

GDPE Executive Committee
May 5, 2008

Present: Elan Alford, Indy Burke, Mike Coughenour, Kevin Crooks, Chris Fisher, Alan Knapp, Bill Lauenroth, John McKay, Jeri Morgan, Jorge Ramirez

Absent: Chrissy Alba-Lynn, Ruth Hufbauer, Barry Noon, Colleen Webb

Minutes
Nominations 2008-2009

GDPE Distinguished Ecologist – Decision: Barry Noon

Nominee	Nominator	Web Page
Bill Parton	Gene Kelly	
Bill Parton	Alan Knapp	
Barry Noon	Tom Hobbs	http://welcome.warnercnr.colostate.edu/~brnoon/
Barry Noon	Ruth Hufbauer	http://welcome.warnercnr.colostate.edu/~brnoon/
Alan Knapp	Patrick Martin	
Diana Wall	Alan Knapp	
Kathy Galvin	Bill Lauenroth	http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/people/people.php?Main_ID=185
Rick Knight	Bill Lauenroth	http://welcome.warnercnr.colostate.edu/~knight/

GDPE Honor Alum – Decision: Jason Kaye

Nominee	Year Degree	Specialty / Advisor	Web Page	Nominator
Jason Kaye		Biogeochem / Binkley	http://cropsoil.psu.edu/people/faculty/kayej.cfm	Gene Kelly
Jason Kaye		Biogeochem / Binkley	http://cropsoil.psu.edu/people/faculty/kayej.cfm	Alan Knapp
Peter Adler (more info below)	2003	Community Ecology – Modeling Lauenroth	http://www.cnr.usu.edu/htm/facstaff/adler-web/	Kerry Byrne
Rich Alward	1999	Climate Change / Detling		Dan Binkley
Howard Epstein	1995	Biogeochem. - Arctic	http://www.evsc.virginia.edu/faculty/people/epstein.shtml	

Distinguished Ecologist – Decisions:

Terrie Williams AoE Physiological Ecologist

Eric Lambin or Julio Betancourt AoE Human-Environment Interactions

Nominee	Specialty / AoE	Web Page	Nominator
Alan Hasting	Quant Ecol. – Invasions		Tom Hobbs
Richard D. Bardgett (more info below)	Soils – Biogeochem	http://www.lancs.ac.uk/staff/bardgett/Index.html	Toby Gass
James S. Clark (more info below)	Paleoecology	http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/people/faculty/clark/index.html	Toby Gass
Terrie Williams (more info below)	Physiological Ecologist	http://bio.research.ucsc.edu/people/williams/	Greg Florant for Physiological Ecology AoE
Sharon Strauss	Evolution – Invasions	http://bio.research.ucsc.edu/people/parker/	Ruth Hufbauer
Ingrid Parker	Evolution – Invasions	http://www.eve.ucdavis.edu/systrauss/	Ruth Hufbauer
Julio Betancourt (more info below)	Paleoecology	http://www.paztcn.wr.usgs.gov/julio_cv.html	Shelley Bayard de Volo
Charles Canham	Community Ecology – Modeling		Patrick Martin
Tim Fahey	Ecosystem Ecology - Biogeochem.		Patrick Martin
Tom Veblen	Landscape – Disturbance		Patrick Martin
Eric F. Lambin (more info below)	Remote Sensing – Human		Gabriela Bucini

	Environment		
Richard Hobbs (more info below)	Restoration	http://www.environment.murdoch.edu.au/groups/ecoestor/people.html#rh	Mark Paschke for Restoration AoE
Carla D'Antonio (more info below)	Invasions	http://www.lifesci.ucsb.edu/eemb/faculty/dantonio/index.html	Mark Paschke for Restoration AoE
Mary Firestone	Biogeochem		Sara Evans
Chris Field	Global change		Sara Evans
Hal Mooney	Global Change		Sara Evans
John Klironomos (more info below)	Microbial Ecology	http://www.uoguelph.ca/botany/people/faculty/klironomos/index.html	Mark Paschke for Microbial Ecology AoE
David Foster	Forest ecology	http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/profiles/foster.html	Alan Knapp
Oz Schmidt		http://environment.yale.edu/people/289-Oswald-J.-Schmitz/research/	Alan Knapp

