

US-IALE Newsletter

Summer 2015

**Summer 2015
Volume 30/2**

9th IALE World Congress

Portland, Oregon

July 5-10, 2015

Inside this issue:

- [9th IALE World Congress](#) 1
- [President's message](#)..... 1
- [Student news and Notes](#) 2
- [NASA-MSU Awards](#)..... 2
- [IALE Student Spotlight](#)... 3
- [Message from the Membership Liaison](#)..... 3
- [US-IALE Awards update](#)..... 4
- [Foreign scholar travel awards](#)..... 5
- [Benefits of membership](#)... 5
- [Treasurer's report](#)..... 6
- [Report from the ad-hoc Communications Committee](#)..... 6
- [2016 US-IALE meeting](#)..... 7
- [Current US-IALE officers](#)..... 13

The Local Hosts, Program Chair, IALE President, and US-IALE President would like to thank everyone for a very successful 2015 World Congress!

This was the ninth IALE World Congress, which occurs every four years and brings together a large international community to address problems that range from local to global in scale. Our theme was, "Crossing Scales, Crossing Borders: Global Ap-

proaches to Complex Challenges" and highlighted challenges and opportunities for understanding complex natural and social processes and the potential for effective stewardship in a rapidly changing world.

The World Congress connected ~900 attendees representing over 50 countries and was inclusive of the numerous disciplines within landscape ecology.

(Continued on page 9)



President's Message



Janet Franklin, US-IALE President

On behalf of US-IALE I recently signed a letter to the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation urging them to reauthorize a version of the America COMPETES Act that maintains The National Science Foundation's focus on fundamental discovery and supports its existing

merit review system with a proven track record for supporting high quality research. This letter was initiated by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and signed by its director and the leaders of 48 other scientific societies including the Ecological Society of America and US-IALE. I posted a link to a copy of the letter on our listserve.

It was a tremendous honor and responsibility for US-IALE to

(Continued on page 8)

Student News and Notes



Whalen Dillon (left) and Rose Graves (right), student representatives.

The 2015 IALE World Congress and US-IALE annual symposium brought together students, researchers, and professionals from around the world. A huge thanks to everyone who made the journey to join us in Portland, OR! We had 236 students attend this year's symposium. Of those, 127 were from the United States. Other students were from 28 countries representing every continent (except Antarctica). Ten students from the US received travel awards worth \$500 from US-IALE to help offset travel costs to the conference. A total of 37 people (students and early career researchers) received travel support from the NASA-MSU (17 people) and Foreign Scholar Award Programs (20 people).

As with previous years, students took part in several networking and professional activities sponsored and organized by US-IALE. The diversity of attendees provided students with the chance to share a wide-range of perspectives, and learn about research, careers, and opportunities from around the world. Student activities included a walking tour, student social, and student workshop as well as a student-mentor lunch and a social designed to encourage students to interact with



(Continued on page 12)



NASA-MSU Awards



The NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Awards are made possible by support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Michigan State University (MSU). The program has supported more than 360 students from approximately 140 institutions worldwide since 1998 to present their research and interact with leading scientists and other attendees at meetings of US-IALE and IALE.

This is the 18th consecutive year of the program. The 17 awardees had opportunities to meet at a special dinner gathering, learn the latest developments in landscape ecology, present their research, build professional networks with other conference attendees, and collaborate on telecoupling (<http://csis.msu.edu/telecoupling>).

The 2015 NASA-MSU Awards Committee consists of Jianguo (Jack) Liu (Chair), Garik Gutman (NASA), Jennifer Carducci (MSU), and Shuxin Li (MSU).

Oludunsin T Arodudu

Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

Robbi C Bishop-Taylor

University of New South Wales, Australia

Jodi S Brandt

Dartmouth College

Min Gon Chung

Michigan State University

Arjan de Bruijn

Purdue University

Jillian M Deines

Michigan State University

Joseph Drake

Texas Tech University

Florian Gollnow

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Amy B Mui

University of Toronto

Beatriz Otero Jimenez

University of Michigan

Jiangxiao Qiu

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Yessica Rico Mancebo del Castillo

Royal Ontario Museum

Jesse S Sayles

Arizona State University

Benjamin K Sullender

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Francesco Tonini

North Carolina State University

Alexander Watts

University of Toronto

Gabriel Zegers

Pontifical Catholic University of Chile

IALE Student Spotlight

Aurora Torres

Spanish Museum of Natural Ecology – Spanish Research Council
aurora.torres@mncn.csic.es



I graduated in Environmental Sciences at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM, Spain). I considered this degree because I always felt attracted by the connections between different disciplines but with a focus on environmental problems. My undergraduate thesis, which was developed at the Institute of Catalysis and Petrochemistry, was about the optimization of catalysts to remove phenol from wastewaters. But this last year I also became attracted by Ecology so during the summer I did a student internship at the Spanish Museum of Natural History (MNCN, Madrid), a research centre of the Spanish Research Council (CSIC). By the end of the internship, my current advisor proposed me to start a PhD in his research group. I then enrolled in a MSc in Ecology at UAM and few months later I received a Research and Teaching Grant from the Spanish Ministry of Education to pursue a PhD at the MNCN-CSIC.

