

NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards Program

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<http://www.csis.msu.edu/nasa-msu.htm>

History

- Started in 1998
- Annual meeting of US-IALE (US Regional Association of International Association for Landscape Ecology)
- Michigan State University (MSU)
- NASA support (LCLUC)
 - Anthony Janetos (1998)
 - Jon Ranson (1999)
 - Garik Gutman (2000-present)

Landscape Ecology

- An interdisciplinary field focusing on landscape pattern, process, and dynamics
 - Land cover and land use change
 - Ecosystem services
 - Climate change
 - Biodiversity
 - Human well-being
 - Integration of natural and social sciences

Themes of Recent US-IALE Meetings

- **2011:** Sustainability in Dynamic Landscapes
- **2010:** Is What Humans Do Natural?
- **2009:** Coupling Humans and Complex Ecological Landscapes

Criteria for Awardee Selection

- Abstracts:
 - Significance of the issue(s)
 - Innovation and soundness of methods
 - Novelty of results
 - Clarity of the writing
- Professional backgrounds and goals:
 - Publications (number and quality)
 - Awards and honors
 - Leadership positions/experience
 - Career plans
- Financial needs:
 - Travel cost
 - Accommodation cost

Activities



Listen to Leading Scientists



Listen to Garik Gutman: NASA's Funding Opportunities

2000

2004

2006



Give Presentations



Organize and Attend Symposia

- Drivers and implications of land use and land cover change
- Integrating remote sensing of forest disturbances with models at broad scales
- Defining and modeling species-habitat associations: challenges across landscapes (and seascapes)
- Sources, Sinks, and Sustainability across landscapes

Organize and Attend Workshops

- Job hunting experiences of recent graduates
- Constructing and teaching a great Landscape Ecology course
- Applying for fellowships and grants: Tips from the pros
- Interviewing for landscape ecology jobs
- Building collaborative research with landscape ecology
- Grant-writing: Tips from experienced researchers

