FACULTY POSITION IN SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODELING

Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability
College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
The University of Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA, NORMAN 73019. The Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability (http://geography.ou.edu/) at the University of Oklahoma seeks nominations and applications for a tenure-track Assistant/Associate Professor to begin in the academic year 2015-2016. The successful applicant must demonstrate research excellence and leadership in socio-ecological systems, with an emphasis on modeling of coupled human-natural systems. Salary and remunerations are competitive and commensurate with qualifications.

About the Department: The Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability is an actively growing and dynamic department. The Department offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Geography, GIS, and Environmental Sustainability. We serve 45 graduate students, including 23 Ph.Ds, and 22 M.As. Over the past three years, we have doubled the number of our undergraduate majors to over 150 and increased the number of permanent faculty positions by 50% — increasing to 18 tenured or tenure-track faculty members, two renewable term faculty members, and two adjuncts by Fall 2015. In addition to traditional strengths in cultural geography, geohumanities, and physical systems, recent hires have expanded our faculty research interests to also include environmental sustainability, land use/land cover modeling, remote sensing, global environmental change, environmental economics, and science and environmental policy.

In addition to more than $100 million in new facilities added during the past several years, the University of Oklahoma and sister institutions in the state were awarded $24 Million to improve infrastructure to advance understanding about how socio-ecological systems can adapt sustainably to climate variability. A major program of study also has been initiated in the social, human, behavioral, and economic aspects of weather and climate. We are looking for applicants with interest and experience in the modeling of coupled and human natural systems. It is within this rapidly expanding, vibrant environment of intellectual activity that the Department seeks candidates.

Opportunities for collaborative research exist within the department in several research groups and centers namely, the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative, Land Use Land Cover Institute, Working Group on the Geographies of Race and Representation of the Americas, and Environmental Verification and Analysis Center. Additionally, the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences hosts the National Weather Center, South Central Climate Science Center, Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program, and the Center for Spatial Analysis. The University hosts the Center for Applied Social Research, Center for Risk and Crisis Management, and Earth Observation and Modeling Facility as well as the Archeological, Biological, Climatological, Geological, and Water Surveys.

Application Process: The candidate must be capable of research excellence in socio-ecological systems modeling as related to climate variability and change, and they must have demonstrated success in proactively leading interdisciplinary, collaborative teams. In particular, because this permanent position was initiated through Oklahoma EPSCoR (NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) Track-I Research Infrastructure Improvement award, the candidate should fill an immediate need in coupled human-natural systems modeling, preferably through Bayesian hierarchical modeling or similar methodology, as well as demonstrate long-term vision for building collaborative teams, research programs or centers, and/or interdisciplinary proposals that examine challenging questions facing the integrated social, natural, and physical sciences. Applicants also should have demonstrated a commitment to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels (e.g., quantitative research methods, coupled systems modeling) and a willingness to participate in Department, University, and professional service. We seek an outstanding candidate with a PhD in geography, ecology, statistics, or closely related field.

Candidates are invited to submit a statement of interest and qualifications, a full curriculum vita, copies of up to five scholarly publications, and a list of three references. To apply, please submit all materials electronically in one PDF file to Dr. Bruce Hoagland, SES Search Committee Chair (Email: bhoagland@ou.edu) and copy Ms. Deborah Marsh (dmash@ou.edu).
About the University of Oklahoma. Established in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a comprehensive public research university offering a wide array of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and extensive continuing education and public service programs. Its 2000-acre Norman Campus houses 15 colleges with approximately 1,300 faculty serving more than 26,000 students. The new 277-acre Research Campus provides more than 750,000 square feet of space constructed since 2003 and includes the National Weather Center, the Stephenson Research and Technology Center, the Stephenson Life Sciences Research Center, and several Partners Place buildings that co-locate University offices with more than 350 private sector employees across more than a dozen companies. Two additional Partners Place buildings are underway.

The City of Norman. Norman is a pleasant college town of around 113,000 inhabitants located just 17 miles from Oklahoma City. Consequently, residents enjoy both a college town feel and the advantages of a major metropolitan area. Oklahoma City is always a pleasant surprise to those who discover it (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GJIHhypBmU&feature=player_embedded). Kiplinger’s Personal Finance currently ranks Norman as the third least expensive city to live in and notes “Norman enjoys a unique combination of low unemployment, low living expenses and high incomes” (http://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/real-estate/T006-S001-10-cheapest-u-s-cities-to-live-in/index.html).

The University of Oklahoma is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Protected veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.