

## CEES 1000 Seminar and WaTER Center Speaker

### ***"From Central America to the South Caucasus: Water Resources in Developing Countries"***

**Michael E. Campana, Ph.D.**  
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**Friday, January 28, 2011**  
**11:30 – 12:20 p.m.**  
**Sarkeys Energy Center, Room A235**

Honduras and the South Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia are all developing countries, yet they have followed quite different trajectories. Honduras is more of a 'classical' developing country. It is a former colony of a European power (Spain) that, according to some, has been exploited by a hegemon (USA), and is thus one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. The South Caucasus countries are former Soviet republics that were abruptly thrust into independence by the USSR's demise in the early 1990s. For Armenia and Georgia, the fall from relative (to other Soviet republics) affluence was precipitous; they are still recovering. To a large degree, Azerbaijan was insulated from the fate of its neighbors because of its hydrocarbon resources.

Two disparate programs involving these four countries will be discussed. From 2001 through 2005, I conducted the required capstone summer field course for the University of New Mexico's Master of Water Resources (MWR) degree program in Honduras. Students participated in the construction of gravity-flow village drinking water systems, working alongside villagers in small (c. 300-600 residents) rural mountain villages. To maximize the cross-cultural experience, students lived, worked, ate, and slept in the villages. During the five-year duration of this program 65 students participated.

In the South Caucasus, a program funded by NATO and OSCE sought to encourage cooperation among the three countries, who share the Kura-Araks river basin (KAB). The transnational nature of the KAB and lack of agreements among the riparians had the potential for igniting conflict in an already volatile yet strategically important region. A surface water monitoring program was designed and implemented. Data sharing, collaboration, and transparency were encouraged and promoted.

Lessons learned from these disparate experiences will be addressed.

[Note: descriptions of the Honduras program from *Water Resources IMPACT* and the *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education* can be accessed here: <http://aquadoc.typepad.com/waterwired/2010/09/impact.html>]

**Campana Biographical Sketch:** Michael E. Campana is Professor of Hydrogeology and Water Resources at Oregon State University and former Director of its Institute for Water and Watersheds. Prior to joining OSU in 2006 he held the Albert J. and Mary Jane Black Chair of Hydrogeology and directed the Water Resources Program at the University of New Mexico. He was a research hydrologist at the Desert Research Institute in Reno and taught in the University of Nevada's Hydrologic Sciences Program. His expertise and interests include hydrophilanthropy, water resources management, WaSH in developing regions, transboundary water resources issues, and regional hydrogeology. He has been involved in local and statewide water planning in New Mexico and Oregon. His international work is primarily in Central America, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus. He was a Fulbright Scholar to Belize in 1996 and a Visiting Scientist at the Research Institute for Groundwater in Cairo (Fall 1995) and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna (Fall 2002). He has served on six National Research Council committees and a variety of others. Dr. Campana is President of the American Water Resources Association and founder, president, and treasurer of the Ann Campana Judge Foundation (<http://www.acjfoundation.org>), a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation that funds and undertakes projects related to water, health, and sanitation in Central America. He earned a BS in geology from the College of William and Mary and MS and PhD degrees in hydrology from the University of Arizona. He operates the WaterWired blog (<http://aquadoc.typepad.com/waterwired>) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/waterwired>).

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