Profile of Past Jefferson Science Fellows

Dr. Deborah Lawrence, 2009 (Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia) Dr. Lawrence worked closely with advisors on forests and climate in the Office of Global Change at the U.S. Department of State where she also supported the office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change. She focused on international negotiations and bilateral efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) in tropical forests. She served on the U.S. adaptations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Group on Earth Observations and in Brazil’s Climate Task. Prof. Lawrence also served as a USAID Consultant on REDD+ programming in Southeast Asia. Since 2010, she has been a consultant to the U.S. Forest Service and USAID. She serves on the steering committee of SilvaCarbon, an interagency program of the U.S. Government on forest carbon management, measurement, and monitoring.

Dr. Darryl Tohett, 2011 (Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder) Dr. Tohett worked in the Office of Economic Policy in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs (EAP/EP). He served as a U.S. Delegate in Malaysia for the APEC Energy Working Group and at the 30th APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he covered issues related to energy, environment, and “green growth” (climate-friendly, low carbon and energy efficient technologies). Dr. Tohett organized a high-level policy dialogue on open governance chaired by Secretary Clinton at the APEC Concluding Senior Officials Meeting in Hanoi, and he conducted a workshop on the use of remote sensing observations for climate change adaptation for the APEC Industrial Science and Technology Working Group in Singapore. Following his year in Washington, Dr. Tohett hopes to remain active in international policy issues related to energy and air pollution in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Joan Ristaino, 2012 (Department of Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University) served as a senior science advisor in the Bureau of Food Security, Office of Agriculture Research and Policy (BFS/EP). She helped launch the Bethesda Higher Education Agriculture Research Development Program and conducted a country-wide needs assessment of agricultural research capacity in Bangladesh. Dr. Ristaino worked with the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) and the Board on International Research and Development of the U.S. National Academy on the Borlaug Higher Education Agriculture Research Development Program (BIFADS) review of the Cooperative Research Support Program (CRSP). She also provided technical analysis of emerging plant disease threats and helps review progress in the research portfolio in BFS/EP. Finally, Dr. Ristaino served on an Interagency Working Group on the National Plant Genome Initiative and helped write the strategic plan. She continues to work on a portfolio of issues including human and institutional capacity development in food the Future countries.

Dr. Stephanie Poersst, 2013 (Department of Computer Science, University of New Mexico) Dr. Forrest served as a science advisor to the Office of the Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy (ICIP) at the U.S. Department of State, focusing on cybersecurity. In this capacity, she also supported the State Department Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues (OCCI) and the Bureau of Democracy and Human Rights. She provided technical expertise and support for a wide range of issues, including Internet governance, cybersecurity, cloud computing, privacy, and big data. She served as a U.S. Delegate to bilateral meetings, provided advice on the proposed globalisation of the Internet IANA functions, helped develop negotiating strategies for multi-lateral fora such as the International Telecommunications Union, and developed a set of proposal guidance building measures for cyberspace.

Dr. R. Ramakrishna, 2013 (Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, Arizona State University) Dr. Ramakrishna served as a senior science and technology advisor in the Africa Bureau at USAID. His specific responsibilities included working with a team to design and guide the implementation of the Presidential initiative “Power Africa.” Dr. Ramakrishna assisted in the development of strategies, programs, and partnerships that supported the objective of the energy sector in relations to African agriculture, environment, health and economic growth. He was also a member of the team from the Global Environment Labs at USAID that visited Armenia to help develop their Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (STIP) related to energy and water resource management. Dr. Ramakrishna worked with other U.S. government agencies to promote industry/business - university collaborations on power systems engineering and capacity building in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Profiles of all Fellows can be found online at www.national-academies.org/jsf.
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Jefferson Science Fellows program is open to U.S. citizens and, similarly, the academic science and engineering communities in U.S. foreign policy. The Jefferson Science Fellows program is designed through a consultation that considers both the interests and expertise of the Fellow and the needs of the hosting office. Fellow assignments may be coordinated with the relevant U.S. embassy overseas. All JSF assignments will be short-term projects.

Each Fellow will spend one year at the U.S. Department of State or USAID in Washington, D.C. The assignments may be coordinated with the relevant U.S. embassy overseas. All JSF assignments will be designed through a consultation that considers both the interests and expertise of the Fellow and the needs of the hosting office. Following the fellowship year, the Jefferson Science Fellow will return to his or her academic career, but will remain available to the U.S. government as an experienced consultant for short-term projects.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) with participating academic institutions is in place. To determine the participating academic institution at which the applicant holds a tenured, or similarly ranked, position, the National Academies consider the number of Jefferson Science Fellows who have graduated from the same institution. This information is provided for the benefit of Fellows, and no formal MOU exists with any one institution.

APPLICATIONS

An online application package and detailed instructions on the application process are available on the JSF website at www.jsf.gov.

A complete application package consists of the following: biographical information; a Curriculum Vita; a Statement of Interest; two Essays; and three to five Letters of Recommendation.

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