



INSIDE RFF

2001 Award Winners

Gilbert F. White Fellowships

Vic Adamowicz and **Jean-Thomas Bernard** are the winners of RFF's 2001 Gilbert White Postdoctoral Fellowships. Awarded annually since 1980 in honor of the retired chairman of the RFF Board, the fellowships support postdoctoral research in the social or policy sciences in areas related to natural resources, energy, or the environment. Adamowicz, an economics professor in the Department of Rural Economy and the Sustainable Forest Management Network at the University of Alberta, will work on valuing human health in the aftermath of forest fires, and on methodological approaches to valuing children's health. Bernard, a professor in the

economics department at the University of Laval will study electric power exchanges between regional transmission organizations, including those between Canada and the United States.

Walter O. Spofford Jr. Memorial Internship

Shawei Chen, a first-year graduate student in public policy and administration at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will focus on climate change issues, ozone depletion, and fisheries/ocean management. This award is given in honor of the late RFF researcher who helped launch RFF's China Program and to continue the work he started.

Joseph L. Fisher Dissertation Awards

In honor of the late president of RFF, the

following students will receive support during their final year of study: **Douglas Noonan**, the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago, for a dissertation based on three essays of applications of public finance to the environment and natural resources; **Sumeet Gulati**, the Agricultural and Resource Economics program at the University of Maryland, for work on a model of trade and the environment; **Dennis Becker**, College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho, for work on community involvement in environmental policymaking; **Halla Qaddumi**, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale, for work on water management in India; and **Matt Neidell**, Department of Economics, UCLA, for a dissertation on air pollution and children's health.



Each year, RFF invites a number of students to spend the summer as research assistants. Interns can work with RFF researchers on a variety of ongoing projects or assist in the development of entirely new areas of research and policy analysis. Pictured here are this year's interns posing with Vice President for Programs Ray Kopp and Division Director Alan Krupnick. Front row (l-r): Derek Gurney, Yutaka Yoshino, Chris Farley, and Justin Mosley. Second row: Shawei Chen, Marta Montoro, Amy Marino, Eszter Tompos, and Alejandra Palma.



DEVELOPMENT

NAFTA's Influence on Environmental Quality at the U.S.-Mexico Border Evaluated at RFF Council Meeting

As the demonstrations in Seattle, Washington, DC, and, most recently, Quebec have shown, multilateral trade agreements have become a political flashpoint in the 21st century. Public opinion is strong on all sides of the debate over the effect of international trade on the environment, and the economies of developing countries. Given the importance of these issues in the policy arena and the complexity of such agreements, social scientists have a key role to play in shaping strategies to guide future trade policies, according to members of the RFF Council at the group's spring meeting April 19–20 in San Antonio, Texas.

Members of the Council met with researchers, government officials, environmental advocates, and business leaders to discuss the relationship between environmental quality and the creation of multilateral agreements. RFF put together several panels to address these issues, including the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on environmental quality and economic development as well as the interdependence of environmental, political, and business concerns in the forging of multilateral agreements.

RFF Fellows Allen Blackman and Carl Bauer set the stage for the first session by outlining their research on air quality and water management in the U.S.–Mexican border region. Discussions centered on the magnitude of the impact that informal Mexican firms have on the environment, and how trading partners could promote investment in clean technologies as one step toward promoting sustainable growth. Bauer discussed the last decade of water law and policy reforms in Mexico in the context of wider international debates about

integrated water resource management.

The twinned issues of environmental quality and economic development along the U.S.–Mexican border served as a starting point to take a closer look at NAFTA in the second session. Gary Hufbauer from the Institute of International Economics framed the discussion by providing a historical perspective on NAFTA, emphasizing that the environmental problems of the border region were not the result of the treaty. In his view, the treaty's environmental dimension could be enhanced to improve living conditions at the U.S.–Mexican border, where economic growth has been greatest.

Peter Emerson, senior economist at Environmental Defense, argued that, to achieve the goal of improved living conditions in the border region, public participation would be essential. He called formation of community-level environmental management districts an important step so that local businesses, citizens, government, and advocates could work together to push for cleaner technologies and stricter environmental compliance. Javier Mancera, director of trade and NAFTA in the Embassy of Mexico, acknowledged Emerson's point on community involvement, but said that it was equally important for the United States to make direct investments in small business within Mexico to help formalize many of its industry sectors and in education to further improve living conditions.

The final session of the meeting had a broader focus on cross-border and multilateral agreements. David Victor of the Council on Foreign Relations and David Van Hoogstraten, from the U.S. Department of State, outlined issues related to

trade liberalization and environmental protection. Victor was quick to point out that future trade pacts do not subvert domestic environmental regulation, and highlighted the dangerous precedent that may be set if the United States is successful in defeating the European Union's current ban on genetically modified organisms. Jake Caldwell from the National Wildlife Federation outlined several ways to achieve improved environmental quality through trade, including one of the most basic—ensuring transparency and accountability within agreements.

John Manzoni, BP Amoco's new regional president, provided council members with one major company's perspective on international differences in environmental and energy regulation and their impacts on trade and diplomacy. BP Amoco's new corporate environmental policy is to ensure that environmental performance worldwide meets U.S. standards, even at facilities in developing countries. When asked by Council members what prompted the policy change, he replied, "shareholder value." Manzoni explained that, as shareholders become increasingly concerned with the environment, BP Amoco must take steps to reduce its environmental impact. Manzoni elaborated by describing BP Amoco's innovative approach to voluntarily reducing its global carbon emissions through trading between business units. He said the price per ton of carbon within the trading program has stabilized and the program has been successful in pushing business units to develop cleaner technologies. The goal is to secure the company's place in the future through a sustainable approach that meets the needs of customers and the environment, Manzoni said.

The RFF Council will gather again on October 10 for its next meeting. ■