



ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports to Council Ecological Society of America, August 2006

I. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ESA has had another productive and successful year. The upward trend in membership continues, with growth to 10 000 clearly in sight. Our finances are strong and we are building a reserve to allow us to operate with no loss of service to our members in the event of some unforeseen disruption. The Annual Meeting in Montreal produced a record attendance and our new Annual Meeting staff team has developed a number of initiatives that will begin in Memphis.

Our themed meeting in Mexico this year was an exceptional success. The program attracted participants from all over the world, and travel support enabled many students from Latin America to attend. While in Mexico, ESA hosted a meeting of the Federation of the Americas, a gathering of Presidents of ecological societies from the Americas, led by ESA. The Federation activities are expanding, as is its membership.

In addition to fundraising and supporting the Mexico meeting, Science programs included leadership in a collaborative effort with other scientific societies on data-sharing issues, a successful National Agricultural Air Quality Workshop, bringing together attendees from 25 countries, and a continued focus on sustainability science.

A major new initiative in 2005 was the establishment of a Development Office to guide us in pursuing funding opportunities for priority activities identified by the Governing Board and staff. One of these is the plan for a Knowledge Partnership in the Southeast Region, an effort to address issues identified by stakeholders in the region.

Our Society's journals continue to be among the best in the field. Our newest publication, *Frontiers*, moved up in the ISI rankings (2nd out of 134 in the Environmental Science category and 6th out of 112 in the Ecology group) and *Ecology*, *Ecological Applications*, and *Ecological Monographs* remain top-rated journals. In 2005 we inaugurated the ESA data registry, a repository for authors to make their data widely available. This year, as well, we provided all our institutional subscribers with print and online access to our journals at a reduced cost.

Rapid Response Teams, established last year, are thriving. Members involved have provided scientific input on congressional legislation, proposed rule-making by the Administration, and to a "friend of the court" brief submitted to the Supreme Court. ESA's policy briefings, leadership in national coalitions, numerous fact sheets, position papers, official ESA statements, and media outreach build ESA's reputation in the policy arena.

ESA's SEEDS program generates excitement among participants and ESA members involved in the program. The program hosted students at both the Montreal meeting and the Mexico meeting. SEEDS students attended a field trip to the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research Project, and another to sites in Kansas. For the first time this year, a leadership workshop was held that included three generations of SEEDS fellowship students.

The following staff reports highlight these accomplishments—and many more. ESA is a strong and growing organization of which I am proud to be Executive Director. Our staff team is professional, dedicated to the mission of the Society, and to serving the membership. All of us are enthusiastic about the future of ESA and our role in its success.

Submitted by:
Katherine McCarter

FINANCES/ MEMBERSHIP/ ADMINISTRATION

ESA continues to grow! The number of ESA members grew from 8718 in 2004 to 9264 members in 2005, and we have already passed that figure for 2006. We expect to end our 2006 membership year with close to 10,000 members.

We anticipate ending the 2005–2006 fiscal year with a positive bottom line. The meeting in Montreal was well attended, library subscriptions are holding up despite budget problems for many institutions, and expenses have been kept within normal variances.

Membership and subscriptions for the calendar year 2005 were:

Total Membership: 9264
Domestic: 7618
Foreign: 1646

By Class:

Regular: 6188
Student: 2155
Developing Countries: 339
Life Members: 245
Emeritus: 337

Subscriptions:

Ecology total: 5806
Members: 3827
Institutions: 1976
Other: 3

Ecological Applications total: 3374
Members: 2159
Institutions: 1211
Other: 4

Ecological Monographs total: 2823
Members: 1546
Institutions: 1273
Other: 4

Chapter Membership:

Canadian: 144
Rocky Mountain: 252
Southeastern: 474
Mid-Atlantic: 400
Western: 510
Mexico: 61

Section Membership

Asian: 94
Applied: 587
Aquatic: 874
International Affairs: 105
Paleoecology: 140
Physiological: 472
Vegetation: 447
Education: 388
Long Term Studies: 232
Statistical Ecology: 296
Soil Ecology: 286
Theoretical Ecology: 259

Plant Population Ecology: 323
Agroecology: 194
Rangeland Ecology: 214
Student: 434
TEK: 90
Biogeosciences: 329
Urban Ecology: 211

Membership affiliation:

Academic: 66%
Government: 13%
Nonprofit: 5%
Consultant: 6%
Other/left blank: 10%

Ethnicity:

White: 75%
Asian: 5 %
Hispanic: 4%
African American: <1%
Native American: <1%
Other/ left blank: 15%

Gender:

Male: 60%
Female: 30%
Left blank: 10%

Administrative staff:

Elizabeth Biggs, CFO, Director of Administration;
Rachel Dellon, Manager Membership Services; Thet
Oo, Associate Director, Information Systems; Zaw
Aung, Web-master; Win May, Financial Assistant;
Marie Fredlake, Administrative Assistant/Governance
Assistant.

ANNUAL MEETING

ESA's 90th Annual Meeting was held in Montreal, and was ESA's largest meeting to date, with close to 4500 attendees. This was a joint meeting with INTECOL, and program chairs from both societies worked closely with ESA staff. Challenges for staff included working with French-speaking vendors, paying

hundreds of thousand of dollars worth of expenses in a foreign currency, and coping with customs, NAFTA, and immigration issues. However, all were overcome and we had a successful meeting.

Upon returning from Montreal, work immediately began on the 91st Annual Meeting, held in Memphis, Tennessee. A smooth transition was made from former Meeting Manager Ellen Cardwell, who left the Society in September 2005, to Michelle Horton, who came on board as Meeting Manager in October 2005. In addition, the Program Assistant position has been filled by Devon Rothschild, who is a full-time ESA staff member.

Program Chair Kiyoko Miyanishi and Local Host Chair Scott Franklin have worked closely with ESA staff in the planning of the Memphis Annual Meeting. We had ~2200 abstracts submitted, which leads us to expect roughly 3000 attendees. We continue to work on new programs to "green" the meeting. We have continued the effort begun in Montreal to encourage attendees to make donations to outside organizations to offset their carbon usage. We have begun a new program encouraging attendees to reuse the meeting tote bags. A new meeting patch will be given each year to those bringing back their bags from prior years. This will be the first year we are completely paperless with regard to the Abstracts, the end of a 3-year transition from printed Abstract books to electronic-only access. The Abstracts are available online through the itinerary planner, will be given to all attendees as a CD, and are available throughout the convention center at Abstract kiosks.

Work has also begun on the 92nd Annual Meeting, which will be held in San Jose in August 2007, and will be a joint meeting with the Society for Ecological Restoration International. A call for proposals has been sent to the membership. We have contracted with a new vendor to provide abstract submission software. Program chair Kerry Woods has been working with ESA staff and Memphis Program Chair Kiyoko Miyanishi. Rachael O'Malley will be the Local Host.

Future meetings

92nd Annual Meeting—San Jose, California—5–10 August 2007

93rd. Annual Meeting—Milwaukee, Wisconsin—3–8 August 2008

Annual Meeting staff:

Elizabeth Biggs, CFO, Director of Administration; Michelle Horton, Meeting Manager, Tricia Crocker, Meeting Associate and Registrar; Devon Rothschild, Program Assistant

FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Frontiers is now in its fourth year of publication, and has established itself as one of the top-ranked journals in the field of ecology and environmental science, while still maintaining a reputation for readability and accessibility.

Impact factor

In June 2006, *Frontiers* received its second impact factor ranking. The journal is ranked 2nd out of 134 journals in the Environmental Science category, and 6th out of 112 journals in the Ecology category.

Frontiers in China

In November 2005, an agreement was signed between the Chinese Government and ESA, providing online access to all ESA journals, including *Frontiers*, for up to 800 institutional libraries in China. This agreement was organized in conjunction with Charlesworth China, a company that specializes in introducing western scientific journals to the Chinese market.

