2013.

RSP Faculty Affiliates in the News

RSP Faculty Affiliate **Roger Hammer** was quoted two times in the [NY Times](#) regarding wildfires in the US West.

RSP Faculty Affiliate **Bruce Sorte** was quoted in a story on [NPR](#) regarding pear farming in the Pacific Northwest.

RSP Director **Bruce Weber** was quoted in a story in the [Seattle Times](#) regarding changes in Oregon timber towns.

RSP Director **Bruce Weber** was quoted in a story in [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) on shrinking railroad towns.

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