The PINEMAP Intern Program:
Integrating undergraduates into forest resource and climate change research, and education

John B Kidd¹, John R Seiler¹, Martha C Monroe², Shobha Sriharan³

¹Virginia Tech, Dept. Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation;
²University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation;
³Virginia State University, Dept. of Agriculture and Human Ecology
About PINEMAP

- Pine Integrated Network: Education, Mitigation, and Adaptation Project
- Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP)
- Six research areas
Justification

Outreach

PIs

Mentors

Integration

Interns

Secondary Students
Program Goals

1. Engage undergraduate interns in research and teaching
2. Develop and deliver inquiry-based science lessons
3. Convey value and relevance of southern forests and climate change
Marketing

• Two separate postings
  – Internship announcement
  – Call for proposals

• Eligibility Criteria
  – Undergraduates
  – Graduate students

• Distribution
  – Listservs, internal contacts, job boards
  – PINEMAP PI email
Application Process

• Applying
  – Online only
  – Fillable form PDF

• Application Data
  – Standard Resume Data
  – Interest Area
  – Personalized Data
    – Essay for interns
    – Proposal for mentors
Selection Process

- 2012 year = 6 interns*
  - 6 internships
  - 6 micro-grants
- Selection committee
  - Education Aim leaders
  - Program coordinator
  - PINEMAP PIs from other Aims

*Increases to 12, then 18 total in subsequent years
Program Awards

- Undergraduate Interns
  - $4,800 stipend over 12 wks
  - $2,200 housing and subsistence

- Graduate Mentors
  - Micro-grant
  - Intern assistant

Courtesy: John R. Seiler
Internship Logistics

- NCSU – Home, Host
- VSU - Home
- VT
- UF - Host
- AAMU - Home
Summer Internship

- Field work
- Lab work
- Attend lab meetings, etc.
- Journaling
- Intern program meetings

Courtesy: John R. Seiler
Internship Logistics
Distance Course

- Distance-based Class
  - 3 Credits, Fall 2012
  - Independent study
  - Synchronously delivered
  - Twice per week in evenings
  - 3 units
Distance Course

- Communication Skills
- Education
  - SOLs
  - Inquiry-based learning
  - Science ed. pedagogy
- Journaling continued

Courtesy: John R. Seiler
Distance Course

• Developing Presentations
  – Learning experience for secondary students
  – Focus on internship project
  – Hands-on component

• Preparation!
  – Mentors will help
  – Practice runs during class
Distance Course

- Presentation Deployment
  - Area public secondary schools
  - VT staff helps identify
  - Target Biology, Environmental Science
  - Multiple presentations
  - Presentation evaluations
  - Supervising teachers evaluate
  - Self evaluations
Expected Outcomes

• Interns
  – Increased understanding of scientific research
  – Enhanced skills
    – Research
    – Communication & Education
  – Service learning experience

• Mentors
  – Supervisory experience
  – Promote importance of research
  – Better prepared for post-doc, etc.
Initial Response

- Underwhelming
- 6/25 graduate students applied
- UG Responses
  - 1 undergraduate application as of 1/27
  - 2 as of 2/06
  - 7 applicants total
Program Evaluation

• Potential problems
  – Under marketing
  – 1\textsuperscript{st} year grad students
  – Broken application process

• Improvements
  – Open up micro-grants to non-PINEMAP conifer research
  – Allow seniors to apply
  – Clarity on announcements
  – Increase recruitment in areas other than Aim 1
Conclusions

• Internship program for education/outreach
• Recruit interns into graduate studies
• Two components
  – Internship; focus on research
  – Distance class; focus on education
• Low number of applicants in year 1
• Evaluation to increase attractiveness and prospects
Questions
Outline

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PINEMAP Goals

Create, synthesize and disseminate knowledge enabling southern forest landowners to:

1. Harness productivity to mitigate $\text{CO}_2$
2. More efficiently utilize fertilizer inputs
3. Adapt management practices to increase resilience

Education and Extension teams transfer research to stakeholders
Selection Criteria

• Undergraduates
  – Application strength
  – Academic standing
  – Aim interest essay
  – Reference letters

• Graduate proposals
  – Thoroughness
  – Clarity
  – Consideration for interns
  – Indication of future involvement