
2012 Deevey Award to Ryan Kelly

Edward S. Deevey, a founder of modern paleoecology, was a dedicated student advisor who mentored many investigators active in the field of paleoecology today. To honor his memory and to encourage high-quality research by graduate students, the Paleoecology Section presents an award for the best oral or poster presentation by a student in paleoecology at the ESA Annual Meeting.

Ryan Kelly, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Illinois, is the winner of the 2012 Deevey award for his presentation: “Pushing the limits of the boreal-forest fire regime: recent changes in a 10,000 year context.” His presentation was co-authored by Melissa Chipman, Philip E. Higuera, Linda B. Brubaker, and Feng Sheng Hu.

His research reconstructed 10,000 years of boreal-forest fire history from analysis of macroscopic charcoal accumulation in sediment cores from Alaska. He presented

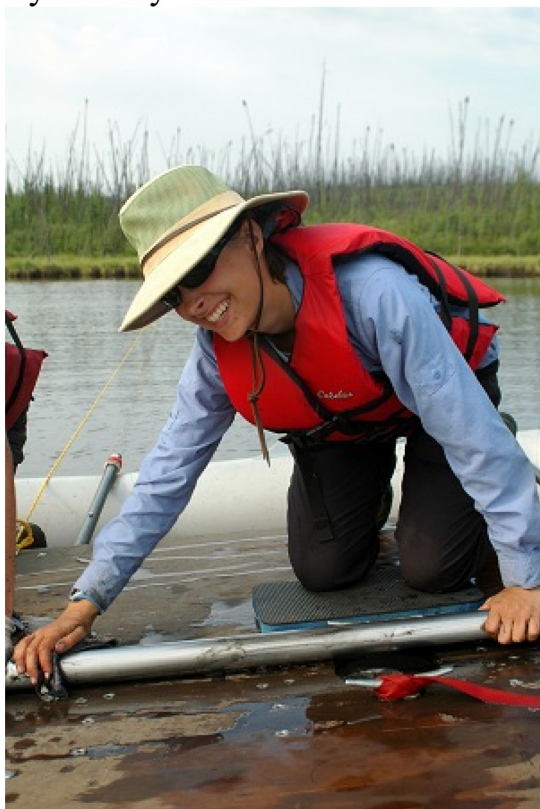


Ryan Kelly

evidence that the boreal fire regime has been changing through fuel depletion. Mr. Kelly completed a Bachelor of Science in Integrative Biology from the University of Illinois in 2005.

This year the Deevey Committee awarded a second-place prize to Carolyn Barrett, a Ph.D. candidate in the Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology at the University of Illinois, for her presentation: “How many lake sediment cores do we need to characterize regional fire regime changes using macro-charcoal records?” This presentation was co-authored with Feng Sheng Hu. Ms. Barrett conducted a statistical analysis of charcoal accumulation rate (CHAR) records for lakes from two Alaskan ecoregions. Her research focuses on the interactions of landscape, vegetation, and climate in controlling boreal forest fires.

The Paleoecology Section thanks students who competed for this year’s Deevey Award, and we encourage them and others to participate in the 2013 competition, to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Carolyn Barrett