Special Issues

The *Frontiers* Special Issue on China is complete and will be published in September 2006. This issue, made up entirely of articles written by Chinese authors in China, will focus on air and water pollution,

urbanization, biodiversity loss, and land-use change. Although the abstract of each article appears in both English and Chinese in the journal, efforts are underway to find the necessary funding to have the entire issue translated into Chinese, as was done with the February 2005 Special Issue: *Visions For An Ecologically Sustainable Future*.

Copies of this issue will be distributed free in China, by the authors and at EcoSummit 2007. Ecological Complexity and Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities for 21st Century's Ecology (Beijing, China, May 2007) where the ESA will have a booth.

A further Special Issue is also in preparation, based on the ESA meeting held in Merida, Mexico, in January 2006 (Ecology in an Era of Globalization). This issue, which is supported by a grant from the NSF, is scheduled to appear late in 2006 or early 2007. The issue will include an editorial by Jonathan Lash, Director of the World Resources Institute; an introductory article by co-chairs Jeff Herrick (USDA-ARS Jornada Experimental Range, New Mexico) and Jose Sarukhan (Instituto de Ecología-UNAM, Mexico); three review articles, based on the three themes of the meeting: Invasive species, Production, and Migration; and the six best workshop "reports," written by the chairs of workshops at the Merida meeting. All the other workshop reports submitted will be published online. All contents have been peer reviewed.

Paper

In August 2005, *Frontiers* began printing on 100% recycled, 10% postconsumer waste paper. However, early in 2006, the paper mill discontinued that particular line. Therefore, as of May 2006, *Frontiers* has been printed on 50% recycled, 30% postconsumer waste, processed chlorine-free paper.

Award

In October 2006, *Frontiers* won the Bronze Award in the Aveda Environmental Awards for Best Practices in Environmental Sustainability. The journal tied for third place with the Nature Conservancy

magazine. The gold award was won by the magazine *Natural Health*.

Articles

Articles received as of 14 July 2006

Total articles received: 127

Articles accepted: 51 (40%)

Articles rejected: 42 (33%)

Articles withdrawn: 8 (6%)

Articles currently in peer review: 24 (19%)

Conferences

In the past 12 months, *Frontiers* staff have attended a variety of meetings, including the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Annual Meeting (Baltimore, Maryland), the ESA meeting, Ecology in an Era Of Globalization (Merida, Mexico), the AAAS Annual Meeting (St Louis, Missouri), the 2006 Ocean Sciences meeting (Honolulu, Hawaii), the Council of Science Editors Annual Meeting (Tampa, Florida), and the Society for Scholarly Publishing Annual Meeting (Washington, D.C.).

Finances

During the course of 2005, Executive Director McCarter and *Frontiers* Editor-in-Chief Silver visited a number of federal agencies, looking for interim financial support for the journal, while institutional subscription and advertising revenue continues to build up. The following agencies generously contributed funds:

NOAA: \$45 000

U.S. Department of Energy: \$74 202

U.S. Forest Service: \$100 000

U.S. Geological Survey: \$20 000

National Science Foundation: \$73 414 (for the Mexico Special Issue)

Submitted by:

Sue Silver

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Fran Day joined the staff of the Ecological Society of America on 6 February 2006. With the assistance of ESA staff and the Development Committee, the initial draft of the development master plan was completed in March 2006. Since that time it has been continuously revised and updated as we completed research and/or developed proposals. We have focused on priorities as determined by the Governing Board. They include: Education Programs; *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*; Knowledge Partnerships; Federation of the Ecological Societies of the Americas; and Science Office programs. Case statements and funding strategies have or are being developed for each of the above.

Education programs

The focus of the Education Programs initiative is SEEDS expansion. Working collaboratively, we have completed the case statement for SEEDS for Teachers and are actively seeking funding to support the implementation of the program. We have submitted grants proposals to three foundations and have two additional proposals in development. The case statement for expansion of the student SEEDS Program internationally in conjunction with the Federation of the Ecological Societies of the Americas is close to completion and will be submitted to several foundations for major funding before calendar year end. The case statement for expansion of the SEEDS Program into “green” colleges is close to completion. Letters of inquiry have been submitted to two foundations for support of this project.

Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment

The funding strategy for *Frontiers* is to focus on the development of additional revenue through sponsorships, increased advertising, and grants development. The marketing package for *Frontiers* is in the design and materials development phase. We have identified and ranked potential sponsors and advertis-

ers and developed the marketing plan. The first phase of the sponsorship marketing plan will begin in September 2006. We are identifying potential grantors and underwriters for planned special issues of the journal, as well as institutional support. We will e-mail a voluntary consumer survey to the membership to provide information that will support the development of sponsorships.

Knowledge Partnerships

The inaugural focus of the Knowledge Partnerships is the Southeast region. We have identified a list of potential funders, and in collaboration with the Planning Committee chaired by Alan Covich, we are developing a case statement to provide to potential funders.

The Federation of the Ecological Societies of the Americas

The case statement for the Federation has been developed and sent to four potential funders. Two additional proposals are in development.

Science Office Programs

We have assisted with the development of a symposium presented by ESA members at the annual Society for Human Ecology in Bar Harbor, Maine, 18–21 October 2006. We have also helped with the development of a case statement for the Nitrogen 2007 Conference and begun discussions with the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America regarding potential support.

Annual Fund for the Millennium

The plan for the Millennium Fund calls for a campaign of two e-mails and one regular mail contact over the next nine months. The first e-mail was sent in late June and we are receiving and tracking contributions. The purpose of this particular campaign is to increase the number of donors. At the time of this report, we have received 17 contributions. The second

e-mail will be sent in the second week of November 2006. A mail appeal will be included with the Annual Report. In addition, we have created a promotion for the Annual Meeting called "Growing Ecology" and these responses will be tracked carefully.

Membership Development Test Campaign

The membership test campaign is well underway: the lists to be tested have been identified, the materials are in production, and the tracking system is established. The first test package will be mailed to 5000 potential members in September 2006.

Other development activities include Building the Prospect and Donor Base—we have identified over 300 potential major donors and entered ~100 into the database. We have also assisted with the development of the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and the Guidelines for Identifying Corporate Donors.

Submitted by:

Fran Day
Director for Development

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Public Affairs

Over the past year, ESA public affairs activities focused on conveying ecological information and resources to the media and to Congress, working with the broad scientific community to foster support for science, publicizing the Society's activities, and outreach to ESA members.

Highlights

1) This year, ESA's Rapid Response Teams provided timely scientific input to all three Branches of Government, providing expertise on congressional legislation, proposed rule changes from the Administration, and to the Supreme Court.

2) Working with Society President Nancy Grimm, Public Affairs staff developed and distributed 10 letters from the Society.

3) ESA sponsored or cosponsored four public briefings on issues ranging from forest fires to hurricanes.

4) Members and staff met with targeted congressional and Executive Branch offices to discuss issues of concern to the ecological community.

5) The Office assisted members of the media weekly with stories ranging from climate change to National Park Service science.

Environmental policy

Thanks to ESA member experts, Society leaders, and ESA Policy Analyst Laura Lipps, the Society was able to again play an active role in numerous environmental policy issues over the last year.

- Members of the Society's Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) provided ESA expertise to an Amicus brief ("Friend of the Court") submitted to the Supreme Court. The Court heard arguments on several wetlands case in early 2006. Other societies joining ESA in filing the Brief were the Society of Wetland Scientists, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, and the Estuarine Research Federation. ESA President Nancy Grimm, President-Elect Alan Covich, and VP for Public Affairs Richard Pouyat reviewed and approved the brief, which was prepared by the Southern Environmental Law Center on the societies' behalf. (The brief has been printed in full in the *ESA Bulletin* 87(2):132–154.)
- RRT members David Lodge, Susan Williams, and Richard Mack, all authors of the Society's invasive species position paper, presented the paper in a National Press Club briefing and met with targeted Hill staffers to discuss its policy implications.