Rising Star – Decision: John Sabo AoE Aquatic & Riparian Ecology

Nominee	Specialty / AoE	Web Page	Nominator
Travis Huxman, Univ Arizona	Physiological Ecologist	http://eebweb.arizona.edu/faculty/huxman/	Gene Kelly
Travis Huxman	Physiological Ecologist	http://eebweb.arizona.edu/faculty/huxman/	Alan Knapp
Ben Bolker, Univ of Florida	Quant Ecol. - R		Tom Hobbs
C. Josh Dolan (more info below)	Conservation – Human- Environment	http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/donlan/donlan/Home.html	Dan Auerbach
Jonathan Levine	Invasions	http://www.lifesci.ucsb.edu/eemb/faculty/levine/index.html	Ruth Hufbauer
Jonathan Levine	Invasions	http://www.lifesci.ucsb.edu/eemb/faculty/levine/index.html	Patrick Martin
Valerie Eviner	Ecosystem Ecology		Patrick Martin
Sarah Hobbie	Biogeochem.		Sara Evans
Erica Zaveleta (more info below)	Ecosystem Ecology – Invasions - Conservation	http://people.ucsc.edu/~zaveleta/	Julia Klein
Steve Allison (more info below)	Microbial Ecology	https://webfiles.nacs.uci.edu/allisons/public/index.html	Matt Wallenstein for Microbial Ecology AoE
Katie Suding		http://cropsoil.psu.edu/people/faculty/kayej.cfm	Alan Knapp

John Sabo (more info below)	Aquatic Ecologist	http://www.public.asu.edu/~jlsabo/about_sabo.html	Kurt Fausch for Aquatic Ecology AoE
---------------------------------------	-------------------	---	---

Richard D. Bardgett Distinguished Ecologist nomination:

I would like to nominate Richard D. Bardgett, Professor of Ecology at the University of Lancaster, UK as a Distinguished Ecologist. Professor Bardgett's research unifies above and below ground processes in ecological communities throughout the world. His studies of above and below-ground linkages encompass forests, grasslands, ungulates and other herbivores, peatlands, and agricultural lands. He is currently conducting research in Antarctica, New Zealand, Panama, the Austrian Alps, at the Swedish latitudinal treeline, in Scotland, and on a North Sea Island, to name a few sites. He is also participating in SOILSERVICE, a group of ecologists and economists from the EU who are examining how to allocate and sustain soil resources in the future.

In 2006, Professor Bardgett's book "The Biology of Soils - A Community and Ecosystem Approach" received the Marsh Ecology Book of the Year Award from the British Ecological Society. Professor Bardgett is editor of *Journal of Ecology* and is on the boards of *Ecology Letters*, *Ecosystems*, and *Soil Biology and Biochemistry*. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The breadth and quality of Professor Bardgett's research suggest that he would appeal to many GDPE associates and that he would bring a broad, synthetic, and mature perspective to his presentations and workshops. If Professor Bardgett is invited, it might be enjoyable to have a field day while he is here.

Please see his website at:

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/staff/bardgett/Index.html>

Professor James S. Clark as a Distinguished Ecologist

I would like to nominate Professor James S. Clark as a Distinguished Ecologist for 2008-2009. Professor Clark holds the H.L. Blomquist chair at the Nicholas School of the Environment, and is a professor in both the departments of biology and of statistics at Duke University.

James Clark started his career as a paleoecologist and wrote one of the earliest papers about the role of climate in changing fire regimes. His current research spans molecular biogeography, drought on the Great Plains, seed dispersal, remote sensing, fire ecology, and the effects of elevated carbon dioxide. Professor Clark accomplishes his research with a unique blend of field experimentation, paleo-perspectives, and rigorous quantitative modeling. He is a vocal proponent of Bayesian applications to ecological questions and has published several books on modeling ecological data.

James Clark is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and has received numerous awards from the Ecological Society of America, including the George Mercer Award and a Leopold Leadership Fellowship. He is a member of the NEON design team and has been on numerous boards and review committees over the years. His former students hold positions at the University of Notre Dame, University of Georgia, University of Washington, University of Minnesota, Carleton College, and elsewhere. He is or has been on the editorial boards of *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, *Ecosystems*, *Annual Reviews of Ecology and Systematics*, *Ecology and Ecological Monographs*, and *Global Change Biology*. He was vice president of science and the Governing Board of ESA from 1998-2003. His C.V. includes pages of similar honors and accomplishments.

