**KUDOS**

# Agroforestry Doctoral Candidate Awarded Borlaug Fellowship



Ryan Dibala, a PhD student of Dr. Shibu Jose at the Center for Agroforestry, has been awarded the U.S. Borlaug Graduate Research Fellowship to pursue one year of research on silvopasture in Panama. The Borlaug Fellows in Global Food Security program is funded through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and supports projects that effectively study and manage global landscapes in support of sustainable food systems. Ryan will be partnering with The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Turrialba, Costa Rica in an effort to build off of existing regional silvopasture research and to sustain a growing global learning community.

**KUDOS**

## Congratulations to Our Newest Online Agroforestry MS Graduates

Two students graduated from the Agroforestry master's program at the University of Missouri in May 2015. Brandon Bless studied with Dr. Michael Gold. His MS project focused on the development of two new courses at Sterling College in Vermont. The first was "An Introduction to Restoration Agriculture." In response to student and faculty interest, the second was an "Agroforestry Practices" course. Brandon presented "Restoration Agriculture Curriculum at Sterling College: Growing Tree Crops and Cultivating the Next Succession of Agriculturalists" at the at the 2014 Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (SAEA) conference in Raleigh, NC. The other graduate was Michael Hill, a student of Dr. Shibu Jose. His MS essay was: "Dynamic Mineral Accumulation in Agroforestry Systems" which he presented at the 14th North American Agroforestry Conference, June 1-3, 2015, in Ames, Iowa.

**REGISTRATION CLOSING for 2015 Agroforestry Academy**

Open slots are almost filled for the 3rd Agroforestry Academy to be held from July 20-24, 2015 in Columbia, Mo. The week-long training includes classroom workshops, on-farm visits and practical agroforestry planning and design, led by experienced trainers. Advanced training is provided on the five recognized temperate zone agroforestry practices integrated with options for bioenergy, marketing, economic, policy, social dimensions and environmental services. Full registration (including lodging and food) is $1,000/person (limited scholarships available for U.S. military veterans). For more information, email Michael Gold at goldm@missouri.edu or Gregory Ormsby Mori at ormsbyg@missouri.edu.

# New Hires at UMCA


*Michael Borucke is one of the recent hires at UMCA.*

Dr. Carol Williams has been hired by UMCA to serve as the coordinator of the Midwest Conservation Biomass Alliance (MCBA), an interdisciplinary consortium working in commercialization of grasslands biomass and production systems sustainability. She will be responsible for maintaining and building upon MCBA's existing projects and programs, as well as maintaining and building upon the UMCA's emphasis on discovery, integration and application of knowledge to promote economic, environmental and social vitality.

Dr. Williams is a landscape ecologist with a Ph.D. in Geography and Environmental Science from Southern Illinois University. Her areas of expertise include quantitative and spatial ecology; biomass and bioenergy; grassland ecology; wildlife; agroecology; spatial analysis; and statistical modeling. She spent 4 years as a post-doc working in agricultural systems at Iowa State. Dr. Williams also has expertise in wildlife ecology via employment with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Michael Borucke has been hired by UMCA through a cooperative agreement with the USDA ERS to develop the production input files necessary for modeling fruits, vegetables, and nuts within EPIC. EPIC is used to produce variable estimates for yield and environmental impact across crop rotations, soil types, and climate conditions within the REAP production regions. The REAP model, a mathematical programming model of the U.S. agricultural sector, is an important tool for national agricultural policy and impact analysis.

Michael has been a research scientist at the Global Footprint Network for the past five years calculating humanity's appropriation of Earth's biologically productive lands. Michael started taking Mizzou Online agroforestry courses in Spring, 2014, and got so excited about agroforestry that he entered the Agroforestry Master's Program in Fall, 2014. Michael has an academic background in Permaculture as well as Environmental Engineering (Masters). He believes Agroforestry is a wonderful way to combine and extend his knowledge base to advance adoption and thus improve environmental conditions while providing humanity with the food, fiber and shelter it demands. Previous work includes computer programming at Environmental Defense Fund (CA), staff engineer with ENTRIX (CA), scientist at NESCAUM (MA), and high school physics teacher (MA).


*Dr. Carol Williams*

## Upcoming Events

**July 20-24, 2015:**
Agroforestry Academy;
Columbia, MO
Information is on the first page and also here: www.centerforagroforestry.org/events/AgroforestryAcademy.php

**July 27-29, 2015:**
106th NNGA
Annual Meeting;
LaCrosse, WI
http://www.northernnutgrowers.org/meetinfo.htm