- Working with ESA's President Nancy Grimm and with RRT members, PAO developed and distributed 10 ESA statements throughout the year, which addressed a wide range of issues including a proposed rule on stream mitigation, ocean research, Great Lakes Implementation Act, and the Administration's American Competitiveness Initiative.

- ESA RRT members helped develop a multisociety position statement on the Endangered Species Act, subsequently released as part of a Senate-side briefing.

- RRT members Stan Temple (UW-Madison), and Virginia Dale (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), participated in a 2-hour working meeting on Endangered Species Act reform legislation with Senator Chafee's office. Chafee's staff person has subsequently followed up several times with the scientists.

- ESA RRTs also provided input on science education incentives, federal fisheries science, and climate change.

Science appropriations

- Nadine Lymn, Director of Public Affairs, continued to co-chair the Biological Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC), working to raise awareness in the White House and Congress about the state of funding for the nonmedical biological sciences.

- As part of a BESC event, ESA President Nancy Grimm and Lymn met with two majority staff directors and other professional staff of the House Science Committee, as well as with Representative Ehlers' (R-MI) office in early December. Discussions centered on how to advance the life sciences in a political climate focused on economic competitiveness. In addition, Lymn and other BESC colleagues requested that Members of Congress avoid making public comments that appear to pit the life sciences against the

physical sciences.

- ESA helped organize a Spring Congressional Visits Day for over 40 biological scientists from 22 states, including field station biologists, academic researchers, and graduate students; they participated in BESC's Spring Congressional Visits Day on 14-15 March 2006. The event included a half day of briefings from agencies, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and from Congress. The BESC and CoFARM (Coalition for Agricultural Research Missions) evening reception honored two Members of Congress, Representatives Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) and Rush Holt (D-NJ) for their integration of research findings into environmental policies, such as the prevention and control of invasive species, and their strong support for science education. Visits on 15 March consisted of over 50 meetings with congressional offices as teams of scientists met with Members' offices to advocate for federal support of biological research. ESA's first Graduate Student Policy Fellows as well as an RRT member participated in the events.
- PAO continued to track and report on the status of legislation, federal science appropriations, and environmental policy activities in the national and international arena through its bi-weekly Policy News. In March, Lynn teamed up with staff from AIBS to write a chapter for the annual publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS Report: Research and Development FY 2007. The ESA/AIBS chapter analyzed the nonmedical biological science elements of the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2007 budget.

Press

Throughout the year, Public Affairs Officer Annie Drinkard worked to highlight ecological research and ESA activities to the press.

- Press preparations for the 2006 Annual Meeting so far have included press releases highlighting symposia and oral sessions, and working with university and agency public information officers to generate additional publicity for the meeting.
- Coverage of the ESA Annual Meeting held in Montreal, Canada generated over 40 stories. Twenty reporters attended the meeting. Among the news outlets covering the conference were: CBC, Swedish Public Radio, MSNBC, *Science*, *Nature* and a host of local radio and newspapers. (ESA does not have a media clipping service; there was more coverage than we are able to track.) Some of the more popular sessions at the Society's 90th Annual Meeting were Ecological Effects of the Chernobyl Disaster, Underneath it all (soil ecology), and Restoring the Garden of Eden (Mesopotamian marshes).
- PAO staff continued to build on its media contacts this year and issued over a dozen press releases highlighting Society journal articles and the Annual Meeting. Drinkard also participated in the AAAS meeting.
- ESA continued to field a steady influx of reporter-initiated calls throughout the year. Inquiries came from both the popular press (*Boston Globe*) and scientific (*Nature*) and covered a wide range of topics from science policy to hurricanes.
- The media was especially interested in the cod stocks article published in *Frontiers* (generated 100's of articles around the globe), the wolves' top down effect article in *Ecology* (generated dozens of articles), and an *Ecological Applications* paper on nitrogen pollution.
- Laura Lipps attended ESA's meeting in Merida, Mexico, as ESA's press representative. Proficient in Spanish, she provided meeting information to members

of the seven Mexican news agencies in attendance, and arranged interviews with presenters and conference organizers.

Outreach

- ESA organized or co-sponsored four briefings this year:

Hurricane Katrina briefing. With a congressional audience of 50, ESA Rapid Response Team (RRT) members Robert Twilley, (Louisiana State University), and Dennis Whigham (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center), briefed over 40 congressional staff on the ecology of Gulf Coast wetlands and the role of ecological science in restoring Gulf Coast ecosystems, on 26 October 2005. The scientists highlighted the role of wetlands and the importance of delta restoration, and offered recommendations on integrating ecological principles into scientific decision making in Gulf Coast recovery. ESA President Nancy Grimm opened the session, highlighting the role of ESA's RRTs in contributing ecological expertise to environmental challenges.

Endangered Species Act. ESA joined several other scientific societies to present a multi-society statement during a briefing to 20 Senate staff on 27 February 2006. ESA member Nick Haddad (NC State) represented ESA during the Senate briefing. A press release was also distributed to ESA media contacts.

Forest Fires. RRT member Monica Turner spoke on the ecology of forest fires during a briefing to 35 House staffers that ESA hosted with several other scientific societies.

Invasive Species. ESA held a briefing at the National Press Club on 3 March 2006 to unveil the Society's position paper on invasive species and their management. The event, which was moderated by ESA President-elect Alan Covich, drew an audience of 75 federal agency representatives, congressional staff, and members of the media.

- Knowledge Partnerships. Following the

Board's charge to explore a possible ESA regional initiative, ESA staff, the Society's Vice President for Public Affairs Richard Pouyat, and scientists in the Gulf Coast region met in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in December 2005. After further Board discussions, the Society is now planning to explore launching a pilot initiative that would focus on the southeast United States and address issues identified by stakeholders in that region.

- ESA President Nancy Grimm and other members of the Society's Governing Board met with NSF's new Assistant Biology Director Jim Collins during his first week on the job. Board members also met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Competitive Grants staff to discuss areas of mutual interest.
- Lymn and Lipps, together with colleague Adrienne Sponberg (American Society of Limnology and Oceanography), developed and gave a Policy Training Workshop during the Montreal Annual Meeting which was designed to equip biological scientists with tools to participate in public policy. The trio worked with about 20 scientists to coach them in methods to influence policy, concluding with simulated congressional visits.
- Drinkard and Lymn organized a special session held during the Annual Meeting designed to ease presentation jitters and offer constructive tips on public speaking. Offered since 2004, their hands-on session draws on improv' comedy techniques.
- Drinkard produced the Society's ninth Annual Report, distributed to the membership in February. This report focused on 90 years of ESA and offered a historical quiz to test members' knowledge of their membership Society. In addition to providing an overview of Society activities for ESA members, the report is useful for meetings with potential

funding sources and with others who are interested in the Society.

Public Affairs Committee

Members of the Society's Public Affairs Committee offer valuable guidance to the organization's public affairs activities, ranging from review of newsworthy Annual Meeting abstracts to highlight to the press, and assessing pending Society position statements and papers.

The Public Affairs Committee (PAC) met in late March to address several key activities planned for the Memphis meeting, including a PAC-sponsored symposium. In addition, PAC developed a new proposal for Board consideration on the development and venue of future ESA Position Papers. The Governing Board approved the new guidelines for Society public policy papers in May 2006. The committee also spent one day with the Society's Education and Human Resources Committee, addressing areas of overlapping interest and participating in several meetings with Capitol Hill staffers.