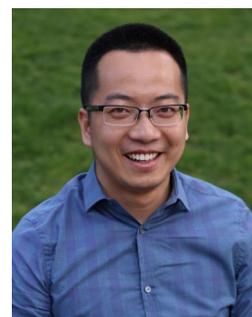
Tell us a bit about your current work.

I am preparing for thesis submission at the end of this year so I am in the middle of publishing

(Continued on page 11)

Jiangxiao Qiu

Ph.D. Student, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Zoology



I studied Geography for my undergraduate at the Northwest University in China where I was enthusiastic about maps, geographical space and remote sensing.

During my M.S. at the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, I focused on my interests in urban ecology, and integrated remote sensing and field surveys to examine consequences of urbanization for urban green space and plant communities in Beijing, China – one of the most rapidly growing cities worldwide. It was also the first time I was exposed to and soon became fascinated by landscape ecology. I wanted to explore more! So working with my PhD advisor, Monica Turner at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been a perfect fit. I am very grateful for this opportunity and enjoy investigating how to manage landscapes to sustain the supply of goods and services of ecosystems in the light of a changing climate.

(Continued on page 11)

Message from the Membership Liaison



Anita Morzillo, Membership Liaison

Matt Viehdorfer (USIALE “web guy”) and I continue to implement upgrades to provide better web-based recordkeeping and services for USIALE and its members. Members now have individual log-in ability to look up membership numbers, review membership payment history and status, and recall usernames and passwords. Members should also start to see automatic email reminders in early December about annual membership expirations and renewals. Current members can now post position and other announcements on the USIALE website.

Please take special note that starting in 2016 annual symposium, we will be tracking current memberships and registrations at the member-based rates. Those who register as members but do not have current memberships will be invoiced for the difference between member- and non-member conference rates. This change will help the society maintain the revenue expected 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 if you have questions.

—Anita Morzillo
US-IALE Membership Liaison

US-IALE 2015 Awards Update

Congratulations to the following Student Award winners from the 9th IALE World Congress in Portland, OR.

Best Student Presentation

The objective of the Best Student Presentation Award is to recognize the best presentation given by a student at the annual meeting. We had 29 student entries in Portland. Honorable mention recipients were **Jesse Miller** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) for his presentation "Encroachment of woody vegetation drives rapid state change in insular grasslands" and **Kathy Zeller** (University of Massachusetts-Amherst) for her presentation "Evaluating resistance surfaces for wildlife." The winner of the Best Student Presentation for the 2015 meeting was **Theraesa Coyle** (McGill University) for "Conserving God's Own Country: Biodiversity in Agroforestry Landscapes of Kerala, India."

The Awards Committee would like to offer special thanks to this year's judges who graciously donating their time to evaluate the talks and posters: Aaron Admack, Julia Arierira, Smriti Bhotika, Jennifer Costanza, Jennifer

Farmer, Janet Franklin, Amy Frazier, Christine Furst, Sara Gagne, Lilly Gama, Sarah Goslee, Amy Hahs, Karen Harper, Jeffrey Hepinstall-Cymerman, Anna Hersperger, Felix Herzog, Anouschka Hof, Charles Houghten, Luis Inostroza, Patrick James, Yangfan Li, David Lieske, George Malanson, Spencer Meyer, Emily Minor, Matthew Mitchell, Scott Mitchell, Melanie Murphy, G. Narayanaraj, Stephen Ndzeidze, Liz Nichols, Marta Perez Soba, Bronwen Powell, Breanna Powers, Abel Ramoelo, Jeanine Rhemtulla, Jessica Salo, Steven Seagle, Janet Silbernagel, Richard Sojda, Eric Treml, Mirela Tulbure, Kathleen Vigness-Raposa, Yolanda Wiersma, Louise Willemen, Kirsten Winters, Yaron Ziv.

Student Travel Awards

Ten Student Travel Awards were supported this year with funding provided by US-IALE and the Portland State Institute for Sustainable Solutions. These awards included up to \$500 for travel to the conference in Portland and were selected from an applicant pool of 41 students. The 2015 recipients were:

Michelle DiLeo, University of Toronto

Whalen Dillon, North Carolina State University

Brenna Forester, Duke University

Qiongyu Huang, University of Maryland, College Park

Karl Jarvis, Northern Arizona University

Jesse Miller, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Naparut Suttidate, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sophie Taddeo, University of California, Berkeley

Kathy Zeller, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Emily Zimmerman, Iowa State University

---The 2015 US-IALE Awards Committee: Todd Lookingbill (Chair), Pete August, Jeff Hollister, Betty Kreakie, Steven Walters, & Jingle Wu

Further information about each award and a complete list of past award recipients can be found at <http://www.usiale.org/awards>



Foreign Scholar Travel Award Update

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 20 travel awards. The 2015 recipients of the USIALE Foreign Scholar Travel Awards (FSTA) were:

Olumuyiwa Bayode Adegun, Nigeria;

Presentation: Informal Settlement Intervention: How Does It Impact Urban Ecosystem Services and Disservices?

