

2015 Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation Award

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Raissa Guerra** has been selected as the 2015 recipient of the Marianne Schmink Award for the Outstanding Dissertation from UF's Tropical Conservation and Development Program. Dr. Guerra completed her dissertation in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment under the supervision of Dr. Marianne Schmink. Her dissertation was entitled "***Feasibility of Payments for Environmental Services in the Amazon region: tools for an ex-ante assessment***".



Dr. Raissa Guerra and local leaders of the PA Juruena Rural Settlement during a gender meeting, Brazil

Dr. Guerra's dissertation was deemed to be a great match with the particular Dissertation Award characteristics by the selection committee. Raissa studied a hypothetical application of a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program in the municipality of Cotriguaçu in MT, Brazil. The selection committee commented that Dr. Guerra did "an outstanding job of explaining, summarizing, and analyzing the PES framework as a whole". Her discussion of the theory behind such programs was done in a "profound, acute, and comprehensive way, pointing out advantages and disadvantages of the application of such programs". Further the committee noted that Raissa's treatment of and review of PES and REDD+, which

encompassed the complex aspects of the socio-economic history and development of the specific communities that may apply PES, was "a model of intellectual synthesis and the knowledgeable fusion of the various components of social-ecological system theory".

Raissa is currently a consultant for IPAM (*Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia*), a NGO with an important and direct impact on conservation and development policy in the Brazilian Amazon. She is currently working on the design and implementation of impact monitoring systems in state level environmental agencies; developing a study on Stock-Flow mechanisms for REDD distribution. She is also organizing a special publication Issue on *Deforestation in the Amazon* and working on projects aiming to promote green taxes in the Brazilian Federal Law.



Raissa returning part of the results from CIFOR Global Comparative study on REDD in Brazil.

The Selection Committee was composed of TCD faculty Dr. Susan Paulson (Center for Latin American Studies) and also included Drs. Ignacio Porzecanski (School of Natural Resources and the Environment) and Tracy VanHolt (TCD Alumna, Stockholm Resilience Centre). **The TCD program congratulates Dr. Guerra on her selection as the 2015 recipient of the Marianne Schmink Outstanding Dissertation!**