Professor Clark sets a great example of how to synthesize information across disciplines and methodologies. I think he could provide insight into how to think about ecology as well as how to pursue those thoughts in a productive manner. If he were to be invited, I think it would be a great opportunity for a joint GDPE/PRIMES event.

For more information, please see:

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/people/faculty/clark/index.html>

Dr. C. Josh Donlan for recognition as 2009's Rising Star

I would like to nominate Dr. C. Josh Donlan for recognition as 2009's Rising Star Ecologist. Josh is committed to treating conservation problems as research opportunities. Taking an interdisciplinary approach that combines natural history knowledge, system manipulation and socioeconomic analysis, he strives to translate his research results into tangible improvements for people and the landscapes they inhabit. Josh publishes actively in the scientific literature (recent publications in *FREE*, *American Naturalist*, *Nature*, *Ecological Applications*, *JAE*, *Biological Invasions*, *Biodiversity and Conservation*, *Conservation Biology*, *Oecologia*, etc.) and seeks forums for public engagement (*NPR*, *Grist*, *Scientific American*). While completing his degrees at UCSC and Cornell Josh has mentored a number of undergraduate and masters students and is currently balancing a variety of research responsibilities while also fostering the growth of an NGO he founded. As both a "big picture" thinker and as a scientist attentive to the details of a particular study system, Josh is a very compelling speaker who seldom fails to elicit a reaction from listeners. He epitomizes "Rising Star", and GDPE and CSU would be lucky to have him as a visitor. While Josh is usually recognized (or excoriated) as the lead author of the 2005 *Nature* paper *Re-wilding North America*, he maintains an interest in marine issues (by-catch mitigation), island ecosystems (particularly the impact of invasive mammals in the Galapagos and in Mexico), and in terrestrial communities (fieldwork in Arizona and the extension of insular invasive management strategies to mainlands). Although the notion of Pleistocene Re-wilding as developed in *Nature* received a great deal of criticism and outright dismissal, many critics likely missed the careful exposition of ideas in *American Naturalist* and most failed to credit the fact that few, if any, ecologically motivated proposals have similarly captured public discourse. Simply put, his desire to stimulate a broader understanding and discussion of the current biodiversity crisis makes Josh willing to take risks to achieve that goal. Some find this objectionable, but I believe it is admirable and necessary in current society. Josh's work is most relevant to the GDPE AoE: Human Environment Interactions, Restoration Ecology, Physiological Ecology and Landscape Ecology. Depending on the topics chosen for seminars, his presentations are also potentially of considerable interest to many who might not typically attend a GDPE talk: natural resource economists, sociologists, land managers and agency scientists and the general public. Detailed information on Josh's research and a full CV can be found at <http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/donlan/donlan/Home.html> and <http://www.advancedconservation.org/blog/>.

TERRIE M. WILLIAMS Distinguished Ecologist

Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology M.S., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ Ph.D., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
1981-1984 NIH Postdoctoral Fellow, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
1984-1986 Kaiser Environmental Fellow, San Diego Zoological Society

Dr Terrie Williams is one of the foremost marine mammal physiological ecologist in the world. Her groundbreaking work on the interaction of large marine mammal predators such as killer whales on the populations of sea otters and Steller sea lions, has set new precedents for the scope in which we analyze the effects of large predators on population dynamics and ecosystem health. In addition, she is one of the first investigators to study the role of novel globin proteins in preventing ischemic and hypoxic damage in the central nervous system of terrestrial and marine mammals.

In brief, her research program investigates common morphological features and physiological limitations of marine and terrestrial animals.

Primary areas of study include swimming and running energetics, thermoregulation during exercise, and the plasticity of mammalian skeletal muscle. By examining the functional relationships between animals and their environment, we can begin to understand the ecological significance of a species and the adaptive changes that may be necessary for its survival. This research approach provides a powerful tool that enables our group to predict the responses of animals to novel environmental perturbations and to speculate about the physiology and biomechanics of ancestral forms.

For example, the thermal lability of marine mammals indicates the level of vulnerability of individual species to natural (El Niño) and anthropogenic (pollution, over-fishing) events.

Current research projects in our laboratory that address this problem include metabolic regulation in swimming and diving dolphins, hunting behavior and physiology of Weddell seals in the Antarctic, and the effects of pregnancy on nutritional status of declining populations of Steller sea lions.