Andrzej Affek, Poland; Presentation: Cultural heritage recorded in the relief of the landscape abandoned by people - old shapes, new functions' Usage patterns of provisioning and cultural ecosystem services

Luis Antonio Arias Medellín, Mexico;

Presentation: Demographic analysis of *Agave angustifolia* (Agavaceae) with an emphasis on ecological restoration

Oludunsin Arodudu, Nigeria; Presentation:

Applying HANPP for sustainability assessment of agro-bioenergy ecosystem services

Yazidhi Bamutaze, Uganda; Presentation:

Dynamics of soil erosion under varied landuse/cover in Rwizi catchment, Lake Victoria Basin: Implications on landscape and livelihood resilience; Magnitude and spatial structure of hillslope soil erosion on Mt. Elgon in Uganda

Cheng Li, China; Presentation: The impact of landscape heterogeneity on heavy metal contamination in agricultural top soils at multiple scales in the Pearl River Delta, China

Yuri Arten Forte, Brazil; Presentation: Balancing supply and demand for ecosystem services provisioning of tropical forest patches in agricultural landscape

Constantina Alina Hossu, Romania; Presentation: Landscapes historical persistence and stakeholders' perspective over traditional land-uses. The case of Romania's Carpathians

Navneet Kumar, India; Presentation: Land-use Change Analysis and its Impact on Water Resources of Upper Kharun Catchment, India

Yupeng Liu, China; Presentation: Characterizing spatial patterns of air pollution on multiple time scales in China

Zhifeng Liu, China; Presentation: Relationships between habitat loss and habitat fragmentation during urbanization: A long-term analysis for 16 world

Karla Estela Locher Krause, Chile; Presentation: Spatial and temporal interaction of ecosystem services in the south of Chile

Damasa Macandog, Philippines; Presentation: Land Use Change and its Impacts on Biodiversity, Agricultural Productivity and Water Balance in the Sta.Rosa-Silang sub-watershed, Philippines

Andreea Niță, Romania; Presentation: Applied conservation planning within a Romanian Natura 2000 wetland - lessons from a LIFE Nature project; Lifestyle Causes of Suburban Growth and Consequences on Landscape Function

(Continued on page 10)

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 and all members 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 Committee for more information.

Joining is easy. Check us out at:

[US-IALE Membership Information](#)

Join us on FACEBOOK for up-to-date information

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

Treasurer's Report



Todd Hawbaker

I am happy to provide our Winter 2015 Treasurer's Report. Since this time last year, our finances have improved. As of January 26, 2015, our net worth is \$161,350 compared to \$92,840 in January 2014. Membership dues were our primary source of income in 2014 (\$13,205); interest payments (\$470) and donations (\$315) provided some additional revenue. While membership dues covered a large proportion of major expenses (IALE dues, travel awards, operating expenses, internet hosting and webmaster), major expenses exceeded income by about \$1,500.

Fortunately, the 2014 annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska was a success and resulted in \$10,900 in net income. US-IALE awarded \$8,600 for travel to the meeting (Student Travel Award: \$5,000; Foreign Scholar Travel Award (FSTA): \$3,600). In addition, \$450 was awarded for stu-

dent presentations. The FSTA awards were offset by a grant to our chapter from IALE (\$2,800), as well as the FSTA book sale (\$610).

For 2015, I expect US-IALE will do well financially. IALE has provided US-IALE with an extremely generous gift of €20,000 to support Foreign Scholar Travel Awards and an additional €20,000 loan to help with conference expenses. High attendance is expected for the 2015 IALE World Congress. So, it seems likely that US-IALE will be able to repay the €20,000 loan to IALE and recoup some of the revenue lost in recent years. Additional details of the 2015 budget will be reported at the meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

—Todd Hawbaker
US-IALE Treasurer

Report from the Ad-hoc Communications Committee

The bylaw amendment to establish a permanent Communications Committee for US-IALE has been approved by the membership. Of 45 members who voted, 44 voted in favor of the amendment. Please contact Sara Gagné at sgagne@uncc.edu if you would like to participate in this new committee or if you have communications-related suggestions for the Society.

