History

• Started in 1998

• Annual meeting of US-IALE (US Regional Association of International Association for Landscape Ecology)

• Michigan State University (MSU)

• NASA support (LCLUC)
  - Anthony Janetos (1998)
  - Jon Ranson (1999)
  - Garik Gutman (2000-present)
Landscape Ecology

• An interdisciplinary field focusing on landscape pattern, process, and dynamics

- Land cover and land use change
- Ecosystem services
- Climate change
- Biodiversity
- Human well-being
- Integration of natural and social sciences
Themes of Recent US-IALE Meetings

• 2011: Sustainability in Dynamic Landscapes
• 2010: Is What Humans Do Natural?
• 2009: Coupling Humans and Complex Ecological Landscapes
Criteria for Awardee Selection

• Abstracts:
  - Significance of the issue(s)
  - Innovation and soundness of methods
  - Novelty of results
  - Clarity of the writing

• Professional backgrounds and goals:
  - Publications (number and quality)
  - Awards and honors
  - Leadership positions/experience
  - Career plans

• Financial needs:
  - Travel cost
  - Accommodation cost
Activities
Listen to Leading Scientists
Listen to Garik Gutman: NASA’s Funding Opportunities

2000

2004

2006
Give Presentations
Organize and Attend Symposia

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

- Job hunting experiences of recent graduates
- Constructing and teaching a great Landscape Ecology course
- Applying for fellowships and grants: Tips from the pros
- Interviewing for landscape ecology jobs
- Building collaborative research with landscape ecology
- Grant-writing: Tips from experienced researchers
Dinner with Leading Scientists
Recognition
Impacts
Awardees (1998-2011)

- Number of awardees: 290
- Number of institutions: 114
- Number of countries: 15
Global Distribution of Awardees
Awardees in 47 States of USA
Best Presentation Awards at US-IALE Meetings

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

• Former awardees serving as Board Members of US-IALE (since 2002): 7 out of 12

• Student Representatives on US-IALE Board since 1998: 10 out of 14

• For 2011 annual meeting
  ➢ Program Chair: Rebecca Kennedy
  ➢ Local Hosts: Robert Scheller and Anita Morzillo
From NASA-MSU Awardees to Active Researchers and Educators

- Many former awardees are in faculty positions (e.g., Lisa Schulte)
- Second generation of awardees (e.g., Andrew Rayburn)
From NASA-MSU Awardees to NASA Project PIs

- Kirsten de Beurs
  (University of Oklahoma)

- Anna Pidgeon
  (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
Productive Collaboration
Books

Editors:
• Ashton Drew
• Yolanda Wiersma
• Falk Huettmann
Papers


Most downloaded paper in 2008
Inspiration for Establishing Other Similar Programs
USDA-NIFA
Professional Enhancement Awards Program
CHANS Fellows Program

Acknowledgments

• NASA
  ➢ Tony Janetos
  ➢ Jon Ranson
  ➢ Garik Gutman

• US-IALE
  ➢ Officials
  ➢ Organizers

• MSU
  ➢ Sue Faivor
  ➢ Betty Fancher
  ➢ Brad Harris
  ➢ Shuxin Li
  ➢ Anita Morzillo

• Leading Scientists
Awardees’ Comments

• “The NASA-MSU award was a huge springboard for my professional career and continued involvement with US-IALE.”

• “Motivated me to put extra work into my presentation (for which I won best student presentation award).”

• “I really enjoyed meeting peers from other universities, and also having the chance to talk to prominent ecologists. I normally wouldn't have had a chance to meet them or have enough courage to speak to the big name ecologists.”

• “Being invited to the dinner as former awardee every year is hidden but very important part of the award for continuing networking, being a member of the big "family" and introducing my own students.”

• “I hope it continues indefinitely!”