

# US-IALE Newsletter

## Summer 2013

### Summer 2013

### Volume 28/2

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## President's Message



**Kurt Riitters, US-IALE President**

Greetings everyone! Thanks to Emily Minor, we have yet another interesting Newsletter jam-packed with information about our Chapter. I hope you will find something that will prompt you to participate more fully in the Chapter. Perhaps you will volunteer to serve in the Chapter's committees and events, invite your non-member colleagues to become members, contribute a part of your wealth to the Chapter's activi-

ties, stand for election to an office, or contribute in some other way something which you feel would benefit the Chapter. Thank you all for being part of this great community!

The successful Austin Symposium is recounted in detail elsewhere in this Newsletter. On behalf of all members, I would like to thank Wendy Gordon, Tim Keitt, and Ken Young for their fantastic job of organizing a great Symposium! As usual, there was a lot of emphasis on student participation and activities, due largely to our Student Representatives

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## 2013 Annual Symposium

Austin, TX

US-IALE's Annual symposium was held on April 14-18 in Austin, Texas and focused on the theme "Landscape Dynamics along Environmental Gradients." The beautiful spring weather and exciting Austin music scene created a perfect backdrop for the symposium. Over 250 landscape ecologists attended the conference, including ~120 students. There were a number of student-focused activities including a student/mentor lunch, an evening student social held at a local music venue, and the popular "We'll Pick up the Tab" cocktail reception social (for more information see [page 3](#) of the newsletter).

We had three excellent plenary speakers at this year's symposium. Dr. Frederick Steiner (University of Texas at

*(Continued on page 15)*



**Austin, Texas**

Photo by George Azzari

## 2014 Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska

Over the long coming Alaskan winter, the organizing committee of the 2014 US-IALE conference is planning for, and looking forward to, the warmer weather next spring when we will host our annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. The theme of next year's conference will be "Cumulative Impacts and Landscape Initiatives: A Sustainability Check during Climate Change." For several months we have been working on the program details and confirming plenary speakers (featuring agencies, international academia, NGOs and citizen science), arranging for fascinating workshops, making the hotel schedules and contract, and finalizing a great set of Alaskan field trips for you.

By now, we have lined up a set of diverse and stimulating speakers dealing with regional climate change models, global sustainability, and progress in the analysis and use of GIS and Remote Sensing data. We are specifically hoping many of our Canadian, Asian and EU colleagues will join us this year, too. Interior sub-arctic Alaska, Denali National Park, glaciers and coastal old-growth forests will be featured in our field trips, besides others (if you wish, be prepared for 3-4 days long field trip options which can cover virtually all of Alaska and its parks!). US-IALE has never been in Alaska, so you are in

for experiencing land- and seascapes that will stun your imagination. May 18-22 should be perfect for spring and outdoors activities with lows in the 30's and highs in the 50's (though there will likely be some snow remnants for those of you wishing to cool off in mid-May). Anchorage is a great hub for all travelers, including from Canada, EU and Asia. Anchorage features both wilderness trails and your more traditional urban experience including great entertainment value, Alaska-style. In spring, you can experience Alaska's wildlife and vegetation first

hand. Mid-May is also peak season for Alaska's bird migration heading to the boreal forest and Arctic (one of the largest shorebird concentrations in the world). We are looking forward to some great science and a memorable and fun meeting next spring in a fascinating landscape setting.

### — Program Chairs/Local Hosts



*One field excursion offered: Alaska's Denali National Park featuring Mt McKinley, the highest mountain in North America*

### US-IALE 2014—Anchorage, Alaska

**Meeting Theme: Cumulative Impacts and Landscape Initiatives: A Sustainability Check during Climate Change**

**Local Host: Jamie Trammell (University of Alaska-Anchorage)**

**Program Chairs: Falk Huettmann (University of Alaska-Fairbanks), Tracey Gotthardt (Alaska Natural Heritage Program- GAP project, University of Alaska-Anchorage)**

**Supported by Delaney Conference Organization, and others**

## Update from the Membership Liaison



Anita Morzillo  
Membership Liaison

Matt Viehdorfer (US-IALE “web guy”) and I are in the middle of several upgrades that will provide better web-based recordkeeping and services for USIALE and its members. This summer, Matt is overhauling the membership database structure to create new ‘modern’ linkages to the US-IALE website interface. Planned upgrades include the ability to look up membership numbers, review membership payment history and status using individual log-in information, and recall usernames and passwords. We also plan to incorporate automatic email reminders about membership expirations and renewals that

will be generated and sent at the end of the membership year (now January-December). Starting with the 2014 US-IALE annual symposium, members will be asked to enter their membership number in order to qualify for member-based registration rates. This will help the society maintain the revenue expected from members and non-members when reviewing budgets for the annual symposium, and is common practice for many other professional societies. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [membership@usiale.org](mailto:membership@usiale.org) if you have any questions.

— Anita Morzillo  
US-IALE Membership Liaison

## Student News and Notes



Julie Ripplinger (left) and Karl Jarvis (right), student representatives. Karl is the one with the hat.