—Sara Gagné, Councillor-at-Large

ARTICLE 24. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The aim of this Committee is to coordinate and facilitate the communication of US-IALE activities and to promote an understanding of and appreciation for landscape ecology. The Committee serves a diverse audience that includes its current and future members, the broader academic community, educators, policy- and decision-makers, business and industry, and the general public. The Committee is responsible for the communication of all aspects of US-IALE business and activities and as such will work closely with the other committees and positions of the society, particularly the Secretary, the Webmaster, the Membership Liaison, the Student Representatives, the Sponsorship Committee, the Awards Committee, and the Policy Committee. With the approval of the Executive Committee, the US-IALE President will appoint a Communications Committee Chair and 3-5 additional members. Committee members will serve staggered 3-year terms, with one or two **new** members appointed each year.

Save the Date
2016 US-IALE Meeting
April 2 – April 8, 2016
Asheville, North Carolina

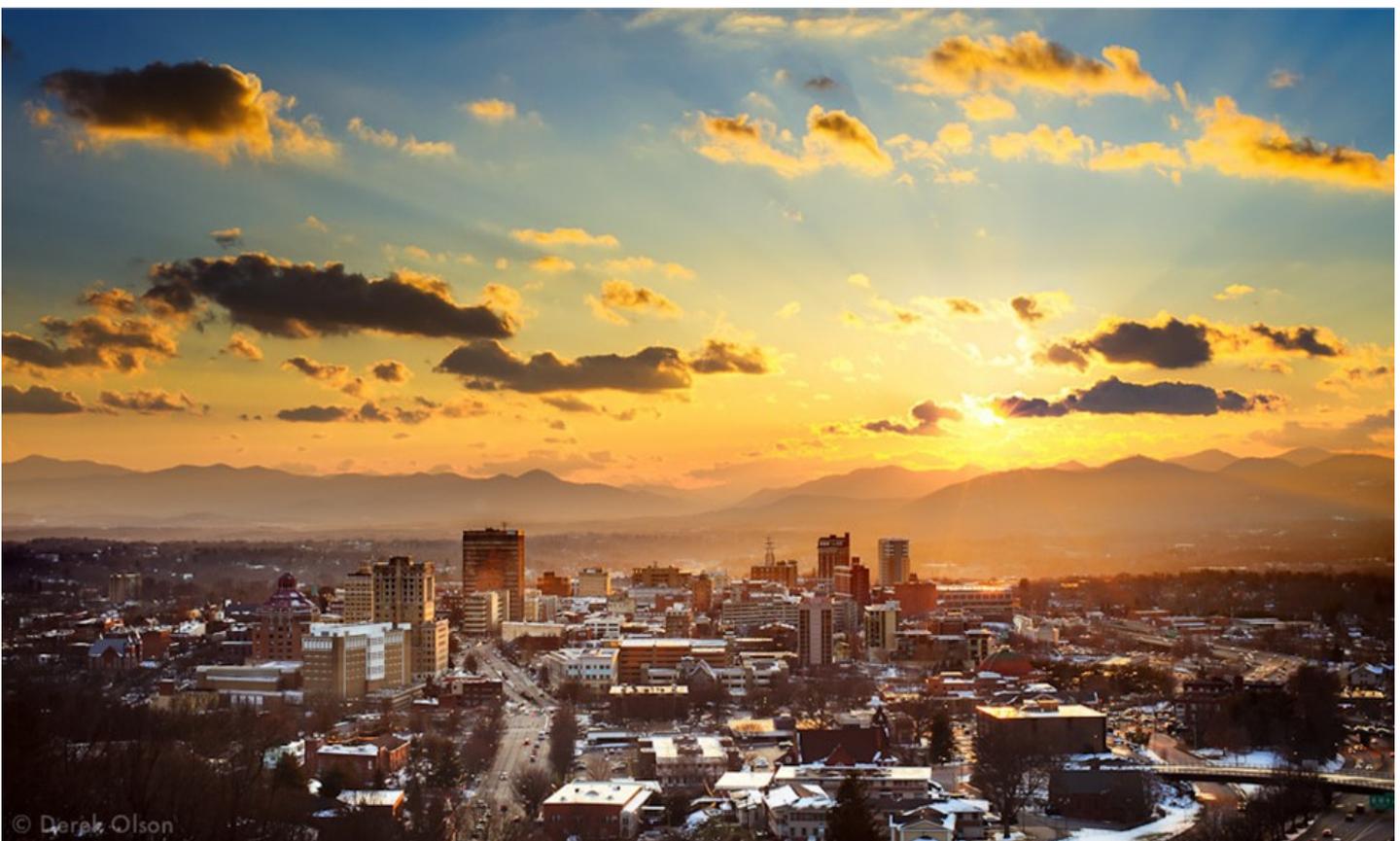
Following the 2014 US-IALE meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, and the 9th IALE World Congress in 2015 in Portland, Oregon, the Eastern Forest Threat Center (POC Bill Hargrove, hnw@geobabble.org) will host the 2016 US-IALE meeting in **Asheville, North Carolina**.

