

Field report – Oregon State University

Despite initial uncertainty about a semester abroad far from home, I am incredibly glad that I was given this opportunity and took it. These six months at Oregon State University (OSU) were an enrichment for my life and broadened my horizon not only in a professional but also in a social sense.

First and foremost, I would like to mention the warm and open nature of the people. Although I came to America on my own and without knowing anyone at the university, I never felt on any day that I did not receive the necessary support, both in organizational and social terms. So I was invited, along with a number of other exchanges, to participate in the so-called "orientation days". The aim was to get to know the customs on campus and where I could find a contact person. It was particularly pleasant that it was not a clumsy and stupid lecture, but rather a playful and joint discussion. The exploration of the campus and the city was also very relaxed and was rounded off with a common and typical American breakfast with pancakes, hash browns and other goodies. During these introductory days and also during the rest of my stay, the highest credo of all participants was to create a familiar and open relationship.

Impressed by the OSU University's approach to exchange students, this continued in the College of Forestry. From the very first day of study, the entire teaching staff and all persons in the administration have always strived to create a relationship on an equal footing with the students. This was also evident in my project. From the very beginning, I was given full confidence in my project and the necessary freedom to organize the work independently and on my own responsibility. This trust promoted my independence and contributed to my personality development. The weekly meetings with my supervisor Prof. Lech Muszynski were particularly instructive. In addition to the introduction to the project and the necessary procedures, I was able to learn and take away an incredible amount. After all, his goal was and still is to give me an understanding of the relevant basics and background information. Starting with the economic aspect of the project up to the scientific approach to such a project. I am happy to be able to say that a friendship has also developed from this.

Apart from the great subject-related experiences, the university gave me the opportunity to gain a lot of new experiences. Starting with various sports courses like scuba-diving and martial arts to cultural courses like learning the native american flute or the analysis of gender and race roles in Disney movies. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, I could only take a very limited number of these exciting courses.

But Oregon is not to be underestimated in terms of scenery either. The city of Corvallis is conveniently located to enjoy the Pacific Ocean within an hour's drive on one side and on the other side the high dessert towards Bend with its barren but beautiful plains. But also the south of the state shows an impressive landscape with its extinct volcanoes and the northern foothills of the Red Woods.

In summary, I can only repeat myself, these six months were a great experience for me and I can only recommend everyone to do the same. Even if the preparations may seem a bit daunting and time-consuming at first, the knowledge and experience gained will make up for it 100%. However, it is absolutely advisable to set up a schedule to explore as much of Oregon and the rest of the states as possible while you study. You should not be deterred from doing something new.

| contacts: | abbreviation | |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | Host-Supervisor |
| Prof. Mariapaola Riggio | MR | head team member - Assistant Professor of Wood Design and Architecture |
| Prof. Rakesh Gupta | RG | head team member - Professor of Wood Engineering and Mechanics |
| Prof. Scott Leavengood | SL | Professor and Director of the Oregon Wood Innovation Center |
| Prof. Ariel Muldoon | AM | Faculty Research Assistang |
| Roger Admiral | RA | Business Center Manager |
| Sina Jahedi M.S. | SJ | team member - PhD student |
| Sujit Bhandari M.S. | SB | team member - PhD student |
| Lucas Walter | LW | team member - M.S. student |
| Benjamin Blengino | BB | team member - B.S. exchange student |
| Benjamin Strasse | BS | team member - B.S. exchange student |

Reviewed and approved as accurate by:

Prof. Lech Muszynski
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Oregon State University

| term week | date | start time | end time | contact persons | from | to | type of contact | topic of contact |
|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|----------------------|------|------|-----------------|--|
| | | 8:07 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | information about new regulations to protocol meetings cause of COVID 19 |
| 1 | 3/30/2020 | | | | | | | |
| | | 12:39 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | schedule weekly "Zoom"-meeting, specify the topic of the protocol for MPS |
| | 3/30/2020 | | | | | | | |
| | 3/30/2020 | 12:44 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | confirmation of the weekly meeting |
| | 3/30/2020 | 12:47 | | team | LM | team | E-Mail | asking for scheduling a regular team meeting for spring term |
| | 3/30/2020 | 13:16 | | team | BS | team | E-Mail | announcement of my free time slots |
| | 4/3/2020 | 12:09 | | team | SB | team | E-Mail | Announcement of the first date for a team meeting |
| | | 15:00 | 16:10 | team | | | Zoom meeting | scheduling further meeting, prepare a team action plan for the whole spring term |
| | 4/3/2020 | | | | | | | |
| | 4/3/2020 | 16:20 | 17:30 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | Zoom meeting | next steps to do (statistical processing the date from the bending test) |
| | 4/3/2020 | 16:22 | | team | SJ | team | E-Mail | protocol of the first team meeting |
| | 4/3/2020 | 17:46 | | team | LM | team | E-Mail | Addendum to the first protocol |
| 2 | 4/7/2020 | 19:38 | | Sina Jahedi, M.S. | BS | SJ | E-Mail | Information about necessity of software |
| | 4/7/2020 | 20:12 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | Initial version of team action plan |
| | 4/8/2020 | 16:01 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | Labeling types of wood failure |
| | 4/8/2020 | 16:09 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | Labeling types of wood failure |
| | 4/9/2020 | 7:51 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | Initial excel sheet about wood failure labeling |
| | 4/9/2020 | 20:38 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | Initial excel sheet about wood failure labeling |
| | 4/10/2020 | 9:22 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | latest updated excel files |
| | 4/10/2020 | 11:00 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | Zoom meeting | talking about the statistics and the next steps |
| 3 | 4/14/2020 | 20:32 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | difficulties with statistics |
| | 4/14/2020 | 21:58 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | help with statistics |
| | 4/17/2020 | 11:00 | 12:00 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | Zoom meeting | talking about the statistics and the next steps |
| | 4/17/2020 | 15:00 | 16:30 | team | | | Zoom meeting | presentation of data analysis, talking about term plan |
| | 4/17/2020 | 16:30 | | Sujit Bhandari | SB | team | E-Mail | protocol of the second team meeting |
| | 4/17/2020 | 23:38 | | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | team | E-Mail | Addendum to the second protocol |