Members of the PAC are Richard Pouyat (Vice President), Rick Haeuber (Environmental Protection Agency), David Lodge (Notre Dame), Evan Notman (USFS AAAS Fellow) Candan Soykan (Student Representative), Christy Williams (USAID).

Public Affairs Office staff
Nadine Lymn, Director of Public Affairs; Annie Drinkard, Public Affairs Officer; and Laura Lipps, Policy Analyst.

SCIENCE PROGRAMS OFFICE

The Office of Science Programs carries out a broad range of activities in support of the ESA membership, the scientific community, and public agency scientists and decision makers. These activities are grouped into three broad categories: advancing Visions initiatives, maintaining responsiveness to the ecological science community, and developing a new sustainability science agenda. These efforts, in collaboration

with those of ESA's Education, Public Affairs, and Publications programs, maintain ESA's reputation as a source of reliable knowledge in ecological science. We appreciate the continuing support of the Society and the direct involvement of Society members in Science activities, and we welcome your advice, ideas, and energy.

Advancing Visions initiatives

Advancing Visions initiatives includes providing the scientific underpinnings for ESA public awareness and rapid response projects, leading international outreach, and promoting standardization of data collection, documentation, and sharing, based on ESA's Ecological Visions Project.

Ecology in an Era of Globalization

The Science Office played a major role in helping plan and raise funds for ESA's Ecology in an Era of Globalization meeting in Merida, Mexico in January. The conference was highly successful, attracting more than 480 attendees from 20 countries. The more than 200 student participants included 99 Latin American students supported by a Ford Foundation grant to ESA, and 31 U.S. students assisted by an NSF grant. The conference was officially opened at an evening ceremony featuring the Governor of Yucatan, Patricio José Patrón Laviada; conference co-chairs Jose Sarukhan and Jeff Herrick; ESA President Nancy Grimm; and a presentation by former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. Invited speakers at the conference also included World Resources Institute President Jonathan Lash; former Environment Minister for Mexico Julia Carabias; and Governor of Zacatecas Amalia Garcia. Approximately 70 attendees made oral presentations at the conference, and about 300 presented posters. Follow-on efforts are continuing, including preparation of reports about the conference workshops and development of a special issue of *Frontiers*.

As an additional follow-on to the meeting, the Ford Foundation gave ESA permission to use remaining grant funds to provide five scholarships to ESA's

2006 Annual Meeting. The five students selected are: Julieta Bono (Argentina), Galia Selaya (Bolivia), Alzira Maria Ferreira (Brazil), Jorge Eliécer Acosta (Colombia), and María Verónica Aguirre (Ecuador). All attended the Merida meeting, and will present papers in Memphis. They will also take part in the SEEDS activities sponsored by the Education Office.

Data-sharing initiative

With a grant from the National Science Foundation, awarded in May 2006, the Office is continuing the collaboration with other scientific societies on data-sharing issues begun at the Society Summit Meeting in September 2004. On behalf of the Joint Working Group formed at the 2004 meeting, ESA will host three workshops on data registries, data centers, and barriers to data access, respectively, over the course of the next 12 to 18 months. The first workshop, on data registries, was held 11–12 July 2006 in Washington.

Issues in Ecology

The Science Office continues to provide staff support to ESA's *Issues in Ecology* series. Two *Issues in Ecology* reports are currently under development, one focusing on science and conservation of migratory birds, and one on climate change in marine systems. Eight issues have now been translated into Spanish and three into Chinese; the translations are available on the ESA web site.

NBII Web site on pollination

Under a cooperative agreement with the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII), Science is supporting development of an NBII web site about pollinators, with content developed by Science staff, drawing on information from sources such as ESA's pollination ecosystem services toolkit, and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.

Maintaining responsiveness to the ecological science community

This category of activities includes a wide

range of projects that help maintain ESA's reputation as a source of scientific expertise and offer ESA members the opportunity to provide input to environmental management decisions. Some activities overlap with the scope of Visions initiatives; for example, the ESA Vegetation Panel's VegBank database links to the promotion of data sharing under advancing Visions initiatives.

Ecosystem services provided by agricultural wetlands

Science is working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a set of articles about conservation practice effects on ecosystem services provided by wetlands on agricultural landscapes, along with a nontechnical summary for distribution to decision makers and the general public. The articles will be prepared by researchers in the field and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal (possibly a supplement to *Ecological Applications*), and the summary will be prepared by Bette Stallman and distributed by the Office. A meeting of the article authors is scheduled for 12–13 September 2006, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

ESA Panel on Vegetation Classification

Science continues to provide support to the ESA Panel on Vegetation Classification. The Panel is revising its *Ecological Monographs* manuscript describing the Guidelines for Describing Associations and Alliances of the U.S. National Vegetation Classification. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Vegetation Subcommittee is engaged in continuing discussions to create a federal vegetation classification standard based on the Guidelines. The Panel also continues to maintain the VegBank plot data archive.

Harmful algal blooms workshop and plan

The Science Office has completed its efforts supporting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the revised National Plan for Marine Biotoxins and Harmful Algae, first issued in 1993.

Under a cooperative agreement, Office staff helped organize and participated in a workshop in Charleston, South Carolina, 21–25 March 2004. The workshop, attended by ~50 invitees, reviewed progress made in the last decade toward achieving the goals of the 1993 plan. Rhonda Kranz and Devon Rothschild worked with a steering committee chaired by Don Anderson of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and John Ramsdell of NOAA's Charleston, South Carolina laboratory, to complete the revised plan, HARNNESS, Harmful Algal Research and Response: A National Environmental Science Strategy 2005–2015, which is available at <http://esa.org/HABPlan>. Cliff Duke served on the steering committee and managed the cooperative agreement that funded the project.

National Agricultural Air Quality Workshop

The Science Office supported a team headed by Dr. Viney Aneja of North Carolina State University and Bill Schlesinger to develop the National Workshop on Agricultural Air Quality: State of the Science, held 5–8 June 2006 at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland. This workshop, supported by USDA, NSF, and others, focused on improving agricultural air quality inventories and recommended technological and methodological changes in current modeling and measurement practices. The Workshop, which attracted 345 attendees from 25 countries, featured a plenary address by Dr. Ralph Cicerone, President of the National Academy of Sciences, 88 oral presentations, and more than 190 posters on agricultural emissions, monitoring and measurements, biomass burning, best management practices, and public policy. The Workshop proceedings have been published, and an Assessment Report and several special issues of journals with papers by Workshop presenters are in preparation.

National Parks Ecological Research Fellowship Program

The National Parks Ecological Research (NPER) Fellowship Program has been a partnership of ESA, the National Park Foundation (NPF), and the National Park Service, funded through a grant from the Mellon Foundation. The program encouraged and

supported outstanding postdoctoral research in ecological sciences related to the flora of U.S. National Parks, Monuments, Seashores, and other sites administered by the National Park System. Due to changed priorities at NPF, this program is being phased out, with no new awards in 2006. ESA will continue to manage existing fellowships that have not been completed, and a final meeting of current and past fellows and the ESA review committee is being considered for ESA's Annual Meeting in San Jose in 2007.

Peer review support

The Science Office continues to manage the scientific peer review of a set of 10 assessments of the historic range of variation of Rocky Mountain Ecosystems for the U.S. Forest Service's Region 2. Each report is reviewed by the review panel chair and four other reviewers. Dr. Duncan Patten chaired the review until recently, when Dr. Wallace Covington took over. Five reports (Medicine Bow National Forest, Bighorn National Forest, Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, and Grand Mesa National Forest) have been reviewed and reports submitted to the Forest Service. Five additional reports are being completed by the authors and will be reviewed in the future.

