

Report on the SAF's national convention, Reno, November 2008

Written by Frauke Thorade, President 08-09, Frauke.ifsa@gmail.com

Persons from US/SAF:

Name	Position
Michael T. Goergen	Vice president
John Dingman and Susan Nawbary	Former and new pres of stud club CAL
Terry Clark	Former director of SAF part education
Steven Purviss	2008 Responsible for students in SAF council
Zhu Ning	2009 chair of the working group for international forestry

Before the convention:

I had email contact with Terry Clark, who was very nice and with John Dingman from Berkeley who is also nice. They helped me to get to talk with the right people like Stephen Purviss the student in the SAF council, who set up the student's program.

But the ride, the hotel and the flight I organized myself/through some non-IFSA contact.

Next year we should try to contact the vice president Michael T. Goergen, he said he can help us with the hotel room, registration fee and all. May be we can get some of it for free.

At the convention:

Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4pm-5pm: students orientation and reception - 5:30 to 7:00 pm; President's Welcome and Reception, Exhibit Hall and Poster Session is open to all participants and is a very popular part of our Convention tradition. It is filled with many networking and learning opportunities
-----------	---

- Registered and went to students welcome, where we were told behaviour rules :-D
- Went to the exhibition hall, where the booths were set up.

Stephen introduced me to the president, he gave me his card, later I met him again and he says may be we can have some people from SAF at IFSA events; he thanked me for coming...

I talked to the chief of the SAF students' chapter: Ryan from Mississippi. He is very nice and it sounds very interesting what the student there are doing. They clean roads, tell the public about the forest...exactly what we are looking for in IFSA.

- In the evening there was the quiz bowl a competition between the students, I went to bed very early was tired

Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3:30-5:00pm: national student congress - 5 pm to 6 pm; The Diversity Reception. Celebrate the importance of diversity in the Society of American Foresters and the forestry profession. Network with your peers from across America need to register?!
----------	---

- Practised for my presentation.
- Went to the exhibition hall where I met more students from Berkeley, one of them Erica has always wanted to introduce Berkeley to IFSA.
- Students' congress: they talked about their stuff and then I did my presentation. I think it was all right. Many people came and ask questions about how to become a member and the possibilities in IFSA. I gave them my business card. I guess Anthony Pigott will be busy ☺ .
- I went to the "diversity reception". There I met Zhu Ning, she is the chief of the international forestry working group. She invited me to their session on Friday. Now I will go bowling with other students, of course only to network ;-)
There are students from Berkeley, Mississippi, Colorado, Oregon and Texas, who are interested. We will see which ones are still interested in a month though :-D

Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excursion to Lake Tahoe - meeting of the international working group
--------	---

- After going to Lake Tahoe I went to the working group meeting for International affairs. And it seemed very fruitful. I talked to Zhu Ning about their newsletter in the work group. We can present IFA in there (500 words article) and she will discuss with me about WFC forestry education session. Also some other international org was there IFST? They have a newsletter too, where we can also write something (if we become a member or something. Have to check on that). I talked to a professor from Oregon who is somehow "in charge" of the IFSA Oregon?? He will pass my contacts to the student group there. Which he says is very active??? May be they are active in Oregon...

Saturday	- 7:30 am to 9:00 am or 7-8 am ?? ; Morning Round Tables group (e) NGOs
----------	--

- I went to the morning roundtables of NGOs, but they were talking about stuff, which doesn't concern us very much: lobbying, advocacy...
I think it is still not unimportant to go there, because you might meet people to network with