We were pleased to have nearly 120 students in attendance at the 2013 US-IALE annual symposium in Austin, TX. We offered several opportunities for students to get involved in networking and professional development with activities like the student-mentor lunch, student social, student workshop, “We’ll Pick up the Tab” social, and the student presentation feedback program. We appreciate the feedback provided via the online survey and look forward to improving these activities at next year’s meeting!

At the **Student-Mentor Lunch**, student attendees met landscape professionals that matched their future career goals in academia, government agency research/

management, or non-profit organizations. Eighty seven students signed up for the lunch, and though not all attended, we consider this a great success! We maintained last year’s move to students self-assigning tables based on their own career-exploration needs. We also improved the student-to-mentor ratio, based on previous feedback and plan to continue this new tradition at future meetings. Thanks to all the participants for your feedback and suggestions! We will work hard to incorporate them in 2014.

This year’s **Student Social** was held on the rooftop deck at Mo-hawk, a local watering hole and popular music venue. The student social is designed to encourage informal interactions among students attending the conference, and it did exactly that! Attendance was on par with previous years, and we hope to attract even more students at the upcoming meeting in Alaska!

**Student Workshop “Data Management for Landscape Ecologists”** brought Jeff Hollister, Michele

Ostrow, and Carly Strasser to the stage to share their diverse perspectives on data management for landscape professionals, then they led us in break-out sessions for hands-on experiences for participants. Our experts provided tips on scientific workflow, scripting, data sharing and storage, and citation database management. Student participants were provided with valuable knowledge and open-source tools, that are still available via the workshop webpage <https://sites.google.com/site/ialestudentworkshop/>.

*(Continued on page 14)*



The student-mentor lunch  
Photo by Julie Ripplinger

## Spotlight on US-IALE Student Members

### Monica Dorning

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

<http://madorning.wordpress.com/>



#### Tell us a bit about your educational background and how you ended up at your current institution.

I would broadly characterize my educational background as environmental science and ecology, and I focused on applications in natural resource management and conservation during my undergraduate studies. While pursuing my Master's degree, I focused more on invasive plant ecology, which continues to be one of my research interests. Upon finishing my Master's degree I began working as a plant health technician for the USDA and, after a few years, I decided that I wanted to return to research. I found that Ross Meentemeyer had an opening in his lab in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at UNC Charlotte for a student to study environmental impacts of land use change, which was an excellent fit for my background and current interests. Working in a geography department has broadened my perspective and equipped me with the skills to apply spatial analyses to understand and better conceptualize land use change as it relates to natural resource management.

#### Tell us a bit about your current work.

My current research is focused on landscape change and human-environment interactions. I am working as part of the Charlotte ULTRA-Ex team where we are bringing together spatially explicit social and ecological data to understand how landscape change emerges from the decision-making processes of individual landowners. I am also using dynamic land change modeling to examine trade-offs between varying patterns of urbanization and biodiversity conservation. I am still interested in conservation and plant ecology, but now think of them in the broader context of land use change and sustainability.

#### How did you become interested in landscape ecology?

While working toward my Master's degree I was studying interactions between individual plants, as well as the chemical and competitive processes behind the influence of an invasive plant on its new neighbors. However, I was always left wondering what these relatively small-scale interactions meant for the community and landscape as a whole. I quickly discovered that landscape ecology was precisely the field I was looking for in order to understand how these processes worked at multiple scales.

#### What place does landscape ecology have in your past and current work?

Landscape ecology has really changed the way that I approach research. This may be somewhat obvious, but the basic fundamentals of scale and pattern are essential components to studying land use change, which is the primary focus of all my research questions. Even when looking at land use change from a decision-making perspective, it is important to consider how landscape patterns and processes at multiple scales influence those decisions.

#### Which directions would you like to see landscape ecology go in the future, and what role would you like to play in that?

Wow that's a great question...I do think that landscape ecology has a major role to play in addressing questions related to sustainable development. Issues pertaining to the maintenance and promotion of ecosystem sustainability are some of the most pressing questions facing society, and land use and land use change are a big part of that. I am particularly thinking of how land in cities and agricultural areas can best be managed to provide various ecosystem services, including maintaining biodiversity, while explicitly considering social and economic factors. Along those lines, landscape ecology is also very well positioned to continue addressing emerging research focused on coupled human-natural systems. The influence of human activity is a common theme and I think it will continue to expand. In my research, I aim to continue integrating methods and theories from the ecological and social sciences to study land use change at multiple scales, while at the same time solving problems that are relevant and applicable within local communities so that results can be turned into actions.

## Spotlight on US-IALE Student Members

### George Azzari

University of California Irvine

<https://sites.google.com/a/uci.edu/gazzari/>



**Tell us a bit about your educational background and how you ended up at your current institution.**

I studied Physics in Rome (Universita' degli Studi Rome Tre), and after that I obtained a master in Geophysics at the same university. After graduating I took a year off from academia and worked at the Institute for Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (ISAC) in Rome. During that year I contributed to designing and realizing a new micro-lidar for vertical atmospheric sounding. I eventually decided to apply for a PhD position, with the idea of working right at the border where technology development meets important scientific questions in earth sciences. The Earth System Science department at UCI was my first choice, because of the competitiveness of the faculty members, the multidisciplinary approach, and the wide choice of methodologies used in different labs.