Developing a new sustainability science agenda

This effort is intended to develop a series of activities to examine and articulate the intellectual foundations for a new sustainability science. It began formally with a special session, "Ecological Sustainability in a World of Constant Change: Developing a New Research Agenda for ESA," organized by Vice President for Science Gus Shaver, President Nancy Grimm, and Science Director Cliff Duke at the 2005 Annual Meeting. A Steering Committee led by Gus Shaver and including Terry Chapin, Cliff Duke, Ann Kinzig, Debra Peters, and Osvaldo Sala is planning an NSF-sponsored workshop, Ecological Foundations of Sustainability in a Constantly Changing World, to be held at Woods Hole, Massachusetts in late 2006 or early 2007. This workshop will review recent advances in ecological theory and identify how those advances

es can improve our understanding and achievement of sustainability. The workshop will also set the stage for a symposium at the 2007 ESA meeting, a larger international workshop to be cosponsored by ESA, UNESCO, and SCOPE, and several publications.

Annual Meeting activities

Science is organizing or participating in a number of activities at the 2006 Annual Meeting. These include meetings of the Science Committee, the Vegetation Panel, and the *Issues in Ecology* Editorial Board. Science Director Duke, with ESA President Nancy Grimm and President-Elect Alan Covich, will cochair a special session on funding agency initiatives. The National Parks Ecological Research Fellowships Review Committee will host a breakfast for current and past Fellows and guests.

Other activities

ESA continues as a Cooperator with the Plant Conservation Alliance, a cooperative program of a number of Federal agencies, which seeks to address problems related to native plant conservation and restoration. Science represents ESA at Alliance meetings, which are held every two months in the Washington area.

Science staff also participate in the scientific community in ways that help communicate ESA capabilities to the community and in turn inform the efforts of staff in the projects and activities summarized above. For example, Devon Rothschild represents ESA at Annual Meetings of the North America Pollinator Protection Campaign, and in the activities of National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week. Rothschild is also advising a high school student on a research project for the Intel Science Talent Search (formerly the Westinghouse Science Talent Search.)

Bette Stallman represents ESA on the Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable (SWRR), which is developing sets of environmental indicators. The most recent meeting, on 25–26 April 2006, featured updates on other indicator efforts, a review of a framework

and indicators developed to date for water resources, and planning for next steps in the process.

Cliff Duke represents ESA on the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable (SRR), which is developing sets of indicators for rangelands. The next meeting, on 2–5 October 2006, will focus on ecosystem services provided by rangelands. Duke also serves on EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors, which advises EPA's Office of Research and Development, and on the Key National Indicators Initiative, an effort to integrate a wide range of environmental, social, and economic indicators into a single, accessible source of information.

Science Committee

The Science Office thanks the members of the Science Committee, who provide valuable advice and input on Office projects: Gus Shaver, Chair (Marine Biological Laboratory); Laurie Drinkwater (Cornell University); Susan Harrison (UC–Davis); Mathew Leibold (University of Texas); Mary Power (UC–Berkeley); Phil Robertson (Michigan State University); Ricardo Rozzi (University of North Texas); and Michael Slimak (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Science Office staff:

Cliff Duke, Program Director; Bette Stallman, Program Manager; Devon Rothschild, Program Associate.

EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES OFFICE

This year has been a busy one for ESA Education staff. The education and diversity initiatives office develops and manages programs that aim to increase the diversity of ecology-related professions and improve the quality of ecology education at all levels. In 2005/2006 we continued to expand on our main education projects, including the Bioscience Education Network (BEN), and SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education Development and Sustainability), as well as remaining active in education and policy activities

occurring both nationally and in the D.C. area. The Education office staff also engages in many outreach activities, such as dissemination of education materials through our web site and mail.

August–October

The ESA Annual Meeting in Montreal featured many education and diversity events. An ESA member selection committee identified 30 students and 20 faculty to receive travel awards. Each student was paired with a meeting mentor, an ESA member with expertise in their interest area, to help guide them through the meeting. Mentors included six SEEDS alumni who are now in graduate school. Events at the meeting for participants included orientation sessions, a breakfast for students and mentors, and a participants' workshop.

In late August, Taylor and Strickland attended and exhibited at the Minority Environmental Leadership Diversity Initiative (MELDI) and the Society for Advancement of Chicano and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conferences.

In late September, ESA received 4 years of funding from the National Science Foundation to continue and expand its digital library project (BEN). This grant is part of collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and other biological societies.

November–January

In November Taylor attended the Conservation Learning Summit at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, the North American Association of Environmental Education Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the National Science Digital Library Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

SEEDS sponsored a Student Field Trip, 10–13 November 2005, to the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Project. Attendees of the field trip included 25 students from 16 schools across the

country, two SEEDS faculty, and four faculty representatives and team leaders. Faculty representatives included Mike Collins (United Tribes Technical College), Joe Fail, Jr. (Johnson C. Smith University), Stacey Mortensen (Fort Berthold Community College), and Sashi Sabaratnam (Livingstone College). Scott Collins, Professor and Lead Principal Investigator of the Sevilleta LTER, and Nancy Grimm, CAP LTER and ESA President, hosted the field trip.

The first electronic copy of the SEEDS monthly newsletter was published in early December, and all subsequent issues can be found at: <http://www.esa.org/seeds/newsletter/>.

In early January, education staff coordinated SEEDS events for 16 students to attend the Merida, Mexico Meeting. In addition to attending SEEDS-sponsored events, SEEDS participants were actively involved in the International Conference by attending field trips, and seven students presented their research at poster sessions. Several events were planned specifically for SEEDS participants. These events included lunch and orientation, field trip and dinner, and a wrap-up session. ESA President Dr. Nancy Grimm was the invited speaker for the wrap-up session. Photos from the International Conference can be found at <http://www.esa.org/seeds/albumPhotos/index.php>

In late January a proposal was submitted to the National Science Foundation to continue the Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology project. Unfortunately this grant was not funded.

February–April

From 18 to 23 February, Jason Taylor attended the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Ocean Sciences meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. Taylor participated in a number of sessions related to diversity in the ocean sciences, and exhibited SEEDS and ESA to the conference attendees; he also visited with the University of Hawaii at Manoa SEEDS Chapter. He was given a tour of the campus by President Andrea Rivera and Vice-President Pollyanna Fisher and discussed their planning for the East

Maui Ecology Field Trip.

Melissa Armstrong organized a SEEDS leadership workshop, which included three generations of SEEDS fellowship students. Many of their mentors attended this workshop, held 2–5 March in Tempe, Arizona at the Arizona State University (ASU) campus. The workshop was hosted by Nancy Grimm, ESA President, Director of the Global Institute of Sustainability at ASU, and current SEEDS Fellowship mentors.

In early March, Education staff prepared a nomination for ESA and the SEEDS program for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). We are still waiting for notification.

Strickland and Taylor attended the 25th Anniversary American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Conference 11–14 March in Green Bay, Wisconsin. SEEDS co-sponsored the Science Bowl Competition; the Science Oral Interpretation Competition; and the Science Poster Competition with the All Nations Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. Jeramie and Jason assisted with the Science Bowl Competition and learned more about the students and other tribal schools during the competition. The College of Menominee Nation (CMN) in Keshena, Wisconsin won the Science Bowl Competitions. CMN is in the SEEDS Campus Ecology Chapter cohort. In addition, SEEDS staff interacted with other conference participants and disseminated ecology educational materials along with information about ESA and SEEDS.

SEEDS exhibited and sponsored a workshop at the 2006 MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences) Annual Conference, 30 March –1 April, in St. Louis, Missouri. Katherine Hoffman organized a SEEDS Saturday workshop, St. Louis Riverfront Trail: How People Use Ecology. This field trip traveled along the 12-mile trail on the Mississippi River's west bank, focusing on the natural and cultural sites while learning about local conservation, restoration, and environmental jus-

tice efforts.