Asheville has many attractive features, both cultural and natural, and is a popular vacation and retirement destination. The area is one of the most biologically diverse and natural regions in the eastern United States. Yet attendees can also enjoy many fine restaurants and bars, serving the finest foods, along with world-class, locally-made craft beers and wines. Asheville architecture ranges from Victorian to Arts and Crafts, from Art Deco to Modern design, and Asheville is still endearingly called the "Paris of the South." Famous examples include George Washington Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate, the largest private home in the United States, and the Grove Park Inn. The creative energy of a progressive social climate and an active arts community, centered in the River Arts District, advises visitors to "Keep Asheville Weird."

Theme: The theme of the meeting will simply be "Landscape Change." With this simple zen-like theme, we strive to capture the defining characteristic and the inherent nature of our modern world in the anthropocene epoch.

Abstracts are being accepted through **December 15, 2015**. See <http://usiale.org/asheville2016/> for details.

Also, be sure to SAVE THE DATE for the 2017 **US-IALE meeting in Baltimore, MD, 8-14 April 2017**



President's Message (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

have hosted the IALE World Congress in Portland, OR (July 5-10, 2015). I could not be more proud of the local organizers (Rob Scheller and Vivek Shandas, Portland State University, and Anita Morzillo, University of Connecticut) and our entire Chapter. The meeting was a huge success in every way, and you will read about that in other articles on this newsletter. I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting with its strong international attendance, high quality and diverse talks, lively poster sessions, many opportunities for socializing, and fantastic field trips. We definitely "crossed borders" (a meeting theme) as a community of scholars and practitioners. We maintained and even expanded our US-IALE chapter tradition of running a meeting that is supportive and inclusive of students and early-career scholars.

Some of the highlights of the World Congress for me were: the symposium on spatial scale in ecology in honor of John A. Wiens (with his **"A Bucket List for Landscape Ecology"** talk at the banquet as the perfect capstone); enjoying talks on topics outside my familiar research "comfort zone" (like biodiversity in agricultural landscapes) given by landscape ecologists from other countries; the half day field trip "Exploring the Intertwine" where we saw innovative riparian and wetland restoration projects around urban Portland; the Friday field trip to Mt St Helen's led by two scientists who have been studying that landscape ever since the 1980 volcanic eruption; and, of course, having hundreds of people sing Happy Birthday to me at the awards banquet! I helped to co-organize a session held on the very last day of the talks that was nonetheless well attended by an enthusiastic audience who stayed until the very end of the day for our discussion. I have to single out these few memories because the whole program was excellent.

The Policy committee, chaired by Audrey Meyer, led the effort this year to write a 'State of the Science' report on behalf of our Chapter, now under review at *BioScience*. It focuses on landscape ecology's current emphasis on policy-relevant research in three areas identified by our members: a) land use/land cover change (LULCC), b) urbanization as a specific form of LULCC, and b) climate change impact assessment and adaptation. I hope that when the report is published you all will find it useful for your students as well as for communicating to your supervisors, Deans, donors, etc., what landscape ecologists do and why it matters.

We have now amended our bylaws to make the Communications Committee a standing com-

mittee, so thank you for voting. The goal is to improve communication of our chapter goals by enhancing content of the web site, and by greater use of social media and other outlets. Please share your ideas or volunteer to help – the committee Chair is Sara Gagne.

There are two new features for members on our web site – not only can you post position (job) announcements yourself, now you can also add links for teaching resources. Another benefit of membership! See the instructions on the Home Page under Latest News. There is a simple form and you cut and paste your content into it.

Hopefully everyone has heard by now that our 2016 US-IALE annual chapter meeting will be in beautiful Asheville, NC, with the local organizing committee enthusiastically led by Bill Hargrove (USDA Forest Service). We will be back to our "regular" schedule with an early April meeting (3-7 April, 2016), meaning that preparations for that meeting are well underway, even though some of us are barely recovered from all the fun we had in Portland! Submit a symposium proposal for Asheville! We also have a site selected for our 2017 meeting – Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The 2017 local organizing committee is lead by Matthew Baker, Chair, and Todd Lookingill Program Committee Chair, and will take place the second week of April 8-14. We have some strong possibilities identified for 2018, but we are always interested in proposals from enthusiastic local hosts! If you are interested in organizing a future meeting, please contact the Chair of the Site Selection Committee, Helene Wagner.

Get involved! If you have ideas about how US-IALE could better serve its members, or would like to serve on one of our standing committees (members login to the usiale.org website and look under Membership for a list), please let me know (president@usiale.org).

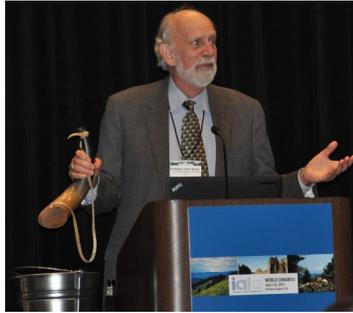
I want to close by again acknowledging our parent organization IALE (lead by Past President Felix Keinast, newly elected President Christine Fürst and General Secretary Tom Edwards), the local committee, and our meeting planners, Delaney Meeting and Events Management, for their great success in sponsoring, organizing and hosting such a large and complex meeting and providing us with a rich program and broad international participation at the 2015 IALE World Congress.

