

A large, leafless tree stands in silhouette against a bright, golden sunset sky. The tree's intricate branches are clearly visible against the glowing light. The background shows a dark horizon line with other trees and a clear sky that transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a lighter, hazy yellow at the top.

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY



Attracting Students to Forestry: The Lugar Purdue Future of Forestry Program and Award

Ralph R. Johnson, Ph.D., CF

Robert K. Swihart, Ph.D.

Presentation at the 8th Biennial Conference on University Education in
Natural Resources, Blacksburg, VA March 25-27, 2010.

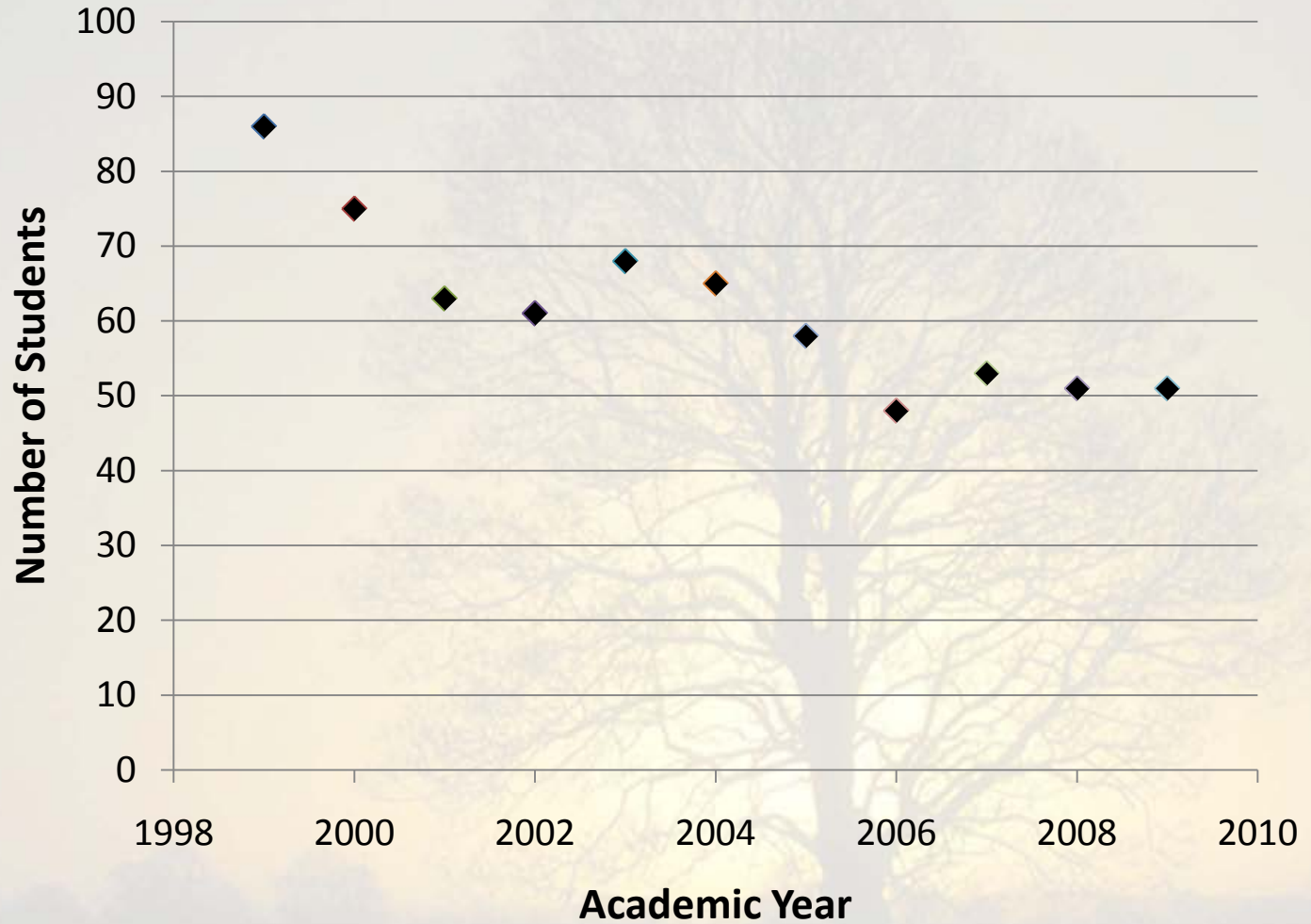


Objectives of the Program

- Attract high-achieving students to forestry (especially Purdue forestry!)
- Develop an interest by young adults in forestry as a science
- Provide a general online introduction to forest science



Forestry Enrollment at Purdue





Program Organization

- Student completes an online forest science course (7 modules)
- Student conducts a research project
- Student presents the research
- Scholarships are awarded to high achievers that enroll in Forestry at Purdue



Marketing the Program

- [Program website](#)
- Hoosier science teacher conference
- Indiana Dept. of Ed. Listserve
- Forestry Professional organizations
- Newspaper/TV/IFWAOA
- Ag. Education Listserve



The Online Curriculum

- Geomorphology, Climate, and Forest Cover
- Forest Biology
- Forest Ecology
- Forest Benefits
- Forest Management
- Forest Policy
- Research Methods



Content Delivery Methods

- Use of movies (in-house, Youtube, and Internet sources)
- Readings from web sites and downloads
- Local activities in a local forest
- Internet-based activities and animations



Security

- All delivery is through Blackboard Course Management System
- Open Campus Bb for the non-credit
- Academic Campus Bb for the for-credit



Assessment of Students

- Quizzes
- Written assignments
- Optional weekly webinars



Student-Student Interaction

- Weekly web conference
- Use of discussion board—minimal
- Use of Course Management System's Email—(used frequently)



PK-12 Curriculum Map

- Creation of a curriculum map to the Indiana Department of Education Teaching and Learning Standards
- Advanced Environmental Science
- Agricultural Education—Natural Resources Management



Level of Effort Expected

- The course part is about a 2 credit effort
- The student research is about 1 credit effort



Delivery Options

- Non-credit online (H.S. students only)
- Purdue Academic Credit online (H.S & non-forestry majors at present time)
- IVY-Tech Community College using an articulation agreement as online course
- H.S. Science and Agricultural Education teachers teach face-to-face using the online curriculum



Status to Date

- Started the first cohort in mid January
- Drop outs after realization of needed effort
- Interest from Ag-Ed teachers to teach the curriculum as H.S. delivery
- Interest from teachers to take the course—knowledge and continuing Ed.



A Student's Reflection

- Recorded interview with Abbie from Lebanon, IN



Our Summary Comments and Recommendations by Entrekin

- Awareness of time effort required
- Structured time during the day
- Structured place
- High teacher/student interaction
- Minimum of 2 students in a school
- Student/student interaction

Entrekin, F. (2007). Online high school courses: preventing dropouts and providing a successful learning experience. *Distance Learning*, 4(4), 41-47.