For more information on Dr Williams illustrious career, please refer to her website:<http://bio.research.ucsc.edu/people/williams/>

If we select her, either I or Shane Kanatous would be happy to contact her and arrange for her visit.

I hope it works out...she's really terrific and gives a great public lecture as well as scientific ones!

Dr. Peter Adler honor alumni

I would like to nominate Dr. Peter Adler as either the GDPE distinguished alumni or GDPE Rising Star for the 2008-2009. Dr. Adler received his PhD from Colorado State University in 2003, and since then has worked as a postdoctoral fellow for the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) and now is an assistant professor at Utah State University.

Dr. Adler has worked in grassland ecosystems in both North and South America, and his research would be of great interest to ecologists at Colorado State because of his strong background in grassland ecology, mathematics and modeling. I think it would be great to have him back as the GDPE distinguished alumni not only because he has accomplished so much, but because he worked for NCEAS and has recently gone through the process of becoming an assistant professor, both of which are goals of many ecologists here at CSU. However, I think he would also be a great candidate for GDPE Rising Star, because of his interesting ideas and many recent publications.

Relevant areas of emphasis: Plant Ecology, Climate Change, Ecological modeling

Rich Alward honor alum

I don't have a formal nomination ready, but I think Rich Alward would be a dandy alum to invite. Aside from a really solid GDPE experience, he's working as a private consultant (not academic), he's run for public office (not common for our alums), and he's on the newly expand and redirected oil and gas conservation board (maybe the hottest ecological set of issues in the Rockies right now; eg: <http://www.ncbr.com/article.asp?id=89566>).

Julio Betancourt Distinguished Ecologist

I would like to nominate Julio Betancourt, of the Desert Laboratory, University of Arizona and USGS. Julio has been a leader in studying climate change from a historical perspective. His research involves ecological and cultural influences on historical floristic distribution and serves to inform contemporary effects of climate change, by providing a historical perspective. Much of his research involves analysis of floristic distributions using pollen and microfossils collected from fossilized pack-rat middens (really neat stuff!!!). He also uses a wide variety of approaches, including historical documents and photographs, instrumental hydrological and climatic data, long-term vegetation plots, tree rings, stable isotopes, ancient DNA, biometrical measurements, alluvial stratigraphy, and even

ice cores to reconstruct the past. His work focuses on the Colorado Plateau, but also involves Latin America.

Understanding the contemporary effects of climate change on flora and fauna requires a historical context. I think the Ecology community at Colorado State University would greatly benefit from hearing about his work.

To see examples of his seminars at another Visiting Ecologists seminar series see: <http://forest.mtu.edu/info/ecologyseries/speakers/index.htm>

Eric F. Lambin Distinguished Ecologist

Eric F. Lambin is Professor at the [Department of Geography](#) at the [University of Louvain](#), Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. He has been the Chair of the [Land-Use and Land-Cover Change \(LUCC\)](#) programme of the [International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme \(IGBP\)](#) and [International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change \(IHDP\)](#). Eric Lambin has been involved for many years in research linking remote sensing data with socio-economic data. His research includes: (i) integrated studies of human-environment systems in Africa and Asia, (ii) the monitoring of land-cover change by remote sensing, (iii) the modelling of land-use changes, and (iv) synthesis work on dynamical patterns of land-use change in tropical regions. Eric Lambin has published extensively in leading scientific journals in remote sensing, geography and environmental sciences. In 2002-2003, he was resident as Fellow at the [Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences](#) at [Stanford](#), California, USA.

Richard J. Hobbs Distinguished Ecologist

Richard J. Hobbs, Professor of Environmental Science, Murdoch University. Dr Hobbs is generally regarded as one of the top Restoration Ecologists in the world today. Dr. Hobbs is editor in Chief of Restoration Ecology, and has played a crucial role in the development and growth of the Society for Ecological Restoration International. Dr. Hobbs is an ISI Highly Cited top scientist in Ecology and Environmental Science. He has published more than 200 journal articles and is the author of several books on ecological restoration.

Carla D'Antonio Distinguished Ecologist

Carla D'Antonio, Professor of Plant Ecology, University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. D'Antonio is one of the leading experts in invasive species biology and ecological restoration in the US today. She has published over 100 articles on plant community ecology and invasive species biology. Other areas of emphasis that could be interested in Dr. D'Antonio include Ecosystem Ecology & Biogeochemistry and Landscape Ecology.

