

Cochran Programs for International Fellows

Robin M. Rotman, JD
MU Center for Energy Innovation
October 3, 2024 Symposium

It's Nice to Meet You

- Assistant Professor of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Law, Policy, and Justice
- MU School of Natural Resources
- Juris Doctor (Yale Law School)
- Assistant General Counsel, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Private practice of energy and environmental law in Washington, DC
- Research interests include biofuels, nuclear waste storage and disposal, and the food/water/energy nexus



In Recognition



Kerry Clark and Lindsey Saunders
CAFNR International Programs Office



Julian Binfield and Ben Brown
Food & Agricultural Policy Research Institute



The Cochran Program

- United States Department of Agriculture – Foreign Agricultural Service
- Cohorts of foreign fellows hosted in U.S. for exchange programs
- Agriculture and related topics, including bioenergy



The goals are:

- to help eligible countries develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food and fiber needs of their domestic populations; and
- to strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the United States.



MU-Hosted Biofuels Programs

“U.S. Biofuel Policy and Regulation”



Brazil 2019

Primarily government officials – regulators, economists, lawyers

“Eco-Friendly U.S. Fuel Ethanol for Colombia, Latin America, and the Caribbean”

Emerging leaders, selected by home country and U.S. embassy



Colombia 2022

Primarily private industry – R&D, marketing, engineering

Part 1: Washington DC

- U.S. Government – senior political and career staff
 - Departments of Agriculture, Energy, EPA, State, Transportation
- Industry and trade associations
 - Growth Energy, Renewable Fuels Association, U.S. Grains Council; Murex Ltd.
- Environmental organizations
 - Environmental Defense Fund, Resources for the Future, World Resources Institute
- Cultural activities
 - Monuments and museums, farmers market, Washington Capitals hockey game





Part 2: California

- California Air Resources Board
- UC Davis



Part 3: Missouri

- Research and training sessions
 - FAPRI, UMSL, National Corn to Ethanol Research Center
- State government
 - Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources
- Industry and trade associations
 - Missouri Corn Growers, National Corn Growers, National Biodiesel Board, Clean Fuels Alliance America
- Site visits
 - POET ethanol plant, MFA mixing station, corn farm, soybean farm, cattle farm (anaerobic digester)
- Fellows' presentations, award of certificates, program evaluation
- Cultural activities
 - Corn maze, Roots n Blues festival, Rocheport winery, Missouri/Mississippi Rivers confluence





Benefits to MU

- Relationships with foreign experts who are likely to rise to positions of significant authority
- Access to senior personnel in U.S. government, industry, and nonprofits → research needs, funding priorities, strategic insights
- Convening force among MU faculty
- Competitive FAS awards process; cost-reimbursable contract

Future USDA – FAS Opportunities

- Cochran Program
- Borlaug Fellowship program
- Faculty Exchange program
- Scientific Exchange Program: Women in Sustainable Food Systems (Kerry Clark, PI)



Thank You

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