**How did you become interested in landscape ecology?**

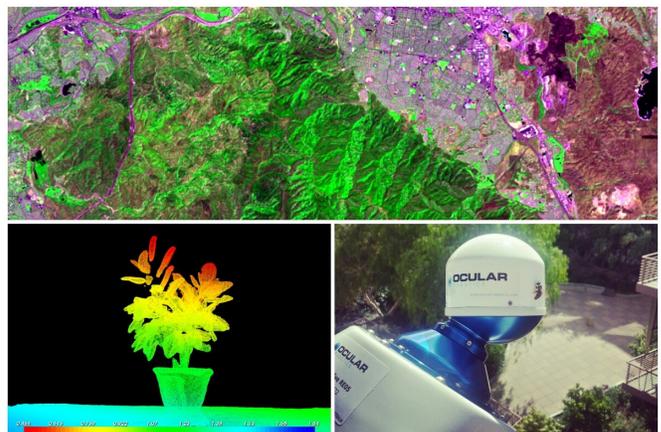
As a physicist, I had no idea of what landscape ecology was. Only after taking a terrestrial ecology class at UCI did I realize how interesting this topic was. So I decided to join Dr. Michael Goulden's lab, and my interest grew stronger as he introduced me to some of the scientific challenges this field is facing. I was particularly fascinated by realizing how differences in spatial patterns of vegetation—something you could experience even during a short hike—are driven by highly complex physical and biological interactions between many-components that are not yet well understood.

**What place does landscape ecology have in your past and current work? Tell us a bit about your current work.**

My work has two major parts. On one hand I am studying how topography influences ecosystems composition, properties, and function. This study focuses on Southern Californian shrublands, where the differences in vegetation cover between north and south slopes are very evident and yet not understood. To obtain information at different spatial scales, I use a combination of field surveys, flux tower data, and Landsat imagery. On the other hand, I am working on exploring how market-level technology could be used to collect ecological data from the field. For example, we managed to use a Microsoft Kinect sensor to scan three-dimensional vegetation structure in the field. Working on market-technology applications was made possible thanks to the generosity of Greg Jenkins and his family who funded this project.

**Which directions would you like to see landscape ecology go in the future, and what role would you like to play in that?**

During the past few years, landscape ecology has been experiencing a boom in integration with modern technology. Computer scientists and engineers have developed techniques and devices that can significantly help answering the scientific questions we're dealing with. Modern computer vision techniques can speed up and improve detection changes in vegetation patterns from satellite or airborne imagery. Cheaper and faster sensors, as well as wireless communication systems, can help extend field instruments networks with reduced costs. Readily available and affordable UAVs open endless possibility on aerial measurements. Cloud computing makes online data availability, processing, and visualization much easier. I am very excited to be part of this, and I hope that we will maintain this course in the future. I'd really like to have an active role in this technological transition and contribute to improving the dialogue between science and technology.



*Images from George's research: (top) a false-color Landsat 5 TM image of his study area (northern Santa Ana Mountains), (bottom left) a 3D scan of a rubber tree acquired with a Microsoft Kinect, and (bottom right) a new LIDAR system he's testing in the field*

## US-IALE 2013 Awards

Congratulations to the following 2013 Award winners, announced at the annual banquet held on April 16th in Austin, TX.

### Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology

The committee reviews nominations for papers published during the past 2 years that make an outstanding contribution to the literature of the field of landscape ecology. Two papers received awards at the 2013 banquet:

*Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology:*

**Donald McKenzie and Maureen Kennedy.** 2012. Power laws reveal phase transitions in landscape controls of fire regimes. *Nature Communications* 3:726

*Outstanding Paper in Landscape Ecology, Honorable Mention:*

**Jennifer Costanza, Aaron Moody, and Robert Peet.** 2011. Multi-scale environmental heterogeneity as a predictor of plant species richness. *Landscape Ecology* 26:851-864.

### Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award

The Distinguished Landscape Ecologist Award recognizes individuals whose long-term scientific contribution has helped to define the field of landscape ecology, and is based on nominations received from the US-IALE membership. This year we recognized two awardees for their diverse and unique contributions to the field. Both of these distinguished recipients have played significant roles as mentors for the future generation of landscape ecologists.



**Virginia Dale accepting the award from Kurt Riitters**

*Photo by Bogdan Strimbu*

**Virginia Dale**, Group Leader of the Landscape Ecology and Regional Analysis Group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, was recognized for her pioneering and sustained contributions to the science of land use change, climate change, forest management, bioenergy, ecological modeling, and biodiversity conservation. She has co-authored 7 books and nearly 200 papers. She is the long-standing Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal Environmental Management* and has also served on multiple National Academy committees and the Editorial Board of *Landscape Ecology*. She served as President of US-IALE from 2000-2002.

**Marie-Josée Fortin**, Professor in Spatial Ecology at the University of Toronto, was recognized for her leadership in the application of spatial ecology to some of the most important challenges of our day, including conservation biology, ecotone detection, landscape planning, organismal dispersal, landscape genetics, and functional connectivity of landscapes. She is a prolific author who has published more than 140 papers and book chapters. Her seminal paper on "Spatial pattern and ecological analysis" has been cited over 1,000 times, and her book on spatial analysis for ecology is a staple for landscape ecologists and ecologists alike.



