



The Ecological Society of America's
Focus on Ecologists Project Presents:

2015 Eminent Ecologist Award

Professor Eric Pianka



The Eminent Ecologist Award is given to a senior ecologist in recognition of an outstanding body of ecological work or of sustained ecological contributions of extraordinary merit. Nominees may be from any country and need not be ESA members.

Eric Pianka, Denton A. Cooley Centennial Professor of Zoology at the University of Texas, Austin, has contributed substantially to the development of seminal ideas across many arenas of ecology. His published contributions have included a number of "Citation Classics." His contributions to ecology also include his studies of lizard communities across different continents. He was an early and influential contributor to evolutionary ecology, including the development of ideas about life history theory, species diversity, optimal foraging theory and competition. Many of these ideas informed his widely used textbook, *Evolutionary Ecology*, which influenced entire generations of students and championed an evolutionary perspective on ecological patterns and processes.