Janet Franklin, President US-IALE (2014-2016)

9th IALE World Congress (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Highlights included:



- More than 90 symposium, contributed oral sessions, and poster sessions
- Three plenaries and a keynote provided by leaders in landscape ecology
- Over a dozen workshops for in-depth training and discussion
- Over a dozen field trips highlighting Portland and the Pacific Northwest.
- Over \$30,000 was made available for travel support for young scientists, continuing our long tradition of mentoring and building the future of

landscape ecology
 The Storyteller event sponsored by Springer
 Numerous student events including the sponsored student social, student and mentor lunch, "we'll pick up the tab" social, and others

Surveys indicate that this was the first IALE meeting for 57% of professionals and 95% of the students in attendance – a great introduction to us and our society! 48% of attendees were attending from outside the US. For all professionals and students, 92.5% and 96.6%, respectively, thought the meeting met or exceeded their expectations.

Financially, the conference was profitable for both IALE and the US-IALE regional chapter (the local host institution). These proceeds will be used to support travel support and young scholars to future conferences and to support local chapter needs, particularly within emerging economies.

Thank you everyone for your attendance and support!

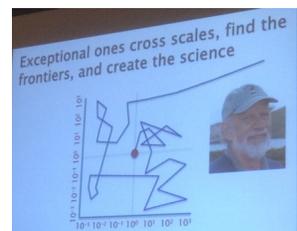
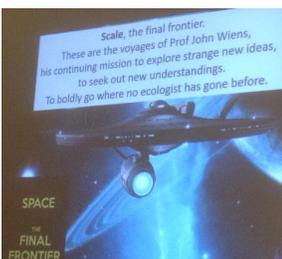
Anita Morzillo, Local Host
 Robert Scheller, Program Chair
 Vivek Shandas, Local Host
 Janet Franklin, US-IALE President
 Felix Kienast, Past IALE President



9th IALE World Congress Highlight



A full-day symposium ("Spatial Scaling in Ecology") was held to honor the enormous influence that Dr. John A. Wiens has had on landscape ecology in theory and practice. Organized by Helene Wagner, Nancy McIntyre, and Jack Liu, this symposium featured 18 presentations from a broad range of scientists who were influenced by Dr. Wiens' ideas on the importance of scale in the conservation and management of landscapes. All of the presentations reflected on some aspect of Dr. Wiens' work in restoration ecology, community ecology, arid-land ecology, or avian ecology in addition to his focus on the interrelationships of pattern and process.



Foreign Scholar Travel Award Update (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

Agnieszka Nowak, Poland; Presentation: Relationship between environmental properties, land use and the resilience to landscape degradation in Malopolska Region (Poland)

Katarzyna Anna Ostapowicz, Poland; Presentation: Implication of future land cover change on the brown bear habitat suitability in the northern part of the Carpathians; Modelling future forest cover change in the Swiss Alps and the Polish Carpathians: drivers and implications

Xi Pang, Sweden; Presentation: Trade-offs and synergies among ecosystem services and biodiversity under different forest management scenarios - case study of a forest landscape in southern Sweden

Paula Ribeiro Prist, Brazil; Presentation: Landscape, environmental and social predictors of Hanta-virus risk in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Aurora Torres, Spain; Presentation: Wildlife in a human-dominated world: no places left unaffected from infrastructural development?; Prevalent multi-scale mismatch between urban sprawl and landscape fragmentation patterns creates windows of opportunity for conservation

Mohammad Belal Uddin, Bangladesh; Presentation: An Ecological Effectiveness of Different Forest Management Regimes in an Anthropogenic Landscape in Bangladesh-Implications for Conservation

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 Clark Labs software , Books from Springer Publishing, Island Press, John Hopkins University Press, Sinauer Associates, as well as from several conference attendees

We are incredibly excited for the US-IALE meeting in North Carolina next spring. If you would like more information on the FSTA program, please email Kathy at kathy.vigness.raposa@gmail.com.

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



Are you interested in becoming a student representative for US-IALE?

We are seeking nominees for the student representative position for 2015–2017. Student representatives are voting members and the voice of the student membership on the US-IALE Executive Committee. Being a member of the executive committee allows you to meet many professionals in your field and gives you insights into how a national scientific organization functions. The student representatives also coordinate the student activities at the annual meetings and prepare articles and announcements for the US-IALE Newsletter. Each student representative serves a two-year term, with one position replaced each year to ensure continuity. If you want to get involved or have questions, contact us!

Whalen Dillon — wwdillon@ncsu.edu

Rose

IALE Student Spotlight (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

the results from my PhD thesis and beginning new projects with new collaborators/institutions.

