

The Global Problem-Solving Consortium offered its first intensive summer workshop, on Water Management for Environmental Sustainability, July 1-12, 2013 at George Mason University.

A Report

The GPS Consortium, formed in 2012, is a unique grouping of global universities, representing almost every continent, that has pledged to work together to create academic focused on presenting regional approaches and solutions to pressing global issues.

The workshop explored water scarcity around the world and examined the issues from a local, national and international perspective. One student from each of the Global Consortium partner universities received a Sustainability Fellowship to participate in the program, and they were joined by a group of Mason students taking the class for credit. The Sustainability Fellows are all accomplished upper-level students chosen for their demonstrated leadership in environmental science or sustainability studies.

The workshop participants took several field trips to explore water management in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and met both formally and informally with a variety of experts in the field of water management and environmental sustainability (see below). Highlights included a trip to the Smithsonian Mason Conservation Center, a lunch discussion with Mason's Provost Peter Stearns on the subject of the universal human right to clean water, and a live video session with a faculty member from the Higher School of Economics on Russia's water challenges. The students have also been able to break into groups to work on specific case studies. This has enabled them to not only interact with the other students who come from around the world who may have differing views and opinions on water issues, but also to help the students educate one another about these differing views and to try to reconcile the differences they may have.

The students also viewed a MOOC format course on *Confronting Global Challenges*, focusing on four global problems: environmental politics, conflict resolution, global obesity, and human rights. A second summer program is already being planned for summer 2014, hosted by the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. The end goal is for these modules to be shared with faculty among the consortium partners to solicit their content on the same problems in other world regions, and to create a true global course and dialogue.

Water Management and Environmental Sustainability: Presenters and their affiliations:

- Thomas Lovejoy: George Mason University Professor, 2012 Blue Planet Prize, 2013 World Wildlife Fund Leaders Planet award recipient
- Chevenee Reavis: Director of Strategic Initiatives for Water.org
- Karin Krchnak: Gender and Water Alliance and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Chris Severin Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Richard Volk: US Agency for International Development representative (USAID)
- Jeanne Bailey, Director of Public Affairs at Fairfax Water's Griffith Water Treatment Plant
- Greg Prelewicz: Chief of Source Water Planning and Protection; Griffith Treatment Plant
- Dr. Changwoo Ahn: Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason Univ.
- Laura Grape: Director, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
- Dr. Alonso Aguirre: Executive Director, Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation
- Michelle Ryan: George Mason University aquatic snail expert
- Professor Abul Hussam: Director of GMU's Center for Clean Water and Sustainable Technologies (CCWST) and recipient of TIME Magazine's Global Heroes of the Environment Award, Arsenic prevention in water supplies in Bangladesh
- Dr. Peter Stearns: GMU Provost, Water as a Universal Human Right
- Shannyn Snyder: Adjunct Faculty of Global and Public Health at GMU and founder of Water Health Educator
- Dr. Anastasia Likhacheva: High School of Economics, The politics of Water in Russia

The 2013 GPS Sustainability Fellows in course on *Water Management and Environmental Sustainability*:

- Brazil, University of Brasilia: Mr. Nelio Machado---Public Administration; extensive background in Human Ecology and previous degree in Biological Sciences from the same university (2004)
- China, Tsinghua University: Ms. Nan Huang--Environmental Engineering; an interest in bioavailability and toxicity of trace metals in soils and underground water
- India, University of Delhi: Mr. Mayank Jain--- studying Innovation at the Cluster Innovation Centre of the University of Delhi; interest in improving India's rural water supply
- Kenya, Kenyatta University: Mr. Alfred Kimathi---department of Environmental Planning and Management ; interest in issues of resource planning and wetlands
- Korea, Yonsei University: Ms. Sanghwa Lee---Atmospheric and Earth System Sciences ; interest in the impact of climate change on water supply
- Russia, Higher School of Economics: Elena Sidorova---International Relations and interest in management of joint border water resources
- Turkey, Istanbul Sehir University: Erkan Orcolgu---urban studies and interest in environmental history of Turkey and environmental policy
- United States, George Mason University: Lindsey Denny---Environmental Science with a concentration in Aquatic Ecology, interest in sustainable land management practices