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|----------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------------|--|--|
| 4 | 4/20/2020 | 10:13 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | clarification how to handle the statistical problem because of a missing sample |
| | 4/20/2020 | 13:14 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | suggestion how to handle this issue |
| | 4/22/2020 | 17:14 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | asking for the Production Standards for CLT |
| | 4/22/2020 | 22:36 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | sent the most recent version of the PRG 320 |
| | 4/23/2020 | 10:43 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | suggestion to compare the testing result with the values from PRG 320 |
| | 4/24/2020 | 11:00 | 12:30 Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | Zoom meeting | how to go further with the statistics, whom I should acknowledge to, |
| 5 | 4/27/2020 | 7:30 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | asking for the most current NDS |
| | 4/27/2020 | 9:48 | Prof. Scott Leavengood | BS | SL | E-Mail | asking for support for the statistics part |
| | 4/29/2020 | 12:43 | Prof. Scott Leavengood | SL | BS | E-Mail | suggested further steps and asked for more detailed information |
| | 4/29/2020 | 13:40 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | sent the most recent version of the NDS |
| | | 15:30 | Prof. Scott Leavengood | BS | SL | E-Mail | provided more detailed information about the project and the testing results |
| | 4/29/2020 | | | | | | |
| | 4/29/2020 | 16:15 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | Which CLT grades should I refer to compared to the tested samples |
| | 4/29/2020 | 16:55 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | provide information which grade should I refer to |
| | 4/29/2020 | 18:43 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | what are the safety factors for design values |
| | 4/29/2020 | 21:03 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | safety factors for design values |
| | 4/30/2020 | 8:43 | Prof. Scott Leavengood | SL | BS | E-Mail | sent some statistical calculations based on the data |
| | 4/30/2020 | 10:00 | Prof. Scott Leavengood | BS | SL | E-Mail | discussing the previous Mails and the results of calculations |
| | 4/30/2020 | 10:26 | Prof. Mariapaola Riggio | BS | MR | E-Mail | how to handle the "standard" values provided by NDS |
| | | 11:00 | 12:40 Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | Zoom meeting | discussing the "standard" values and which I should refer to, talking about graphs for the final paper |
| | 5/1/2020 | | | | | | |
| 5/1/2020 | 15:00 | 17:00 team | | | Zoom meeting | Benjamin B. presents his results and the team talks about them | |
| 5/1/2020 | 20:18 | Sina Jahedi | SJ | team | E-Mail | protocol of the third team meeting | |
| 6 | | 10:00 | 10:30 Prof. Sott Leavengood | | | Zoom meeting | discussing the calculations, the connections between those and further steps and advice to contact Prof. Ariel Muldoon |
| | 5/4/2020 | | | | | | |
| | 5/4/2020 | 10:40 | Prof. Sott Leavengood | SL | BS | E-Mail | recap of the meeting |
| | 5/4/2020 | 10:46 | Prof. Sott Leavengood | BS | SL | E-Mail | acknowledgements |
| | 5/4/2020 | 11:40 | Prof. Ariel Muldoon | BS | AM | E-Mail | asking for help in case of the statistical calculations |
| | | 8:45 | Prof. Ariel Muldoon | AM | BS | E-Mail | Questions about the project and first advice how to go further with the calculations |
| | 5/5/2020 | | | | | | |
| | | 9:36 | Prof. Ariel Muldoon | BS | AM | E-Mail | provided more detailed information about the project and asking for a zoom meeting |
| | 5/5/2020 | | | | | | |
| | 5/5/2020 | 12:27 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | thoughts about the homogenous and composite MOI |
| | 5/6/2020 | 16:24 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | calculations for "standard" MOE and MOR |
| | | 14:00 | 14:30 Prof. Ariel Muldoon | | | Zoom meeting | discussing the calculations, how to interpret those and how reasonable is the outcome |
| 5/7/2020 | | | | | | | |
| 5/7/2020 | 14:46 | Prof. Ariel Muldoon | BS | AM | E-Mail | described the calculation of the t-tests | |
| 5/8/2020 | 11:00 | 12:30 Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | Zoom meeting | talking about graphs for final paper and the writing | |
| 5/8/2020 | 17:03 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | whiteboards of the meeting | |
| 7 | 5/11/2020 | 10:47 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | inform that the calculations are available on the shared online drive |
| | 5/14/2020 | 16:00 | Roger Admiral | BS | RA | E-Mail | Asking for room conditions in Richardson Hall |

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|-------------|-----------|-------|----------------------------|----|----|--------|--------------|---|
| | 5/15/2020 | 11:00 | 12:30 Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | | Zoom meeting | missing parts for the graphs - comparison between the panels, ranked graphs,... |
| | 5/15/2020 | 15:00 | 17:00 team | | | | Zoom meeting | literute search to be confident about design values, Panel properties, cut pattern for testing samples |
| 8 | 5/22/2020 | 11:00 | 11:30 Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | | Zoom meeting | level of confidence of the panel comparison, calculate the "standard" value related to PRG 320 and include it in the graphs |
| 9 | 5/29/2020 | 11:00 | 12:00 Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | | Zoom meeting | talk about the final presentation and how the graphs should be arranged |
| 10 | 6/5/2020 | 11:00 | 12:00 Prof. Lech Muszynski | | | | Zoom meeting | talk about the presentation and further steps for the final report |
| finals week | 6/9/2020 | 19:51 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | BS | LM | E-Mail | | powerpoint for presentation on 10th of June |
| | 6/9/2020 | 22:44 | Prof. Lech Muszynski | LM | BS | E-Mail | | improvement suggestions for the presentation |
| | 6/12/2020 | 11:00 | 12:00 team | | | | Zoom meeting | final presentation |