Dinner with Leading Scientists



Recognition

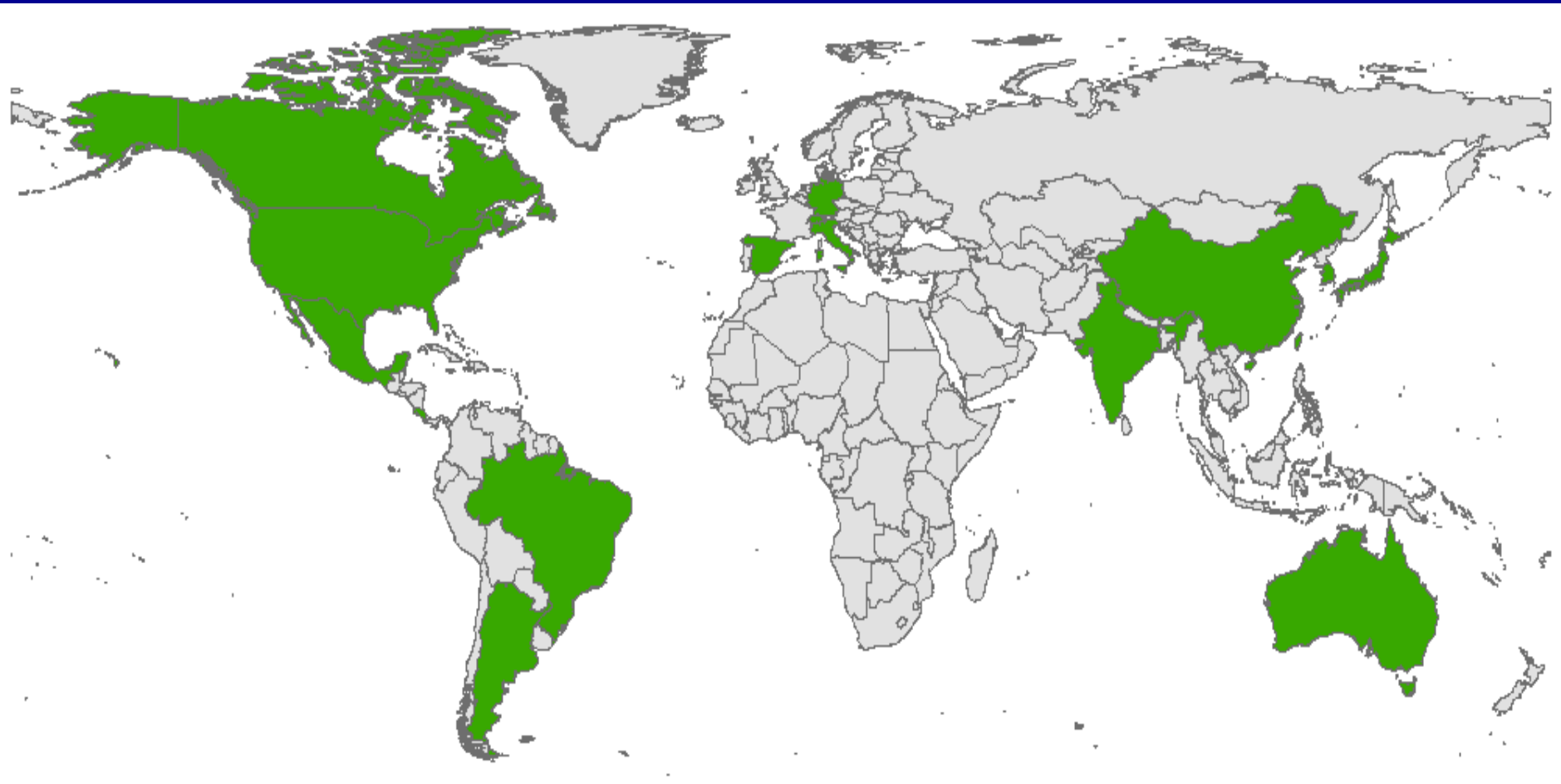


Impacts

Awardees (1998-2011)

- Number of awardees: 290
- Number of institutions: 114
- Number of countries: 15

Global Distribution of Awardees

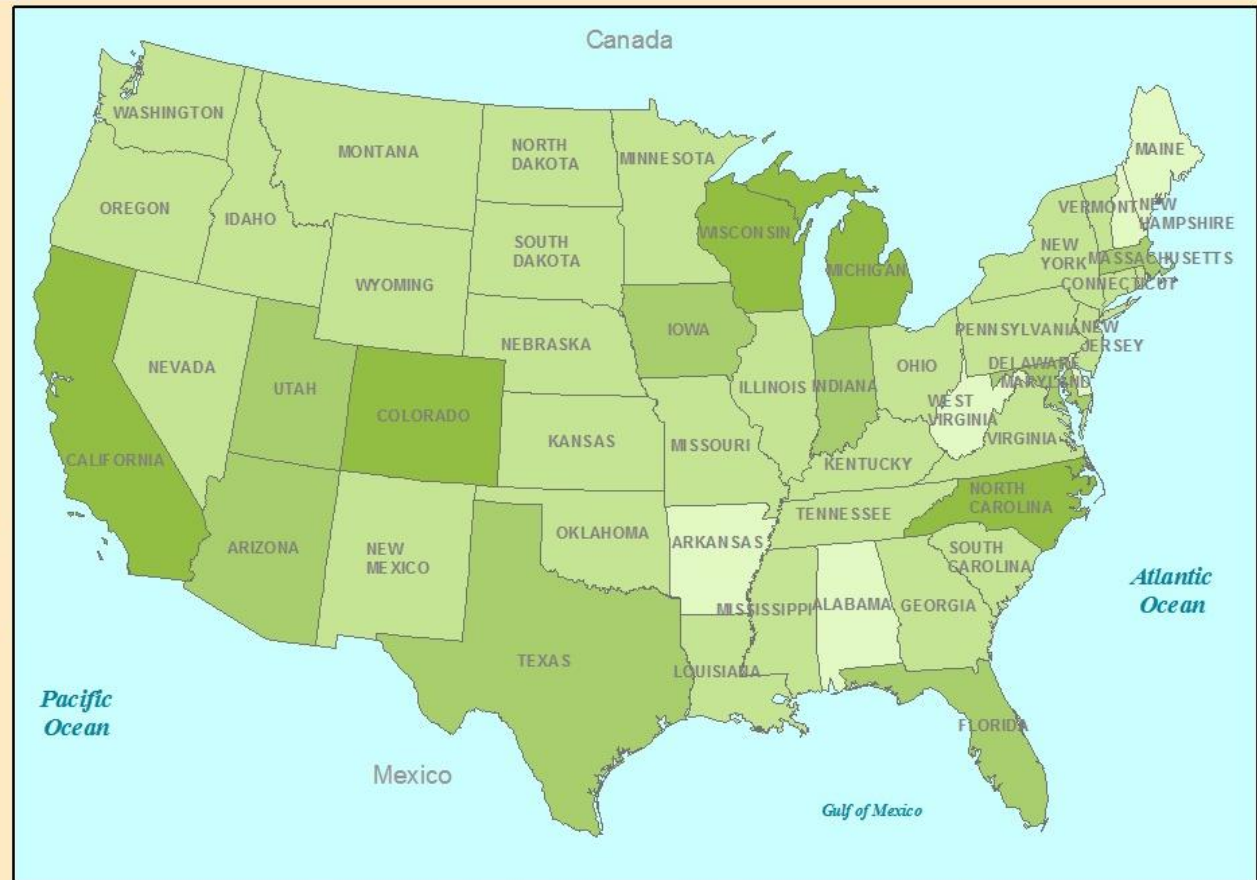


Awardees in 47 States of USA

Alaska



Hawaii



Number of NASA-MSU Awardees



Best Presentation Awards at US-IALE Meetings

- 11 out of the 14 awards were won
by NASA-MSU Awardees since 1998

Leadership

- Former awardees serving as Board Members of US-IALE (since 2002): **7 out of 12**
- Student Representatives on US-IALE Board since 1998: **10 out of 14**
- For 2011 annual meeting
 - **Program Chair:** Rebecca Kennedy
 - **Local Hosts:** Robert Scheller and Anita Morzillo