**Marie-Josée Fortin**

### Distinguished Landscape Practitioner Award

The Distinguished Landscape Practitioner Award recognizes outstanding applications of the principles of landscape ecology to real-world problems, and is based on nominations received by the US-IALE membership. This year we honored **K. Bruce Jones** for his distinguished achievements in bringing landscape science into mainstream practice within the federal government, non-governmental organizations and scientific societies. Bruce's pioneering work with the EMAP program in the early 1990s led to the creation of an entire Branch devoted to Landscape Ecology within the Environmental Protection Agency. During his distinguished career, Bruce has been engaged in landscape ecology science and ultimately program development and management with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Geological Survey. In 2012, he left federal service to become the Executive Director of the Division of Earth & Ecosystem Sciences at the Desert Research Institute.



**Bruce Jones, Distinguished Landscape Practitioner**

*Photo by Bogdan Strimbu*

## **US-IALE 2013 Awards**

### **Award for Best Student Presentation**

This award includes a \$300 check, a waiver of one future meeting registration fee, and one complimentary attendance on a fieldtrip or at a workshop of the awardee's choice at a future annual meeting. Waiver of registration and fieldtrip or workshop fees may be applied to one of the next two subsequent US-IALE annual meetings.

At the 2013 conference banquet in Austin, 19 students registered to have their presentations considered. These presentations were evaluated by a total of 25 judges. The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the winners, who will be acknowledged at the 2014 US-IALE annual meeting banquet in Anchorage:

#### *Award for Best Student Presentation:*

**Micah Hahn**, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Roosting Behavior and Habitat Selection of *Pteropus Giganteus* Reveals Potential Links to Nipah Virus Epidemiology (oral presentation)

#### *Award for Best Student Presentation – Honorable Mentions:*

**Camille Beasley**, University of Georgia. Suspended Development: Disentangling Effects of Habitat Alteration and Human Habitation on Birds (oral presentation)

**Katherine Renwick**, Colorado State University. Interactive Effects of Climate and Disturbance on Landscape-scale Range Dynamics of Rocky Mountain Tree Species (oral presentation)

Many thanks to all the student participants and especially to the judges who are an essential component of the student award program: Peter August, Jennifer Costanza, Robert Coulson, Amelie Davis, Kirsten de Beurs, Robert Gardner, Caren Goldberg, Tabitha Graves, Kirsten Hazler, Geoffrey Henebry, Taehee Hwang, Maureen Kennedy, Jesse R. Lasky, Zhihua Liu, Stephen Matthews, Audrey Mayer, Qingmin Meng, Emily Minor, Kishan Sambaraju, Stephen Spear, David Theobald, E. Jamie Trammel, Joseph Veech, Leroy J. Walston, Jr., and Alan Yeakley.

### **Student Travel Awards**

For the fifth year in a row, travel awards were made available by US-IALE thanks to the generous contribution of the society's membership. Nine students were selected to receive up to \$500 for travel to the US-IALE conference.

Matthew Duveneck,	Portland State University
Peng Gao	University of South Carolina
Micah Hahn	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Han Li	Baylor University
David Lowenstein	University of Illinois at Chicago
Christopher Nadeau	Cornell University
Kellen Nelson	University of Wyoming
James Tracy	Texas A&M University
Victoria Zero	University of Wyoming



**Student Travel Awardees**

*Photo by Bogdan Strimbu*

Please be sure to send in your nominations for society awards when we issue the call for nominations later this year. And, please consider serving as a judge for the student award program at the annual conference in Anchorage next year. Thank you!

—The 2013 US-IALE Awards Committee  
**Todd Lookingbill (Chair), Pete August, Jeff Hollister, Anita Morzillo, & Steven Walters**

Further information about each award and a complete list of past award recipients can be found at

<http://usiale.org/awards>

## NASA-MSU Awards

The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards are made possible by the support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University (MSU). This is the 16th consecutive year of the program. The selected students have opportunities to meet with some leading landscape ecologists at a special dinner gathering, to learn the latest developments in landscape ecology, and to build professional networks with other conference attendees. Twenty-one students received awards this year:

Name	Institution
Pradeep Adhikari	University of Oklahoma
Ryan Anderson	Butler University
Adi Barocas	University of Wyoming
J. Amy Belaire	University of Illinois at Chicago
Helen Bothwell	Northern Arizona University
Brian Buma	University of Colorado
Serena Caplins	Virginia Commonwealth University
Neil Carter	Michigan State University
Sarah Carter	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Brenna Forester	Duke University
Amy Frazier	University at Buffalo
Erin Koen	Trent University
Myung-Bok Lee	University of Georgia
Kevin Li	University of Michigan
Xiaoqian Liu	Peking University and Duke University
Julie Ripplinger	Arizona State University
Christie Sampson	Clemson University
Naomi Schwartz	Columbia University
Douglas Shoemaker	Portland State University
Thilina Surasinghe	Clemson University
Jelena Vukomanovic	University of Arizona

See the call for next year's NASA-MSU applications on [page 13](#)

The 2013 NASA-MSU Awards Committee consists of Jianguo (Jack) Liu (Chair), Anita Morzillo (Co-Chair), Garik Gutman (NASA), Vickie St. John (MSU), and Shuxin Li (MSU).



