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Murray F. Buell Award  
Cynthia Hays  
University of California, Santa Cruz

**Murray F. Buell** ascribed great importance to the participation of students at meetings and to excellence in the presentation of papers. To honor his dedication to the Ecological Society of America and to the younger generation of ecologists, this award is presented to a student for the outstanding oral paper presented at the Society's annual meeting.

The winner of the Murray F. Buell award in 2004 is Cynthia Hays for her paper "Ecological consequences of gene flow in an intertidal alga," which is based on her doctoral research at the University of California, Santa Cruz under the supervision of Ingrid Parker and Pete Raimondi. The Buell judges noted that in her outstanding presentation, Cynthia addressed ecological and evolutionary aspects of gene flow and local adaptation to a strong environmental gradient using an intertidal alga as a model system. Cynthia linked her research appropriately to theory, developed novel methodologies to address the idiosyncrasies of performing mating and transplant manipulations on an alga, and addressed complicated questions thoroughly in a data-rich presentation. Cynthia clearly explained her work, which included a series of well-designed experiments all designed to get at the question of whether there could be local adaptation to tidal height in her system. Cynthia was able to show strong evidence of local adaptation (e.g. significant interactions between "home" and "outplant" height for adults and embryos), and heritable differences in embryo desiccation resistance, at some sites but not others. Cynthia received her M.S. from Florida State University in 1998, and her B.S. from Duke University in 1992.



Cynthia Hays

The Buell-Braun Award Selection Committee also selected three students for Honorable Mention for the Buell Award. This recognition was given to: Jennifer Lau of the University of California-Davis for her paper, "What happens to native communities when exotic plants and their enemies invade together?", to Jason S. McLachlan of Duke University for his paper co-authored by J. S. Clark and P. S. Manos entitled, "The importance of small populations in the postglacial dynamics of eastern forests" and to Louie H. Yang of the University of California-Davis for his paper, "Do resource pulses link aboveground and belowground communities? Some evidence from 17-year periodical cicadas."