

AN EXAMPLE OF A FAST PROGRAM -

2008 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM IN ECUADOR

Providing opportunities for undergraduate students to do research can increase the likelihood that students will continue on for graduate work in the sciences.

The Fulbright Academy is supporting an annual symposium where undergraduate students from institutions of higher education in the United States and other countries can present their research. The symposium is part of a two-week long interdisciplinary course on research methodologies.

The January 2008 program was hosted by the Pontifical Catholic University in Ecuador, with participants from PUCE and Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio.

The January 2009 symposium and course will be hosted by Wilmington College, which is located outside of Cincinnati, Ohio. Undergraduates from the USA, Ecuador, the Philippines and several other countries will participate. Students who complete the full two-week course can receive academic credit. A second option is to participate in a shortened program.

Wilmington College are working with FAST and other institutions to secure corporate and other sponsors so that this program can be an annual program with participants from undergraduate programs worldwide.

The Poster Session – Opening Remarks



REPRESENTED AT THE RECEPTION:

Institutions in Ecuador

- Asociación Nacional de Cultivadores de Palma Africana
- Escuela Superior Politecnica de Chimborazo
- Fulbright Commission in Ecuador
- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador
- Pervolare
- Red Partner, SA
- Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- US Embassy in Quito

Non-local Institutions

- Boston University
- Emory University
- Louisiana State University
- University of Delaware
- University of Goettingen
- Wilmington College

SELECTED ATTENDEES:

- M.Sc. Rosario Briones, Host of the program and Curator of Ecuador's largest collection of mushrooms, PUCE.
- Dr. Al Conklin Jr, Professor of Chemistry, Wilmington College, Ohio
- Dr. Kelly Swing, Director of the Tiputini Biodiversity Station
- Dr. Laura Arcos Teran, Dean of the Faculty of Science at PUCE.
- Dr. Manuel Corrales Pascual S.J., Rector of PUCE.

Additional information available at
www.FulbrightAcademy.org

KEY OUTCOMES FROM 2008:

- Creation of a two-week interdisciplinary course on research methodologies, which includes site visits to farms and research centers in western Ecuador. Tourism also is part of the program, including a hike up to 14,000 feet on Cotopaxi, the volcano outside of Quito.
- Collaboration among four entities: PUCE, FAST, Wilmington College and the Fulbright Commission in Ecuador. "An Encounter to Promote Cultural and Scientific Interaction Between students, Faculty and the Local Community" had three components – a research symposium, a forum on environmental assessment, and a poster session.
- Public outreach - Reception with over 100 local and visiting scientists, business executives, researchers, and government officials. Fourteen undergraduate students presented their research in the poster session on topics such as soils, frogs, oil palms, fruit flies, and heavy metals.
- Created a model which will be duplicated in January 2009 when international students will travel to Ohio for the second such course.

The Environmental Assessment Forum