**NASA-MSU Awardees**  
Photo provided by Julie Ripplinger



## Foreign Scholar Travel Awards

The purpose of the FSTA is to provide support for landscape ecologists from foreign countries to attend the annual US-IALE conference, and to foster international exchange about advances in landscape ecology. This year, US-IALE received a grant from IALE International, allowing us to support three additional travel awards, for a total of five foreign travel scholars. The 2013 recipients of the USIALE Foreign Scholar Travel Awards (FSTA) were:

- **Yasemin Ergüner Baytok**, Turkey, Istanbul Technical University, Eurasia Institute of Earth of Sciences (Postdoctoral researcher); Presentation: Multi-variate Spatio-Temporal Delineation of Ecoclimatic Regions for Evaluating Sampling Network Sites in Turkey
- **Rodrigo Anzolin Begotti**, Brazil, Universidade de São Paulo (PhD student); Presentation: Revisiting a Known Landscape: Deforestation Mediated by Road Network Growth, Social and Environmental Factors in South-western Brazilian Amazon During 1975-2011
- **Wanmo Kang**, Republic of Korea, Department of Environmental Planning, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Seoul National University (PhD student); Presentation: Modeling Impacts of Climate Change on Distribution and Gene Flow of Threatened Tree *Kalopanax Septemlobus* in South Korea
- **Daniela Barbosa da Silva Lins**, Brazil, University of Campinas, Sao Paulo (PhD student); Poster: Hierarchical Interactions of Driving Forces in the Perspective of Evolutionary Dynamics of Landscape Change
- **Abu Rushed Jamil Mahmood**, Bangladesh, Durham University (PhD student); Presentation: High Spatial Resolution Imagery to Map Changes in Vegetation Dynamics: The Case for the World Largest Mangrove



*Foreign Scholar Travel Awardees*

*Photo by Julie Ripplinger*

In addition to support from US-IALE and IALE International, funds are raised at the annual meeting in our silent book and software auction. Many thanks to this year's contributors of donated items:

- 2 licenses for IDRISI Selva and Land Change Modeler software, Clark Labs
- Books from Springer Publishing, Island Press, and Sinauer Associates
- 2 boxes of books from Louis Iverson
- A few books from Tammy Wilson and one book from Falk Huetteman

If you would like more information on the program, or you would like to become a member of the review committee, please email Kathy at [kathy.vigness.raposa@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.vigness.raposa@gmail.com).

—Submitted on behalf of the review committee,  
Kathy Vigness-Raposa, FSTA Committee Chair

## Please take a quick survey to get the new Policy Committee off the ground

The Policy Committee currently consists of Audrey Mayer (interim chair), Jonathan Bossenbroek, Amy Daniels, Amélie Davis, and Yolanda Wiersma. We have drafted a brief survey for members to identify pressing policy issues to which our discipline could contribute valuable knowledge, and we will also be contacting US and Canadian government officials to get their opinions on the subject as well. After we collect this feedback, we will identify one or two issues and focus our efforts there. Please click on the following link to complete the brief survey: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18SDrzdzvvoJlqIPuQ311OKNwPRfIO0yrJszLAYDYWII/viewform>

—Audrey Mayer  
Councillor-at-Large and Acting Chair of the Policy Committee

## ***New US-IALE Officers***

*The following officers were elected at the 2013 annual meeting in Austin, TX*



*Janet Franklin*

### *President-elect: Janet Franklin*

I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership for the confidence and trust you have placed in me by electing me president-elect of US-IALE. I also want to thank all the nominees for all offices for being willing to serve our society, and thank everyone who voted. For those of you who aren't as familiar with our by-laws as I am now expected to be, as the president-elect, I am a member of the Executive Committee and will "shadow" our current president, Kurt Riitters, until our 2014 annual symposium in Alaska, and then I will serve as president for the subsequent year. Kurt will be a hard act to follow, and I will learn a lot from him this year.

I am a Professor in the Schools of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning, Arizona State University. I joined ASU in Fall 2009 after 21 years on the faculty at San Diego State University. My research is focused on in the dynamics of terrestrial plant communities at the landscape scale. Broadly speaking, my collaborators, students and I work to understand the impacts of human-caused landscape change on ecological communities.

I attended my first US-IALE symposium in 1989 (Fort Collins). I have served IALE as a Board Member for the journal *Landscape Ecology* (2000-2005), I was Local Host for the US-IALE symposium in San Diego, CA (2006),

served on the Executive Committee as Councillor-at-large (2010-2012), and I previously chaired and currently serve on the site selection committee for the annual symposium. The things I really like about our Chapter are its manageable size – just right for meaningful professional interactions at our annual symposium, our strong support of student involvement, and our membership composition that includes academics and other professionals. These are the reasons I have been with this organization for more than two decades, and these are the activities and values I will uphold and promote as president-elect and president.



*Emily Minor*

### *Secretary: Emily Minor*

I am an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago with a joint appointment in Biological Sciences and the Institute for Environmental Science and Policy. My research focuses on understanding the distribution of

species in urban environments and the role that humans play in those distributions.

I have been a member of US-IALE since the year 2000 and have been the US-IALE secre-

tary since 2011. I enjoy being able to contribute to this wonderful organization and am pleased to serve another term as US-IALE secretary.

