

The IAUC Board is delighted to announce that A. John Arnfield is the recipient of the 2010 IAUC Luke Howard Award. His career as an urban climatologist has been marked by a focus on fundamental processes, and an attention to detail that is rare. He has been one of the guiding figures in the field since the mid-1970s. In addition, John has been central to the development of a community of urban climate scholars.

John's urban research focus grew out of his interest in radiation exchanges, acquired while a student at McMaster University. With the benefit of hindsight, it is easy to see that a detailed approach to the radiation exchange at urban surfaces must be the starting point for the evaluation of climates within the urban canopy layer. He employed the urban canyon as the fundamental unit of canopy-layer research and thoroughly examined multiple radiation exchanges within this scheme. As it transpired, this approach to the study of street climates was sufficiently 'fundamental' that it could be developed to consider streets of finite length and to incorporate models concerned with flow within city streets. His work as a result, has grown in significance with time and has provided the starting point for many urban climate models that were to follow. His research approach was theoretical in scope, but was informed by carefully constructed measurement experiments. John's grasp of the breadth of urban climate research is evident in his widely cited work: "Two decades of urban climate research: a review of turbulence, exchanges of energy and water, and the urban heat island" (Int. J. of Climatology, 2003).

John's lasting legacy will be the establishment and maintenance of a "community" of climatologists – and in particular of urban climatologists. He organized many special sessions for urban climate at meetings of the American Association of Geographers during a period with few other relevant meetings. These sessions helped provide the impetus for a resurgence of the AMS's Urban Environment Symposium and the ICUC series of urban conferences. Indeed, he helped found both the AMS Board of the Urban Environment and the IAUC. He created CLIMLIST, a moderated electronic bulletin board, which has become indispensable as a means of communicating with fellow climatologists. In short, it is impossible to conceive of a climatology community without this simple mechanism for interaction. The substantial growth in collaboration among research workers in the field can be attributed in no small part to the establishment of CLIMLIST. The creation of URBCCLIM, a moderated discussion board for urban climatologists has been substantially modeled on this success. He has been awarded the AAG Climate Specialty Group Lifetime Achievement Award for substantial contributions to climatology and geography.

Tim Oke has characterized the recent history of urban climatology as an 'ending of the solitudes' – a phrase that captures the transformation of a field from one dominated by researchers pursuing individual agendas in isolation, to one that substantially agrees on a framework for research and explores outstanding issues through co-operative, team-based, research projects.

John Arnfield was one of those that can claim credit to 'ending the solitudes'. He has been part of modern urban climate research from its inception and has worked selflessly to help produce an international community of scholars. John is a complete academic citizen and a model for developing academic researchers. His motivations for research are naive – they are based on a desire for learning and for sharing insights. The urban climate community is thus fortunate that such an individual chose to dedicate his efforts to the development of the field of urban climate.

- The IAUC Awards Committee

See also <http://www.urban-climate.org/newsletters/IAUC040.pdf>