The Education and Human Resource Committee (EHRC) met from 22 to 24 March in Washington, D.C. The committee spent most of its time focusing on the Profiles of Ecologists report, and the ecology in the undergraduate curriculum survey. EHRC also met with the Public Affairs committee and visited two congressional offices.

May–July

From 4 to 9 June 2006, SEEDS conducted a student field trip to various sites in Kansas. Attendees included 19 students from 16 schools across the country, including the territories of American Samoa and Puerto Rico; one SEEDS faculty member from Yale University; and three SEEDS staff from the Ecological Society of America. The main goal of the field trip was to provide students with a positive experience with the ecology profession in Lawrence and Manhattan, Kansas. The field trip also included cultural and artistic aspects of areas the group learned about, and attempted to give a rich perspective of Kansas. Participants toured the Haskell/Wakarusa wetlands and were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Natural History Museum at the University of Kansas. The field trip then moved from Lawrence to Manhattan, Kansas, where students learned about the ecological research in progress at Kansas State University and the Konza Prairie.

A proposal was submitted to the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. If successful, this project will address the epidemic national teacher shortage that is most severe in science/math and in communities with high levels of minority students.

The fourth volume of *Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology* was published at <www.tiee.ecoed.net>

Submitted by:
Jason Taylor

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

A. Submissions and production (see Table 1 for summary)

Calendar year 2005 brought yet another marked increase in submissions to ESA journals relative to the previous year. Between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2005, the Publications Office logged in 2016 manuscripts, a 12.9% increase compared to 2004, and a new all-time record. Of the manuscripts received last year, 1409 were submitted to *Ecology/Ecological Monographs* (a 14.6% increase relative to the previous year), and 607 were submitted to *Ecological Applications* (an 8.9% increase). The data for submissions since 1987 are presented graphically in Fig. 1. The Publications Office staff (Jane Shaw, Anne Marie Whelan, Linda Stoddard, and Heather Carlo) deserve recognition for handling the increased workload so capably. Anne Marie Whelan deserves special recognition for keeping EcoTrack (the online submission and review system) updated and running smoothly.

Based on the submissions so far in 2006 (through 30 June; 1095 total), submissions in the present year are up 8.6% over 2005. Submissions to *Ecological Applications* account for a disproportionate share of this year's increase (353 submissions in 2006, as of 30 June). If the trend continues through the year, *Ecological Applications* will receive 16.3% more submissions in 2006 than in 2005!

The acceptance rates (percentage of decisions made during 2005) were 20.7% for *Ecology/Ecological Monographs* and 22.6% for *Ecological Applications* (see Fig. 2). The numbers indicate that ESA's journals are among the most selective journals publishing papers related to ecology.

The continuing declines in the average length of *Ecology* and *Ecological Applications* articles (see Fig. 3) reflect the ongoing effort to encourage authors to submit more concise papers for publication and to promote the use of Ecological Archives. During 2005 >50% of papers published in the three print journals were associated with Ecological Archives postings

(279 of 554 papers published).

The three print journals published 6254 pages in 2005, 3.2% fewer pages than in 2004 (see Fig. 4). This decrease is due to the fact that no supplements were published in 2005.

The page budget was increased in 1999 in an effort to decrease the backlog of papers awaiting publication (thereby decreasing the time between acceptance and publication). The Governing Board has recently approved another increase in the page budget for *Ecological Applications*. This will be reflected in the pages published for 2006.

During 2005 the *ESA Bulletin* published 332 pages, a 55.9% increase over 2004. Congratulations and thanks to David Gooding and Regina Przygocki for all the extra work! Our ability to include color images and Ed Johnson's new innovations to take advantage of this opportunity have added to the visual appeal of the *ESA Bulletin*.

Overall, the journals remain healthy. The large volume of submissions, the high circulations, and the consistently high impact factors for ESA journal articles (according to the ISI Science Citation Reports) reflect the esteem with which the profession views ESA publications.

B. Time to publication

We have made dramatic progress over the past few years in decreasing the time to publication (as is evident from the manuscript histories printed as footnotes to each published paper). The backlog of accepted papers awaiting publication is essentially a thing of the past, thanks primarily to the increased page budget adopted several years ago. There have also been pay-offs resulting from the efforts to encourage authors to submit more concise papers as Reports (*Ecology*) and Communications (*Ecological Applications*), as well as the increasing use of Ecological Archives for digital publication of information not integral to accepted papers. Shorter papers can be reviewed, revised, and copy-edited more quickly than the standard articles of

the past. In addition, we can publish more of them in a given issue, while still keeping within the page budget. It is increasingly common to see papers published in as short a time as 5–6 months following submission.

C. Ecological Archives

We have continued to promote the publication of appendices and supplemental materials in ESA’s Electronic Data Archive, *Ecological Archives*. During 2005, 279 of the papers published in ESA journals had one or more digital appendices and/or supplements published in *Ecological Archives* (and linked to the online versions of the published papers)—a 60.3% increase over 2004. Data Archive Manager Jane Bain has done a superb job of keeping up with the accelerated pace of files to be posted. The default is that all appendices and supplementary material referred to as being “available” in published papers are posted in digital form in *Ecological Archives* and are not printed. ESA is one of the leaders in the biological sciences in the use of digital archiving in conjunction with its publications.

Table 1.
ESA PUBLICATIONS
Summary Statistics

Statistic	2004	2005	Percentage change, 2004–2005
MSS submitted, <i>Ecology/Monographs</i>	1229	1409	+14.6
MSS submitted, <i>Applications</i>	557	607	+8.9
Total MSS submitted	1786	2016	+12.9
Acceptance rate (%), <i>Ecology/Monographs</i>	22.4	20.7	---
Acceptance rate (%), <i>Applications</i>	25.1	22.6	---
Pages published, <i>Ecology</i>	3470	3454	−0.5
Pages published, <i>Monographs</i>	702	586	−16.5
Pages published, <i>Applications</i>	1968	2214	+12.5
Pages published, Supplement	322	---	---
Total pages published, journals	6462	6254	−3.2
Pages published, <i>ESA Bulletin</i>	213	332	+55.9
Papers with <i>Ecological Archives</i> postings (% of <i>Ecol.</i> , <i>EM</i> , and <i>Applications</i> papers)	174	279 (50.3%)	+60.3

D. Graphics work brought in-house

During 2005, we began doing all modifications to figures (including sizing, alterations to labels, and layout) in the Publications Office. This has resulted in significant savings to ESA and fewer revisions at the proof stage. Congratulations to Regina Przygocki, Rachel Lodder, and Heather Carlo (our in-house graphics team) for taking on this new challenge so successfully.

E. Data sharing

Effective with the 2005 submissions, we have announced that the editors and publisher expect authors to make their data available. More recently, we have encouraged authors to take advantage of ESA's new Data Registry for depositing metadata. Soon, we will include Data Registry information in published papers.

Table 2. Geographic sources of papers.

