
Distinguished Service Citation

Jim Reichman, Ph.D.

National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

The **Distinguished Service Citation** is given annually to recognize long and distinguished service to the Ecological Society of America, to the larger scientific community, and to the larger purpose of ecology in the public welfare.

This year we are pleased to have selected Jim Reichman for the 2004 Distinguished Service Citation. Over his career, Jim has contributed to the ESA and the discipline of ecology in many ways; he has served on a variety of committees and boards and is currently Chair of the Publications Committee and an Editor for Ecological Applications. In the early 1990's he served as a Program Director at the NSF and a few years later took a courageous step out of the comfort zone of a successful academic life to become the Asst Director of the 'fledgling' National Biological Survey. However his greatest professional accomplishment has been his leadership role as Director of the *National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis* (NCEAS). Jim assumed the directorship of NCEAS shortly after it was established and was instrumental in getting establishing the initial vision for NCEAS, and its present role and prominence reflects Jim efforts, imagination and leadership.

Anyone who has spent time at NCEAS, read the papers that have come from activities there, interacted with (or hired) an NCEAS postdoc can point to ways in which NCEAS has changed the culture of ecological science. Most of the responsibility for the success of NCEAS can be attributed to Jim Reichman. Though he is quick to credit the contributions of others, it is well acknowledged that Jim has created an environment that has transformed both the national and international culture of ecology. NCEAS has extended its influence beyond traditional ecology into areas such as bioinformatics, conservation and natural resource management applications, and environmental education and outreach for schoolchildren. Most importantly, it has brought together environmental scientists from all over the world and the result has been an unparalleled time of interaction, collaboration, and community consensus.

Jim's success as Director of NCEAS has not come at the cost of his research and scholarship; his current work with Eric Seabloom on restoration of California grasslands is both novel and controversial. Their work has shown that native species are highly competitive and that assemblages of native species can be resistant to invasion has challenged the prevailing dogma about grassland composition and restoration in California. Their work has attracted considerable national attention, including a recent news article in *Science*. His continuing involvement in research, teaching and mentoring of students and post-doctoral fellows has contributed to his success as Director of NCEAS.

Jim's passion for the diversity of ecological science, dedication to promoting collaboration, warm and friendly personality and personal commitment toward interdisciplinary and novel approaches to ecology has created at NCEAS a very special place. We all benefit from his vision and dedication and it is a pleasure to recognize his contributions by awarding him the Distinguished Service Award.

Distinguished Service Citation Award Subcommittee: Kay Gross (Chair), Nelson Hairston, Jr., Bob Holt, Bea Van Horne, Paul Dayton, and Peter Groffman



Jim Reichman