My PhD thesis focuses on three main components: (1) Understanding the theoretical and empirical relationships between drivers of environmental change, particularly landscape fragmentation and urban sprawl, at multiple spatial scales; (2) investigating the effects of land-use intensification, expanding transport networks, and urban development during the last 50 years on landscapes and wildlife; and (3) assessing the pervasiveness of human structures (mainly roads and built-up areas) and modelling their area of influence for birds and mammal populations.

Since the International IALE Congress, I am also coordinating and leading an international working group that focuses on applying the telecoupling framework to address the problem of limiting resources with a special focus on sand scarcity. In addition, I am collaborating in the definition of a new conservation area for an endangered pupfish (*Aphanius iberus*) in southeast Spain.

How did you become interested in landscape ecology?

In the second year of my degree I participated in a summer seminar with landscape specialists from Spain and France. I became interested in the integrative character of the landscape perspective, as well as in its implications for land-use planning. A few years later, I began to apply this knowledge when I evaluated how the construction of a highway affected a population of great bustards (*Otis tarda*) in central Spain for my MSc thesis.

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

Since I began to work in Ecology the landscape perspective has been present at all times. Sometimes more actively, for example in the selection of metrics and the quantification of spatial patterns of urban sprawl and landscape fragmentation in Spain at multiple scales. Also, I have a sample of agricultural landscapes in mainland Spain for which I am analysing how the recent changes (1956-2009) in agricultural intensification, landscape fragmentation and urban sprawl has modified landscapes and the composition of the bird community. Other times more contextually, by helping me to draw the implications of my results at larger scale.

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

There are several challenging issues converging in

(Continued on page 14)

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How did you become interested in landscape ecology?

It was not until working on my master thesis that I was first introduced to landscape ecology. The main goal of my thesis was to understand what social and economic factors caused temporal changes of urban green space patterns (e.g., composition, fragmentation, location), and their consequences for plant communities. I discovered that the ideas and approaches in landscape ecology would be ideal for addressing these questions. So I read many papers in this field and also the *Landscape Ecology in Theory and Practices* book, which have been tremendously helpful. Landscape ecology then became the major thread in my master work, though it was only with my current PhD studies that I received more systematic training and started exploring greater depths in the area of landscape ecology.

Tell us a bit about your current work & how landscape ecology fits into your research.

For my PhD research, I seek to understand how global change drivers such as climate and land-use change affect the sustainability of freshwater resources and other critical ecosystem services in an urbanizing agricultural landscape in the Midwest, USA. My research primarily lies at the interface of landscape ecology and ecosystem services. Specifically, I am investigating spatial patterns of ecosystem services and their spatial interactions (i.e., tradeoffs and synergies), testing for effects of thresholds and landscape pattern on hydrologic services, examining spatial overlap between water policies and hydrologic services, and analyzing the extent to which the provision of ecosystem services will be altered in the future given alternative trajectories of climate and land-use changes. My hope is that this work will generate basic and applied scientific knowledge to guide conservation and management decisions to sustain the supply of ecosystem services in a global change context.

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

Looking ahead, it is exciting to think about new research directions and the many ways in which landscape ecology will contribute to the future. I look forward to seeing expansions in the following directions relevant to my field of research. The first one is landscape sustainability. Land-

(Continued on page 14)

Student News (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

landscape professionals.

Student Representatives Karl Jarvis and Whalen Dillon started off the conference leading a walk along the Willamette River. The **Walk on the Waterfront** event was a chance to chat with fellow students and check out the sights and sounds of Portland. This informal pre-conference activity started last year based on student input from previous years. Your feedback from this year's conference and online survey will help us make the most out of the 2016 conference in Asheville, NC. If you have any suggestions, please let us know!

Our student-professional mixer, the **"We'll Pick up the Tab" Social**, provided an informal networking opportunity for students and landscape professionals. Professionals purchased drink tickets for students, which we randomly distributed to all the students at the social. To redeem the drink tickets, we asked students to find the professional who purchased their ticket and introduce themselves. Since initiated in 2009, this has been a popular event for helping students and professionals get to know each other. In fact, this year the Ecological Society of America (ESA) incorporated a similar event for early career ecologists modeled after US-IALE's tradition. Thanks to the professionals who purchased tickets and the students who participated!

The **Student Workshop** offered in Portland gave students hands-on experience **Using R to Model, Manipulate, and Manage Spatial Data**. Proficiency with R, the open-source statistical software, is rapidly becoming an expected skillset. In the free half-day workshop, we learned how to import and edit spatial datasets, change and understand spatial projection and extent, and created maps. Tom Edwards, Karl Jarvis, Whalen Dillon, Jill Deines, and Francesco Tonini lead us through the steps with a sample dataset and provided code to work with on our own. Resources from the workshop, including R code, are available on GitHub (<https://github.com/f-tonini/Intro-Spatial-R>) and a link will be archived on the US-IALE website under [Student Resources](#). *Let us know what workshop topics you would like to see in the future!*

If you signed up for the **Student Presentation Feedback Program**, you should have received constructive critiques of your poster or oral presen-

tation. This feedback program offers students an opportunity to improve their research and presentations without the pressure of competing for a presentation award. We'd like to give a big *thank you* to everyone who provided critiques for the students!