Erica Zaveleta Rising Star

I would like to nominate Erica Zaveleta, from UC Santa Cruz. She is an Assistant Prof, so perhaps she would be a good fit for the Rising Star (although she has already risen); she could also be a Distinguished Ecologist. Erica studies plant community and ecosystem ecology; invasion ecology; biodiversity and ecosystem function; ecosystem services. Her work is based in ecological theory, but extends well into the conservation and management realms. She works across diverse systems (CA annual grasslands; boreal forests; subtropical islands). She is an outstanding scholar with publications in journals such as Science, PNAS, Ecol. Monographs. Erica is not only involved in academia, but also works with conservation organizations and foundations (TNC, the Christensen Fund). She appears to be very dedicated to mentoring and is a good role model. I am obviously quite impressed with her. She successfully bridges disciplines, science/management, academia/service. This is something that many of us in GDPE strive to achieve. I think the GDPE community (both students and faculty) would enjoy interacting with Erica and benefit from her presence here. The main area of emphasis would be ecosystem ecology and biogeochemistry. But her work is also relevant to: human environment interactions, landscape ecology, microbial ecology, physiological ecology, quantitative ecology, and restoration ecology.

Steven Allison for Rising Star

On behalf of the area of emphasis in Microbial Ecology, I nominate Steven Allison for Rising Star. Steven was selected by a nomination and vote by the Microbial Ecology faculty and students. Seven faculty and students participated in this selection process to select a single representative nominee for our concentration.

Steve started his current position as Assistant Professor at the University of California, Irvine in the fall of 2007. He received his PhD at Stanford in Peter Vitousek's lab, where he studied the role of extracellular enzymes in decomposition at several Hawaii sites. He also published a provocative paper suggesting that some microbes "cheat" by utilizing the products of extracellular enzymes produced by other microbes.

His current research integrates biochemical, molecular, and theoretical approaches to yield new insights into ecosystem and global-scale C cycling. His work is at the forefront of connecting microbial communities and processes to ecosystem-scale functions that should be of interest to the broad GDPE community. He also applies and develops ecological theory for microbial communities, which should also appeal to a large cross-section of GDPE students and faculty. Several examples of current research questions are: (1) What strategies do microbes use to acquire resources? (2) What mechanisms lead to the formation and persistence of old soil C? (3) Can microbial processes result in positive or negative feedbacks to climate change and the C cycle? (4)

How does nitrogen (N) deposition affect microbial community composition and ecosystem C balance?

The reason we believe he deserves this honor is because he is emerging as an important voice in the ecological community by challenging long-standing paradigms, utilizing novel techniques to connect microbes to ecosystems, and by developing theories and models of microbial communities and processes to help articulate the collective findings of recent work in microbial ecology.

Finally, those of us who know Steve personally know that he would be very appreciative of this honor and develop provocative, interesting talks that would have wide appeal within and beyond GDPE.

John Klironomos Distinguished Ecologist

On behalf of the Microbial Ecology group, I nominate John Klironomos for one of the GDPE Distinguished Ecologist visits in 2008/2009. John was selected by a nomination and vote by the Microbial Ecology faculty and students. Seven faculty and students participated in this selection process to select a single representative nominee for our concentration. Dr. Klironomos studies the relationship between plants, fungi and other soil organisms, and the functioning of ecosystems. His work should be well-known to GDPE faculty and students as he has published several significant papers in *Nature* in recent years. His work has challenged established paradigms in plant soil relationships, which has impacted the fields of invasive species biology, ecological restoration and microbial ecology.

John Sabo Rising Star

John's research has been at the cutting edge of stream and riparian ecology. He has been a leader in considering the fluxes of subsidies between stream and riparian zones, and his students have investigated the effects of spillover predation effects from riparian zones to uplands (i.e., predators that make use of more productive riparian zones move into uplands and reduce prey populations there).

John completed his graduate work with Dr. Mary Power at UC Berkeley, one of the most well-known stream ecologists in the U.S., and published seminal papers on these fluxes in *Ecology* in 2002. His current work at Arizona State has focused more on riparian ecology, and has authored papers such as a recent one in *Ecology*, titled **Riparian zones increase regional richness by harboring different, not more species.**

Overall, John embodies the kind of research and scholarship that we strive to emulate in our Aquatic and Riparian AOE. We give our strongest support to nominating him for our seminar series in 2008-2009.