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## *Councillor-at-Large: Sara Gagné*

I am an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Following the completion of my Ph.D. in biology in 2009 under the supervision of Dr. Lenore Fahrig at Carleton University in Canada, I held the position of research associate for a year in Dr. David Mladenoff's laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

At UNC Charlotte, I teach a first-year undergraduate physical geography course, a third-year field methods course, and senior undergraduate/graduate courses in urban

ecology and landscape ecology. My research interests lie in the realms of urban landscape ecology, urban biodiversity conservation, and urban sustainability. My work focuses on: (1) the ecological effects of residential development pattern and more broadly, environmental planning in human-dominated landscapes, (2) edge effects in urban landscapes, (3) the improvement of habitat quality in cities, and (4) the effects of urbanization on biodiversity. I am currently supervising five graduate students, whose projects include the identification of boundaries in carabid beetle distribution at urban for-

est edges, a review of the socio-ecological factors that influence the adoption of green infrastructure, and a test of the effect of city size on the relationship between bird diversity and urbanization. I am also currently investigating the effect of urbanization on the distribution of body sizes and the mechanisms underlying biotic homogenization associated with urbanization. My work has been published in journals such as *Landscape Ecology*, *Journal of Biogeography*, and *Ecological Applications*. I am looking forward to serving US-IALE as Councillor-At-Large!



**Sara Gagné**

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## *Student Representative: Karl Jarvis*

I'm a PhD student in the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University and I have long had an interest in the interplay of landscape, wildlife, and humans. My dissertation research is on the landscape genetic effects of highways on kangaroo rat genetic signatures, which I am working on with Paul Beier (NAU), Brett Dickson (Conservation Science

Partners), and Sam Cushman (USFS), among others. Additional past and present projects include my Masters work on the phylogeography of a rare insect order, community phylogenetics of arthropods, and urban wildlife genetics.

I also have a keen interest in community outreach and inquiry-based approaches to teaching. In

a past career as a teacher at a school for troubled youth, I gained an appreciation for the power of collaboration in education and bringing scientific messages to broader audiences. I continue to teach when I get a chance, including starting up a citizen science project to help Flagstaff students make deeper connections with local landscapes.



**Karl Jarvis and son Noah**

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## *Looking Ahead—Upcoming Events*

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### *The International Association of Landscape Ecology World Congress Portland, Oregon, July 2015*

The International Association of Landscape Ecology World Congress together with the US chapter of IALE will host a joint meeting in Portland, Oregon from 5th to 10th July, 2015. Portland offers numerous amenities for an enjoyable, fruitful, and efficient meeting experience. The region is widely recognized for its commitment to sustainability and progressive land use planning, which allows immediate access to outdoor recreation, and opportunities to engage with the rich cultural and historical dimensions of the Pacific Northwest landscape.

Portland International Airport (PDX) has direct connections to Tokyo, Amsterdam, and most major U.S. and Canadian cities. Portland also offers excellent light rail and street car connections throughout the city. The next closest major airport, Sea-Tac in Seattle, WA, has additional direct flights to Cordova, Frankfurt, Guadalajara, London, Manchester, Mexico City, Paris, Reykjavik, Seoul, Shanghai, and other major cities.



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### *Butterfly Conservation: Seventh International Symposium Southampton University, 4-6<sup>th</sup> April 2014*

The Seventh International Symposium will be held at Southampton on the theme: **The ecology and conservation of butterflies and moths.**

We invite offers of papers or posters on relevant topics. On-line registration and abstract submission, (deadline 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013) and further information, can be found at [www.butterfly-conservation.org/symposium](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/symposium)

The Symposium will include the latest science of butterflies and moths and how science can help to reverse the decline of butterflies and moths, and their habitats. The programme also provides opportunities for Butterfly Conservation members and others to present papers or posters on practical conservation work and contributions will be welcomed. The Symposium will end with a forward look of future challenges, including the impact of climate change.

Keynote speakers include Prof. Chris Thomas (York Univ, UK), Prof Christer Wiklund (Stockholm Univ, Sweden), Dr Tom Brereton (Butterfly Conservation, UK), Dr Bob Pyle (Naturalist and writer, USA), and Dr Thomas Merckx (Lisbon Univ, Portugal). The proceedings will be published as a special issue of the Journal of Insect Conservation; deadline for paper submission will be Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014).

## ***Looking Ahead—Upcoming Events***

### ***Call for NASA-MSU Applications***

With support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University, NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards (up to \$700 each) are given to cover expenses associated with attending the conference of US-IALE (US Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology) in Anchorage, Alaska, during May 18-22, 2014.

Special consideration will be given to presentations related to telecoupling (environmental and socioeconomic interactions over distances, such as trade, water transfer, human and animal migration, species dispersal, species invasion, disease spread, and tourism). Topics may include causes and effects of telecouplings on socioeconomic and ecological sustainability of coupled human and natural systems (CHANS). For more information about CHANS, please see [http://archive.csis.msu.edu/Publications/CHANS\\_Science.pdf](http://archive.csis.msu.edu/Publications/CHANS_Science.pdf) and [http://archive.csis.msu.edu/Publications/CHANS\\_Ambio\\_2007.pdf](http://archive.csis.msu.edu/Publications/CHANS_Ambio_2007.pdf). For information about telecouplings, please see [http://csis.msu.edu/sites/csis.msu.edu/files/telecoupling\\_sustianability\\_framework.pdf](http://csis.msu.edu/sites/csis.msu.edu/files/telecoupling_sustianability_framework.pdf), and <http://csis.msu.edu/telecoupling>.

