

## **AWARD OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND MERIT**

This year, ESA is making a unique Award of Special Recognition to honor the Organization for Tropical Studies for its unique role in educating generations of students and others in tropical biology. OTS, a nonprofit consortium of over 50 universities and research institutions from the United States, Costa Rica, and Australia, has offered intensive field courses since 1963, introducing thousands of ecologists to tropical ecosystems, conservation biology, and ecological thinking. It offers short courses in English, Spanish, and

Portuguese for policy makers, community and corporate leaders, park managers, and journalists to reach those who shape policy throughout Latin America and the United States. OTS has recently added a short course for secondary science teachers to enhance understanding of field-based science instruction and international environmental issues. OTS has played a critical role in creating a cadre of scientists, educators, and policy makers who work in the ecology of tropical regions of the world.

To acknowledge the breadth and excellence of OTS educational programs in tropical biology and management, the Corporate Award subcommittee recommended that it be granted an

Award of Special Recognition. Through this Award, ESA expresses its appreciation for the unique and important role that the Organization for Tropical Studies has played in the education of tropical biologists, educators, and policy makers. In the absence of Laura Huenneke, Chair of the Corporate Award subcommittee, Alan Berkowitz, ESA Vice President for Education, presented the award to Gary Hartshorne, President and CEO of OTS.

*Corporate Award Subcommittee:  
Laura Foster Huenneke (Chair), Gregory Aplet, Joan Ehrenfeld, Susan Galatowisch, Carolyn Hunsaker, Kate Lajtha, Kurt Teichert*