	Country	No. MSS	Acc. (%)
1	United States	1027	34
2	Canada	159	27
3	United Kingdom	88	26
3	Australia	86	28
5	China	78	0
6	Spain	62	15
7	Germany	52	19
8	France	47	28
9	Japan	43	9
10	Sweden	41	17
11-50	All others	335	19

Fig. 1. Submitted MSS

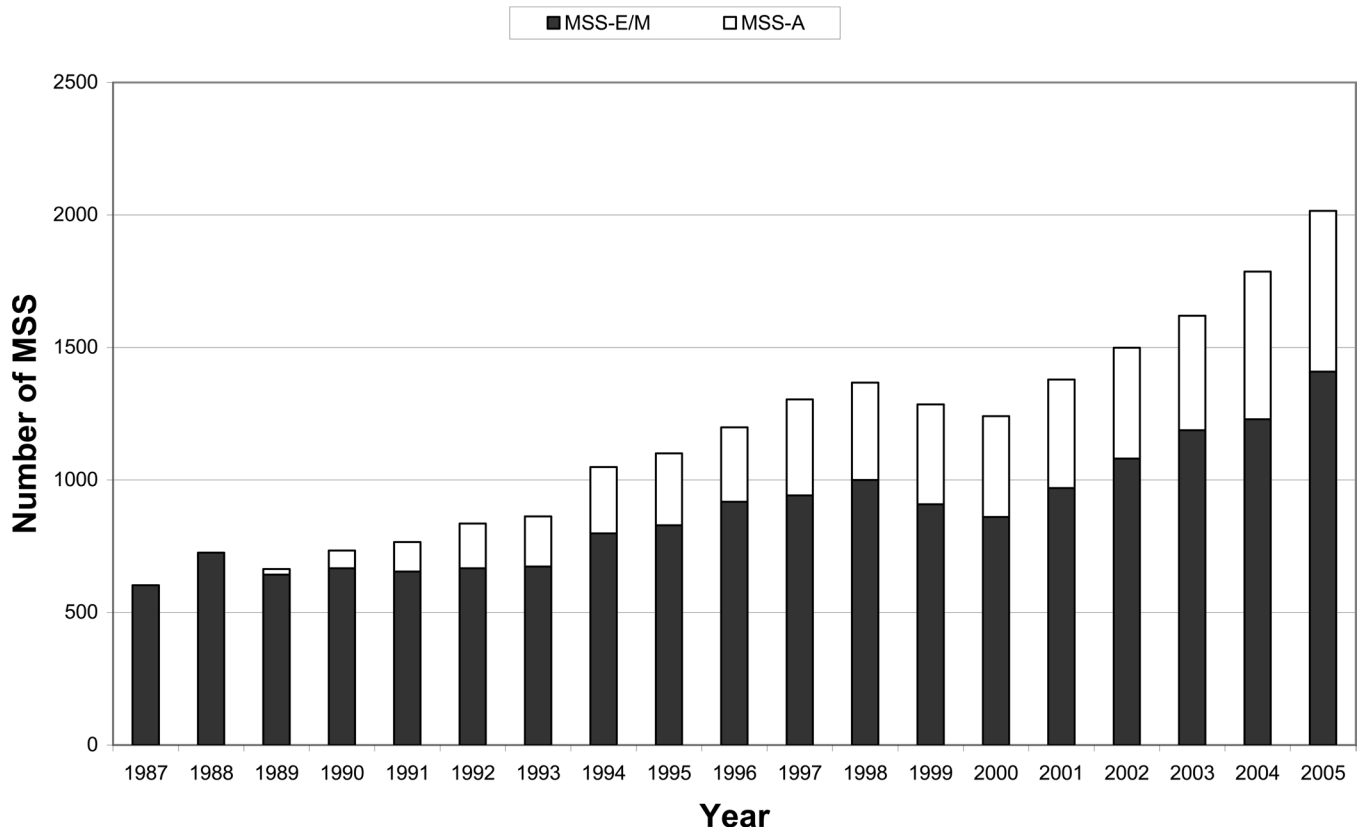


Fig. 2. Acceptance Rates

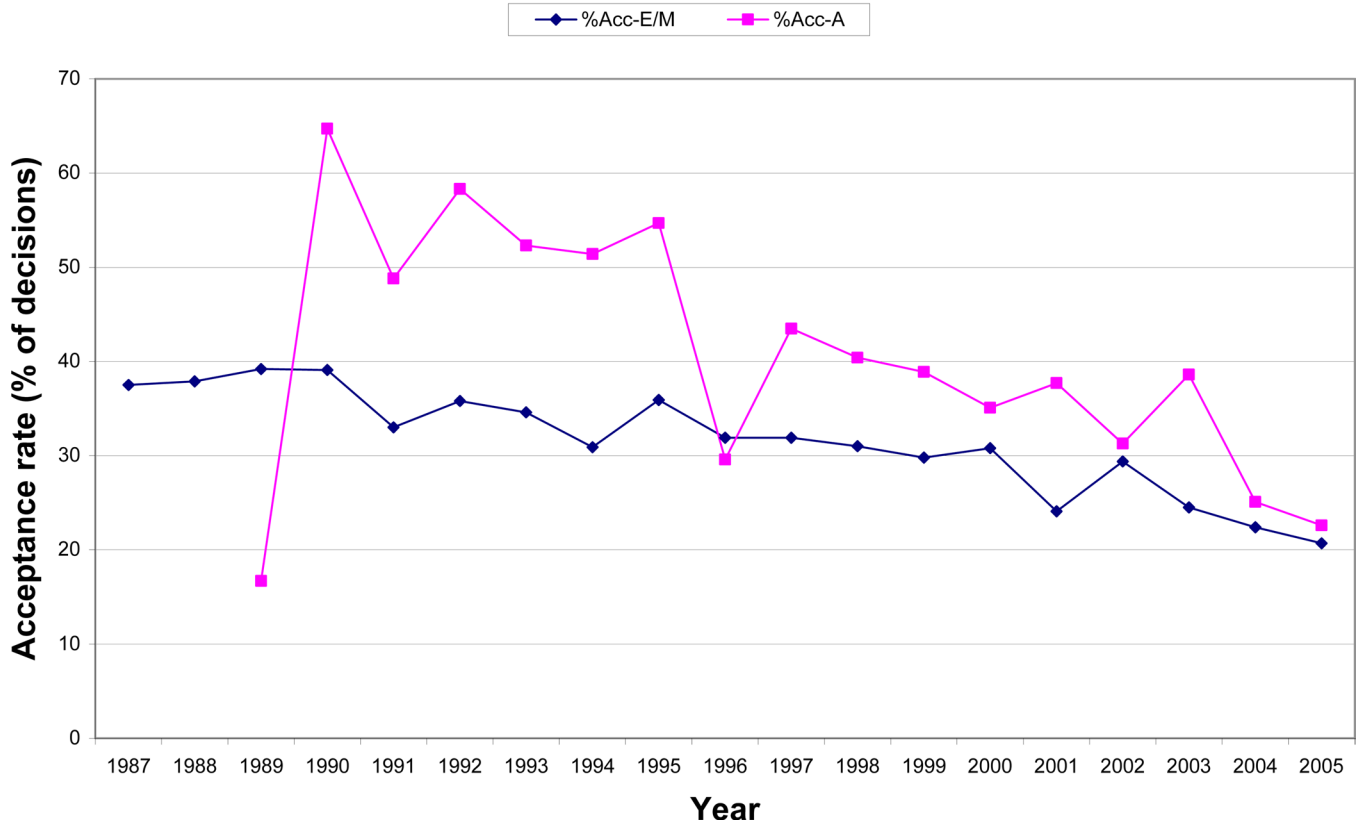


Fig. 3. Article Length

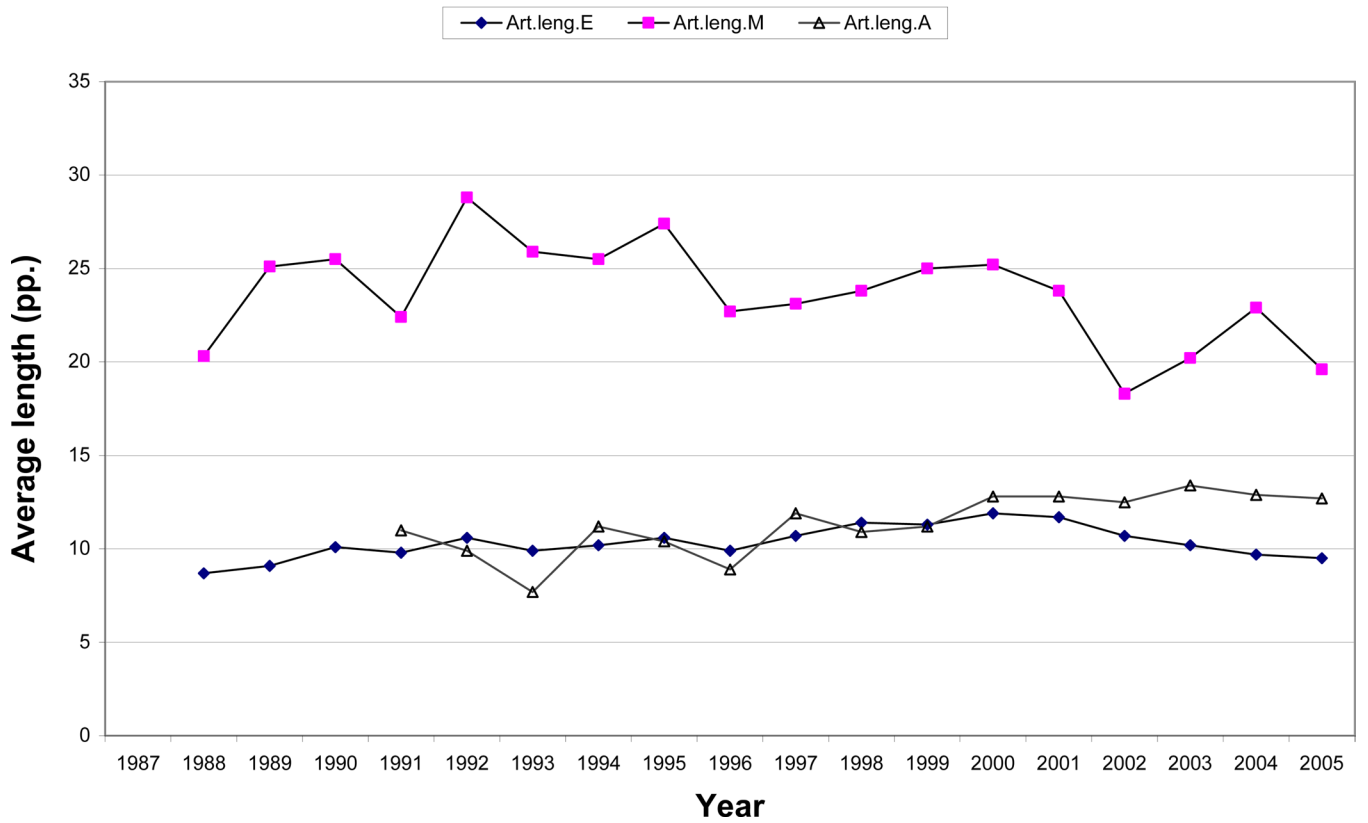
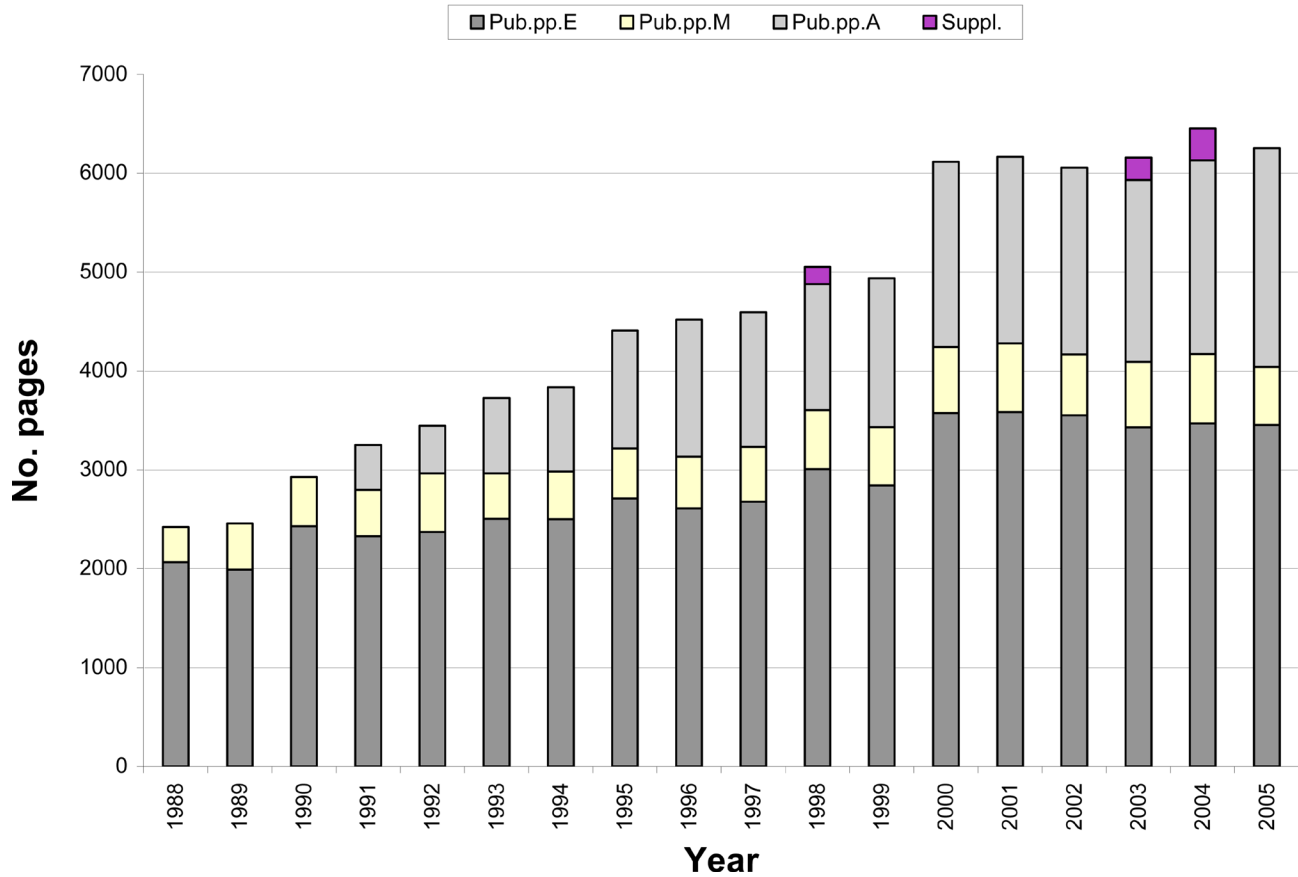


Fig. 4. Pages Published



F. Submissions to ESA journals from outside the United States

ESA’s journals attract submissions from many countries outside the United States. In fact, the corresponding authors for only about 50% of papers submitted during 2005 had a U.S. institutional affiliation. Table 2 lists the numbers of submissions (and acceptance rates) by country of the corresponding author for the 10 countries accounting for the most manuscripts submitted to ESA journals during 2005.

G. Acknowledgments

The quality of ESA’s publications is the result of hard work by an extremely talented and dedicated staff in the Publications Office: Jane Bain (Data Archive Manager and Features Editor), Gail Blake (Copy Editor), David Gooding (Associate Managing Editor), Dooley Kiefer (Copy Editor), Rachel Lodder (Copy Editor), Regina Przygocki (Graphics/Production Editor), Jane Shaw (Office Manager), Margaret Shepard (Technical Editor), Nancy Sorrells (Copy Editor), Heather Carlo (Office Assistant), Linda Stoddard (Editorial Assistant), and Anne Marie Whelan (Publications Coordinator). We are also indebted to our freelance copy editors (Ellen Cotter, Tracey Cranston, Paula Douglass, Nancy Istock, Nancy Kleinrock, and Anita Seaberg) for their fine work and adherence to deadlines.

David Baldwin, Managing Editor