We would also like to extend a **huge thank you to Karl Jarvis, our outgoing student representative**. He has provided great leadership and helped to organize great experiences for his fellow IALE students. This year, we also elected the **new student representative for 2015-2017, Rose Graves**. Rose is currently pursuing a PhD in the Department of Zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We are soliciting nominees for the next student representative (2016-2018) to be elected next year. If you or a student you know may be interested nominee statements can be submitted to Rose and/or Whalen for inclusion on the ballot. Contact us if you have any questions.

We hope that you will join us next year April 2-8, 2016 in Asheville, NC. We will send reminder emails as the date approaches, including the US-IALE travel awards and other student opportunities. Keep up to date with US-IALE on [Facebook](#) and share your news too!



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

Your US-IALE student representatives,

Rose Graves (2015-2017)

ragraves <at> wisc.edu

Whalen Dillon (2014-2016)

wwdillon <at> ncsu.edu

Current US-IALE Officers

Janet Franklin

President, 2014-2016

School of Geographical Sciences and
Urban Planning
Arizona State University
975 S. Myrtle Ave. / P.O. Box
875302
Tempe AZ 85287-5302
janet.franklin@asu.edu

Ross Meentemeyer

President-elect, 2015-2016

North Carolina State University
2820 Faucette Drive
Campus Box 8001
Raleigh, NC 27695
rkmeente@ncsu.edu

Jeff Hepinstall-Cymerman

Secretary, 2015-2017

Warnell School of Forestry & Natural
Resources
180 E. Green St
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-2152
jhepinst@uga.edu

Todd Hawbaker

Treasurer, 2014-16

U.S. Geological Survey
Geosciences and Environmental
Change Science Center
PO Box 25046, DFC, MS 980
Lakewood, CO 80225
tjhawbaker@usgs.gov

Whalen Dillon

Student Representative, 2014-2016

Department of Forestry & Environ-
mental Resources
3120 Jordan Hall, Campus Box 8008
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC
wwdillon@ncsu.edu

Rose Graves

Student Representative, 2015-2017

Department of Zoology
430 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53703
ragraves@wisc.edu

Helene Wagner

Councillor-at-Large, 2014-2016

Department of Biology
University of Toronto at Mississauga
3359 Mississauga Road
William G. Davis Building, Rm 3056
Mississauga, ON L5L 1C6
Canada
helene.wagner@utoronto.ca

Yolanda Wiersma

Councillor-at-Large, 2014-2016

Department of Biology
Memorial University
St. John's, NL, Canada
ywiersma@mun.ca

Jen Fraterrigo

Councillor-at-Large, 2015-2017

Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL 61801
jmf@illinois.edu

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



We wish to thank outgoing officers Sara Gagné, Karl Jarvis, Emily Minor for their service on the Executive Committee

IALE Student Spotlight (cont. 2)

the coming years: the growth in human population, the growth in consumption, and environmental changes. These will increase the pressure on the natural environment and will make things very difficult, especially through increasing competition for land. I think the urgency of the global challenge is undeniable. Therefore, I would like to see landscape ecologists (and I would like to be one of them): 1) presenting scientifically-based evidence to make people become aware of how dependent they are from natural ecosystems. 2) Adopting an integrated view of their study systems, because the environmental pressures are increasingly interconnected and affected by what happens at distant places. 3) Suggesting better ways of planning, designing and monitoring to make a more responsible and efficient use of the land, and then of our landscapes.

scape ecology is well positioned to help understand the provision of ecosystems services from local to regional scales, and how we can manage landscapes to enhance the resilience of ecosystem services and sustain human wellbeing in the face of global environmental changes. Second, landscape ecology shows great promise for bridging natural and social sciences; in particular, emerging research applies the concepts and approaches from landscape ecology to unravel complex patterns, processes and feedbacks in social-ecological systems.

Jiangxiao Qiu was a 2015 recipient of the NASA-MSU Professional Enhancement Award and is currently a PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His dissertation, advised by Dr. Monica Turner, focuses on the landscape

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

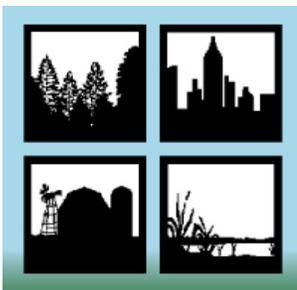
US-IALE's purpose is to:

- **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](#)

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

Send your suggestions to jhepinst@uga.edu

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