

March 19, 2010

Dear Mr. Birdsey:

We are considering Yude Pan as a possible candidate for a faculty position at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, and as part of a new Environmental Initiative at the University of Arizona. We hope to hire at the Associate Professor or advanced Assistant Professor level, but are also considering more junior scientists with extremely promising track records of research, publications, and grants. We seek a quantitative scientist whose research addresses the interactions of climate, wildfire, forest growth and carbon dynamics, or a subset of these topics. Expertise or at least strong interest in dendrochronology is very desirable. Skill and experience in remote sensing, GIS, and/or modeling would also be highly valued. The full description is here: http://www.ltrr.arizona.edu/pub/announce/forests_in_earth_system.html

The University of Arizona is home to one of the largest and broadest concentrations of earth systems research and education in the US, with world-class programs in fields including hydrology, paleoclimatology, ecosystem science, earth sciences, arid lands, environmental engineering, and climate applications. Within the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, research focuses on climate, hydrology, ecology, land use impacts and disturbance, fire, geomorphic and biochemical processes, and archaeology. Consequently, we seek someone who would thrive in and contribute to the strongly interdisciplinary environment that exists here.

I would be most grateful for your comments on Dr. Pan's suitability for such a position. We are seeking letters of reference for a selected set of applicants in order to produce a final short list for interviews. We are particularly interested in your comments on Dr. Pan's academic ability, level of preparation, and potential for growth, but also on Dr. Pan as a self-starting, motivated investigator capable of establishing and/or maintaining a significant research program marked by publications productivity and the ability to secure external funding. We would also value your comments on the candidate's skills as a teacher and graduate student mentor.

I deeply apologize for the short notice on this request, but we need to have your letter by April 2 because of the very short time frame for this hiring process. It is perfectly acceptable to send your letter to me via email at conniew1@email.arizona.edu. I am very much aware of the time and effort that goes into writing thoughtful letters of reference. Please accept my sincere thanks in advance for taking the time to do this.

Best regards,

Connie Woodhouse
Associate Professor
Geography, Regional Development & Dendrochronology
Joint Appointment, Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research

