

Application of SWAT and GeoWEPP model in predicting the impact of stone bunds on runoff and erosion processes in the Northern Ethiopian Highlands

**Field report
To
Austrian Marshall Plan**

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1. General impression of your research stay abroad

Generally my research stay abroad was fruitful. I get lots of experiences and knowledge that helps me a lot to finish my PhD before the intended time. I had a chance to get in touch with professors and researchers in the United States that helps me to create linkage for further scientific communication in my career. I had a chance to visit other USG institutions Like USDA. In addition my research stay abroad helps me to create links with international students, researchers and scientists. I am especially thankful for this opportunity to the Marshall Plan Foundation, BOKU and university at Buffalo.

In the Landscape-based Environmental System Analysis & Modeling (LESAM) I had chance to work with strong collaboration with other students and researchers. The LESAM organized weekly meetings, discussions, lectures, speeches and field visits and presentations to have opportunity to meet and discuss about different projects and broaden our view about different research areas.

Besides, scientific research, my stay abroad was very interesting to participate in the American cultures, holidays and to visit beautiful places like Niagra falls. I had very interesting time at my professor's (Chris Renschler) house to celebrate Halloween party, the LESAM party, Cultural party, etc. I had a very nice picnic with international people.



Fig 1. Picnic with international students

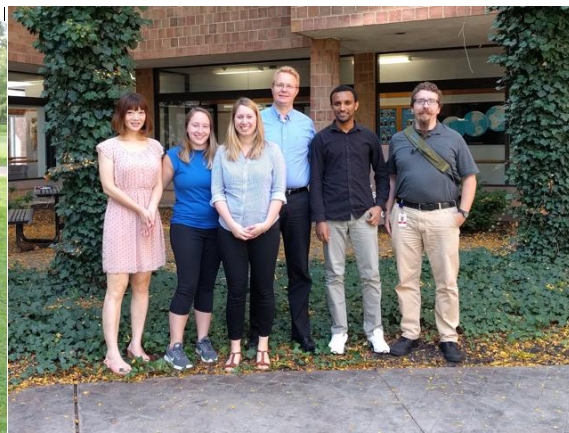


Fig 2 part of LESAM Researcher team members

2. Quality of the host institution

University at Buffalo is one of the best State Universities in the United States. So it has of high quality education and research system to acquire great experience for students and researchers. Since my stay was in the department of geography, the laboratory is well equipped and organized to work. The researchers' team at the lab are very friendly to collaborate communicate and work with them. The professor organized Landscape-based Environmental System Analysis & Modeling (LESAM) weekly meeting in addition to the lectures, field studies and speeches. I get a chance for a couple of presentations for the lab members and students. So, I am confident enough to witness the quality of the laboratory at the host institution.

3. Contacts within the host institution, inclusion in the organization

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4. Recommendations for future Marshall Plan students and fellows

I recommend the host institute, especially the Landscape-based Environmental System Analysis & Modeling (LESAM) laboratory for future marshal plan students who wants to do their research on Geography, GIS, GeoWEPP, Climate change, hydrology, soil erosion, risk analysis, nutrient, landscape and similar research areas. For further details here is the link of the laboratory. <http://lesami.geog.buffalo.edu/>