

Peter Richards of Michigan State University Selected to Receive the Twelfth Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science

Peter Richards, a Ph.D. student in Geography at Michigan State University, was selected as the winner of the Twelfth Annual Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science. The Fellowship will provide one-year stipend of \$30,000 to support Richards in his research entitled, "Food, Fuel, and the Amazonian Forest: Gauging Indirect Land Use Change from the Farm Level." Richards's research examines spatial linkages that tie together the locations and extents of rural land uses in a critical world region. Specifically, the research will focus on the expansion of soy fields and cattle pastures into Amazonia, in order to: (1) determine how these sectors have impacted the region's forest cover, and (2) provide an estimate of indirect land use change, or the displacement of cattle ranching into Amazonian forest frontiers by intensive land uses. The proposed research seeks to deploy the rent theory of von Thünen, a classic model from regional science and spatial economics, in addressing a critical environmental problem of global concern. His research is supervised by Professor Robert Walker of the Department of Geography.

The Fellowship is awarded in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens, an intellectual leader whose selfless devotion to graduate students as teacher, advisor, mentor, and friend continues to have a profound impact on the field of regional science. Fundraising efforts to increase the Fellowship's endowment are ongoing. Donations should be sent to: The Stevens Fellowship Fund, Freestar Bank, 1205 S. Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820 USA. Checks should be drawn to The Stevens Fellowship Fund. Donations may also be made by credit card through the NARSC website at <http://www.narsc.org/newsite/donations2.php>.

The 2011-12 Stevens Fellowship competition was judged by a Selection Committee composed of: Cynthia Rogers, Economics, University of Oklahoma, chair; Lawrence Brown, Geography, Ohio State University; Edward Coulson, Economics, Penn State University; Tony Grubestic, Information Science and Technology, Drexel University; and Antonio Páez, Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University. The Stevens Fellowship Committee administers the Stevens Fellowship Fund on behalf of the North American Regional Science Council; its members are: Ronald Miller, Chair; David Boyce, Secretary; Michael Lahr, Treasurer; Janet Kohlhasse; and Jean-Claude Thill, Executive Director, NARSC.

The Committee thanks the 38 students who entered the competition this year, as well as their thesis supervisors. Faculty at all North American Ph.D. programs related to the interdisciplinary field of Regional Science are urged to encourage their best students to apply for the Thirteenth Annual Stevens Graduate Fellowship. The winning student's thesis research in the field of Regional Science will be supported for the 2012-2013 year with a one-year stipend of \$30,000. The application deadline is February 15, 2012. Full submission guidelines will be posted at <http://www.narsc.org/bapp.html>

April 10, 2011