
heart is, and how hard he works for us all in the public arena, and in the halls of academia. Paul Ehrlich has perhaps done more for the discipline than anyone else, working often behind closed doors and without expectation of recognition. It is fitting, however, for the ESA to give him that recognition, long overdue.

Eminent Ecologist Award Subcommittee: Deborah Goldberg (Chair), Robert Holt, Pamela Matson, Bruce Menge, Judy Meyer, Steven Pacala

EUGENE P. ODUM AWARD



James H. Brown

The Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education is the newest award of the Ecological Society of America, recognizing an ecologist for outstanding work in education. This award draws the attention of the discipline to the education-related work of colleagues who, through teaching, outreach, and mentoring activities, relate basic ecological principles to human affairs.

The winner for 2001 is James H. Brown, Regents Professor of Biology at the University of New Mexico. Jim has a distinguished record of achieve-

ment in ecological research, particularly in community ecology and biogeography, but his excellence in mentoring young ecologists is truly outstanding. He has successfully guided more than 40 students to their doctoral degrees and worked with over 14 postdoctoral associates. Many of these former associates are themselves now well-known ecologists. Jim encourages his students in many career options, however, and his students have become employed as ecological consultants, science writers, and ecologists for conservation organizations. Former and current students (both graduate and undergraduate) expressed their tremendous respect and appreciation for the guidance and inspiration that he has provided. He expects his students to be motivated and independent, and he treats them as peers from the very beginning, with obvious courtesy and respect.

Jim Brown is strongly motivated by wanting to know how nature works. His students comment on his keen desire to know the truth, even if his ideas are proven wrong in the end. He encourages and inspires students to cultivate their own curiosity. His down-to-earth attitude and ability to be genuinely excited about his work and his students' achievements provides tremendous motivation to his students. He is able to provide a unique balance of independence and support for his students' research.

Ecology also has always been a collaborative enterprise for him, and Jim has encouraged his students to be effective collaborators. He leads by example, always willing to share ideas and data, and believing strongly that open sharing is the only way for science truly to progress. Students commented that they learned that a productive laboratory does not have to be a contentious or competitive one.

Jim Brown has devoted considerable time and effort to producing books that are essential in the training of young ecologists. He co-edited a volume of key papers that were especially influential in the develop-

ment of contemporary ecology (Real and Brown 1991), and this text has itself become a foundation of undergraduate and graduate education in ecology, providing many a student with an entrée into an important body of literature. The profits from the *Foundations* volume are donated to an Ecological Society of America fund that supports graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. Jim also co-authored a text on biogeography (initially Brown and Gibson 1983, most recently Brown and Lomolino 1998), which some consider the best reference available on this topic. Brown also coedited a volume on the biology of the Heteromyidae (Genoways and Brown 1993). These volumes fall within the traditional realm of academic publishing, yet their influence has been far-reaching. Such choices also require a commitment to education from the authors and editors.

Jim Brown is clearly a very gifted and effective educator of the next generation of ecologists; the sincere testimonials from his former and current students were compelling. It is with pleasure that ESA honors him as the second recipient of the Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education.

Literature cited

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Odum Education Award Subcommittee: Monica Turner (Chair), Gary Barrett, Richard Bowden, Carol Brewer, V. L. Holland, Janet Lanza, James MacMahon, Linda Wallace