The application package includes a cover letter, application form, abstract (as it was submitted to the US-IALE conference, [www.usiale.org](http://www.usiale.org)), resume/CV, and budget. Applications are judged based on the merits of the applicants' abstracts, financial needs, and professional backgrounds and goals. Former award recipients are not eligible to apply. Underrepresented students are especially encouraged to apply. Application deadline is January 20, 2014.

More information (including the application form) about the NASA-MSU Program is available at the web site [http://csis.msu.edu/education/nasa\\_msu\\_award](http://csis.msu.edu/education/nasa_msu_award). Questions can be directed to:

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Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824, USA  
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## ***Want to get involved in US-IALE? Consider joining the sponsorship committee***

The Sponsorship Committee seeks to increase revenue for the annual conference by facilitating sponsorship from a wide variety of organizations such as government agencies, companies, and educational institutions that support landscape ecology and, thereby, lower the registration fees associated with the annual meeting. The main duties of the Committee are to develop and maintain a database of past and potential sponsors, and to work with the US-IALE members, the meeting coordinator, and local hosts to recruit sponsors. At present we have three members on the committee: Brian Sturtevant (US Forest Service), Peter August (University of Rhode Island), and Bruce Jones (Desert Research Institute). We are seeking energetic members to compliment this team. Two priority activities include the development of long-lasting relationships with sponsors at the national scale, and recruiting sponsors to support our student travel awards program.

Please do not hesitate to contact Brian ([bsturtevant@fs.fed.us](mailto:bsturtevant@fs.fed.us)) if you have questions or would like more information

## Student News (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

Our student-professional mixer, the **"We'll Pick up the Tab" Social**, provided an informal networking opportunity among students and landscape professionals. Professionals were able to pre-purchase drink tickets for random distribution to students at the social. But in order to redeem the drink tickets, students were asked to find the professional who purchased their ticket and introduce themselves. Since initiated in 2009, this has been an incredibly popular ice-breaker, and this year the number of students surpassed the number of drink tickets available! Since many students were left out, we'd like to encourage professionals, in advance of the upcoming Alaska meeting, to seize this opportunity to meet (and groom?) your young colleagues by participating in this popular US-IALE social event.

If you participated in the **Student Presentation Feedback Program**, you received constructive critiques of your poster or oral presentation. This feedback program is independent from the award program. Instead, students were given feedback forms as part of their registration packets and instructed to ask presentation attendees for feedback. These constructive critiques offer students an opportunity to improve their research and presentations without the pressure of competing for a presentation award. We welcome your suggestions for improving this system next year. We'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who provided critiques for the students!

This year we elected our **new student representative** for 2013-15, Karl Jarvis. Karl is currently pursuing a PhD in Forestry at Northern Arizona University. Karl has been involved in US-IALE since the first meeting he attended in Portland in 2011 and he is looking forward to getting to know more of the US-IALE community and helping students get the most of their US-IALE experience. See [page 11](#) for more information about Karl. We would like to extend a tremendous **thank you to Molly Van Appledorn, our outgoing student representative**, for her hard work during the last two years. She brought many ideas to the Executive Committee and to her position, and her dedication to US-IALE has improved opportunities for students. Thanks, Molly!

For the coming year, we plan to continue these valuable and successful student activities at US-IALE 2014. And remember, we have a [US-IALE page](#) on Facebook, where we promote upcoming events, encourage interactions among all IALE members, and increase the visibility of our science and professional society. We'd love to see participation increase and to hear from you with any suggestions for Facebook content.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or suggestions!

Your US-IALE student representatives,

Julie Ripplinger (2012 - 2014)

[julie.ripplinger@asu.edu](mailto:julie.ripplinger@asu.edu)

Karl Jarvis (2013 - 2015)

[karljarvis@nau.edu](mailto:karljarvis@nau.edu)



*Images from the student social at Mohawk*

*Photos by Julie Ripplinger*

## Meeting in Austin, TX (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*



**Congress Street Bridge in Austin, where conference participants gathered each evening at sunset to see the famed bats emerge**

*Photo by Jamie Trammell*

Austin) delivered an outstanding address on Monday morning about “Design for a Vulnerable Planet,” in which he called for designers and planners to go beyond traditional concepts of sustainability toward innovative design that fosters regeneration and resilience. On Tuesday morning, Dr. Glen MacDonald (University of California Los Angeles) spoke eloquently about the importance and difficulties

of understanding treeline response to warming in his talk “Landscape Ecology at the Edge of the World - Climate Warming and Response of Northern Treeline Zone.” Last, Dr. Maria Uriarte (Columbia University) gave a compelling talk entitled “Integrating Frugivory and Animal Movement: A Review of the Evidence and Implication for Scaling Seed Dispersal,” in which she presented a framework for a frugivore-centered, process-based, synthetic approach to seed dispersal research.

