



11 June 2013

Dear VGSP committee,

We are requesting support from the VGSP for a planned visit by Dr. Antoinette WinklerPrins to Utah State University and Weber State University. Dr. WinklerPrins has agreed to the visit to span two and a half days across the two institutions (6-8 November, 2013).

At Utah State University, the intention is to showcase geography and contribution of the discipline to human-environment research. Geography was eliminated as a department more than a decade ago, but we kept the geography undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Over the subsequent years, the number of majors and graduate students fell. In more recent years, a core group of us has been working to envision and create a healthy future for geography at our university.

For the past several years we have organized a visit from an outside geographer to present a college-wide "Annual Distinguished Geographer Lecture." As we continue to struggle to re-grow our undergraduate geography program, newly shared across two out of the three multidisciplinary departments in our College of Natural Resources, we believe that opportunities to highlight the importance of geography are key to our disciplinary health on campus and to our hoped-for growth. We are planning a visit by Dr. WinklerPrins that will benefit students, faculty, administrators, and the larger community.

The core event of the visit will be an early evening research talk (the "Annual Distinguished Geographer Lecture"), open to the larger community (both the university and Logan). This talk will be advertised in the local newspaper, online, and through the local Utah Public Radio (UPR) station (as well as through our usual campus means of advertising). We have a public relations specialist who will work with us to advertise the talk (writing the press release, creating the poster, writing an article for the university online magazine, etc.). In addition, we will seek the chance for Dr. WinklerPrins to conduct an interview on UPR the morning of the lecture. The topic for the lecture has not yet been determined, as Dr. WinklerPrins' research has many different aspects of interest to us. The topic for her research talk will be determined in negotiation with her.

Dr. WinklerPrins also brings other type of experience to us, in addition to her research. Faculty and graduate students will benefit from her recent experience working as an NSF program officer, and we have built time into the draft schedule for sharing of her experiences. As Dr. WinklerPrins is moving into a position at Johns Hopkins as director of environmental studies programs, her visit also presents an opportunity for peer networking on interdisciplinary administration for our department heads and dean, and time for this networking will also be built into the visit schedule.

We have invited the Geography Department at Weber State University to join in Dr. WinklerPrins visit, and Dr. Bryan Dorsey, Department Chair, has responded with positive interest. Their program is larger than ours at the undergraduate level, but they do not have a graduate program. Thus opportunities for a visit from an outsider researcher, who can also provide advice to faculty regarding NSF proposal submissions, is of great benefit. We have planned that Dr. WinklerPrins will meet with faculty at Weber State on the last day of her trip and also then present a somewhat briefer version of the talk she presents at Utah State.

With best wishes,



Claudia Radel
Associate Professor of Human Geography
435-797-0516 (direct line)
claudia.radel@usu.edu

DRAFT Schedule for Visit by Dr. Antoinette WinklerPrins

Wednesday, 6 November: Utah State University

Arrive late mid- to late afternoon in Salt Lake City

Transport to Utah State University in Logan (1 ½ hours)

6:30 pm: Dinner with core geography faculty (restaurant in Logan)

Thursday, 7 November: Utah State University

Breakfast on campus with geography master's students

10 am: Meeting with college dean and department heads for the two departments sharing the geography major and minors (Environment & Society and Watershed Sciences)

12 noon: Brown bag lunch with faculty and graduate students to discuss insights from NSF rotation

1:30 pm: Visit Geog 4120 ("Environment & Development in Latin America," Dr. Radel's course)

6 pm: Main campus research presentation

7:30 pm: Dinner/reception (location TBD, faculty member's house)

Friday, 8 November: Weber State University

Move to Weber State in Ogden (transport to be arranged)

10:30 am: Meeting with faculty to discuss NSF opportunities in geographical sciences

12 noon: Short research presentation to faculty and students (condensed version of talk from previous day)

Transport to SLC airport

Flight out of SLC in late afternoon