From NASA-MSU Awardees to Active Researchers and Educators

- Many former awardees are in faculty positions (e.g., Lisa Schulte)
- Second generation of awardees (e.g., Andrew Rayburn)



From NASA-MSU Awardees to NASA Project PIs

- **Kirsten de Beurs**
(University of Oklahoma)
- **Anna Pidgeon**
(University of Wisconsin, Madison)



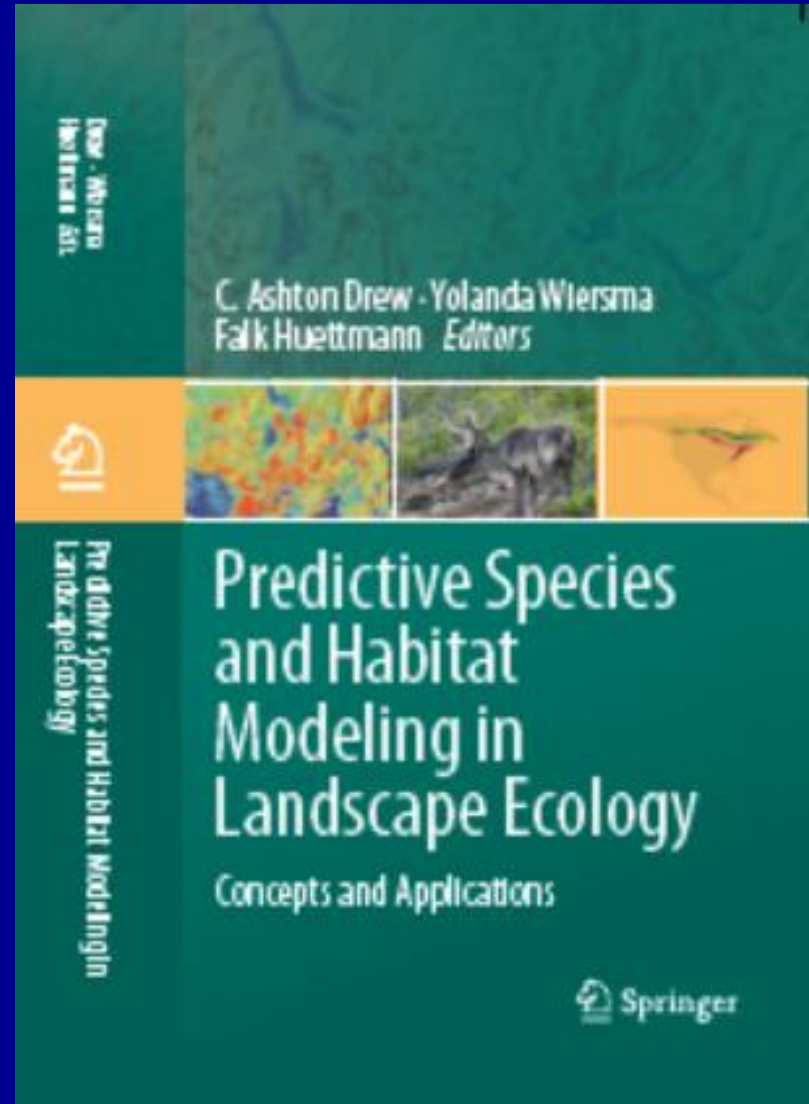
Productive Collaboration

Books



Editors:

- Ashton Drew
- Yolanda Wiersma
- Falk Huettmann



Papers

Morzillo, A.T., J.W. Hollister, C.A. Drew, M. Rocca, M.E. Baker, J. Bossenbroek, and C. Mazzarella 2008. A young ecologist's guide to gainful employment: a review of experiences and successful strategies. *Ecological Society of America (ESA) Bulletin* 89:193-203

Most downloaded paper in 2008



Inspiration for Establishing Other Similar Programs

USDA-NIFA Professional Enhancement Awards Program



CHANS Fellows Program



International Network of Research on
Coupled Human and Natural Systems
(CHANS-Net, www.chans-net.org)

Acknowledgments

- NASA

- Tony Janetos
- Jon Ranson
- Garik Gutman

- US-IALE

- Officials
- Organizers

- MSU

- Sue Faivor
- Betty Fancher
- Brad Harris
- Shuxin Li
- Anita Morzillo

- Leading Scientists

Awardees' Comments

- “The NASA-MSU award was a huge springboard for my professional career and continued involvement with US-IALE.”
- “Motivated me to put extra work into my presentation (for which I won best student presentation award).”
- “I really enjoyed meeting peers from other universities, and also having the chance to talk to prominent ecologists. I normally wouldn't have had a chance to meet them or have enough courage to speak to the big name ecologists.”
- “Being invited to the dinner as former awardee every year is hidden but very important part of the award for continuing networking, being a member of the big "family" and introducing my own students.”
- “I hope it continues indefinitely!”