The four workshop offerings for this year’s meeting ranged from a data management workshop for students to an all-day intensive hands-on workshop linking GIS with the statistical package R. Over 100 participants took advantage of these technical sessions, which would not have been possible without the dedication of the workshop conveners and instructors: Falk Huettmann, Jeffrey Evans, Peter Vogt, Florencia Sangermano, Molly Van Appledorn, Julie Ripplinger, Jeff Hollister, Carly Strasser, and Michele Ostrow.

The two field trips featured different aspects of the Texas landscape. Participants on the tour of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center explored the educational programming and conservation work of the urban center, which lies within Austin city limits. Other participants travelled away from the city to visit Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (photos at right). Almost 50 people participated in the field trips this year. Thanks very much to Wendy Gordon and Collin Roland for organizing and leading the field trips.

US-IALE gratefully recognizes the generous support from a number of conference sponsors and exhibitors: NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards Program, Clark Labs, Geodesign Technologies, Inc., Salford Systems, Springer, U.S. Forest Service Research & Development, and University of Texas Center for Sustainable Development.

Finally, the success of the meeting can be attributed to the excellent planning, hard work, and commitment by the local conference organization team of Wendy Gordon, Timothy Keitt, and Kenneth Young, and student volunteers Sara Diamond, Paul Holloway, Emily Mixon, Molly Polk, Tania Peña-Baca, Collin Roland, Gautam Surya, Andrew Tilker and Xuebin Yang. We thank them all!



**A fossil (top) and karst cave (bottom) spotted at Balcones Canyonlands Preserve**

*Photos by Jamie Trammell*

***Is there something you'd like to see in the next newsletter?***

*Send your suggestions to [eminor@uic.edu](mailto:eminor@uic.edu)*

## ***Benefits of Membership***

Membership offers discounts to annual meetings and subscriptions to the journal *Landscape Ecology*.

Our annual meetings continue to expand and offer state-of-the-science access for meeting participants. We also have a very active student group who strives to engage the next generation of landscape ecologists. The [US-IALE website](#) and [FACEBOOK](#) are focal venues for students to keep in touch.

The bi-annual newsletter keeps you up to date with the organization's current happenings, new efforts in which the organization is engaged, and timely articles with a landscape ecology focus. The Newsletter will continue to expand to include important news for members as well as job announcements, meeting announcements, etc. As a member, if you have an article you would like to see in the Newsletter, contact the US-IALE Secretary.

Our website is a ready resource for landscape ecologists. Have you checked it out lately? We (the Executive Board) would like to encourage you to promote the organization and its resources to your colleagues, friends, and students.

This is a great organization—consider getting involved. Please contact one of the members of the Executive Board for more information.

Joining is easy. Check us out at:

[US-IALE Membership Information](#)

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## ***President's Message (cont.)***

*(Continued from page 1)*

Molly van Appledorn and Julie Ripplinger, and to the NASA-MSU program coordinator Jack Liu. Now, we are all looking forward to the 2014 Symposium in Anchorage (Alaska) – definitely not one to miss! And as a reminder for planning travel, the next two years will deviate from our traditional April dates – the Anchorage Symposium will be held in May of 2014, and in 2015 our Symposium is combined with the IALE World Congress to be held in Portland (Oregon) in July. Keeping in mind that Symposia have the largest impacts on our Chapter's financial status, I urge all members to attend and to support attendance by your students.

In the previous Newsletter, I attempted to harmonize earlier comments by Dean Urban and Jianguo Wu about the maturation of landscape ecology by distinguishing between the (mature) why and (adolescent) how states of the science. This begs a question of what to do. Those with academic training may need little convincing that improving the science, and then applying the best available science to a given situation, are exactly what needs to be done. But is there more on the to-do list? Consider, for example, what at least part of an ecologically-conscious larger society thinks about the utility of the "best available science." Paul Kingsnorth's deeply personal and anguished essay to answer his question of what to do now ("Dark Ecology," *Orion Magazine*, January/February 2013) concludes that when it comes to sustainability, which is at the core of our discipline, science-based solutions simply cannot be trusted. That may be an extreme position which offers little guidance to a science-based enterprise like ours, but for me there is an important underlying message which I offer as a third item for our to-do list: develop compassion for different perspectives, and humility for our own. What matters most is not that our science is complete or perfect, but rather that we are mindfully engaged in society. We should be optimistic that our contributions will be valued.

— Kurt Riitters  
US-IALE President

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Have a question for US-IALE? — contact any member of the Executive Committee

Join us on **FACEBOOK** for up-to-date information

<http://www.facebook.com/usiale>



# U.S. Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology

US-IALE's purpose is to

- foster landscape ecology in the United States
- provide a link among practitioners in landscape ecology within the United States as well as the international community
- promote interdisciplinary research and communication among scientists, planners, and other professionals concerned with landscape ecology

## *Who Would Benefit from US-IALE Membership?*

***Landscape Architects***  
***Land and Nature Managers***  
***Land Use Planners***  
***GIS Specialists***  
***Wildlife Biologists***

***Ecologists***  
***Conservation Biologists***  
***Biogeographers***  
***Spatial Statisticians***  
***Ecosystem Modelers***



*US IALE on the Web*



*IALE on the Web*