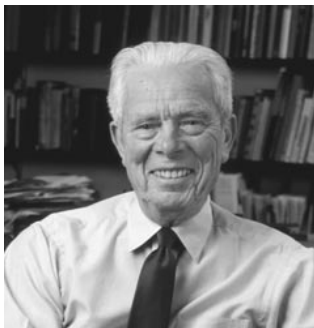


AGU NATURAL HAZARDS FOCUS GROUP GILBERT F. WHITE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE AWARD

AWARD BIOGRAPHY

Established in 2011, the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group G. F. White Distinguished Lecture Award is named in honor of Gilbert F. White, who was a major contributor to natural hazards research. The Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award is awarded annually to an individual “for original contributions to the basic knowledge of natural hazards and/or disaster risks”. The lecture will be presented by the awardee at the AGU Fall Meeting of the year of the award.

Gilbert F. White Biography



Gilbert Fowler White (1911–2006) was a prominent American geoscientist, sometimes termed the "father of floodplain management". GF White is known predominantly for his work on natural hazards, particularly flooding, and the importance of sound water management in contemporary society. GF White earned his B.S. in 1932 and his PhD in 1942 at the University of Chicago. From 1946 to 1955 he was President of Haverford College. He then returned to Chicago as a Professor of Geography, where he was the central figure in the "Chicago school" of natural hazards research. In 1970, he moved to the University of Colorado, and founded the Natural Hazards Center there, before retiring. Some of White's most notable work involved the identification and classification of adjustment mechanisms for flooding in the United States, perceptions of natural hazards, and choice of natural hazard adjustments. G.F. White identified adjustments to flooding as being either structural or non-structural. He advocated, where feasible, adaptation to or accommodation of flood hazards rather than the “structural” solutions (e.g., dams, levees, and floodwalls) that dominated policy in the early 20th century. Structural adjustments, developed by engineers, are designed to modify flooding hazards so that humans are protected and can continue to live in areas that are periodically subject to flooding. White's non-structural adjustments consist of arrangements imposed by a governing body (local, regional, or national) to restrict the use of floodplains, or flexible human adjustments to flood risk that do not involve substantial investment in flood controls. Gilbert F. White received numerous honors in his lifetime, including the Public Welfare Medal from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), elected fellow of the NAS and American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the United Nations Sasakawa International Environment Prize, Laureat d'Honneur of the International Geographical Union, the Volvo Environment Prize, and the National Medal of Science from the NSF.

Frequency:

Presented to one awardee annually.

Citation/Scope Statement:

For original contributions to the basic knowledge of natural hazards and/or disaster risks.

NOMINATION PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Nominees:

- Nominee must be an active AGU member.

Ineligible Nominees, Nominators and Supporters:

- Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group.
- G. F. White Distinguished Lecture Award Committee Members.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.

Eligible Nominators and Supporters:

- Open to public.
- Multiple nominators for a candidate are allowed; however it is often suggested that they collaborate so as to submit a more robust package for the nominee.

Requirements:

A nomination package should contain the following files, which should be no more than two (2) pages in length per document:

1. **Letter of nomination** (with one sentence citation not more than 150 characters) by an AGU member and a minimum of 2, but no more than 4, **letters of support** from peers (not from the nominee's institution). Total does not include nomination letter.
 - Nomination and supporting letters should be concise, clear, and preferably on letterhead.
 - Nomination and supporting letters must clearly articulate how the candidate(s) research over a sustained period of time has made significant impact on his/her field. The letters must explain the contributions and their importance so that they can be understood by their peers and those outside their research.
 - The first paragraph of each nomination and supporting letter should include the name of the candidate and a few sentences giving the overall reasons for nominating or supporting the candidate. The body of the nominating letter, which could be a few paragraphs, should give a brief and concise history of the candidate's work and publications that have resulted. Both the nomination and supporting letters should state how the work has contributed to the field overall and/or to the growth of the field, as well as what insights have been gained and what impacts the work will have on current and future research.
 - The last paragraph of the nomination and supporting letters should summarize the work, state who has benefited, and highlight some of the candidate's recognitions and notable service to his/her field.
 - If possible, the nominator might want to provide his/her nomination letter and other nomination materials to the persons asked to write supporting letters to help ensure the best possible coverage of the nominee's accomplishments and contributions. It is

important that supporting letters augment the letter of nomination through substantive material, establishing the nominee's international reputation in his/her field as important.

- Both nomination and supporting letters should contain the author's signature, full name, title, and institution affiliation. Electronic or official signatures are acceptable.

2. *Curriculum vitae* of the nominee.

The curriculum vitae should list the candidate's (1) name, (2) address, (3) history of employment, (4) degrees, (5) research experience, (6) honors, (7) memberships, and (8) service to the community through committee work, advisory boards, etc. It is important to explain the reasons for the honors, which have been received by the candidate. All incomplete or incorrect CVs will be returned to the nominator for revising.

- ## 3. *Selected bibliography* with a brief, introductory summary (i.e., no more than one paragraph and giving the total number publications); and

Each selected bibliography should begin by briefly stating the candidate's total number and types of publications. For example: "*Jane Doe is the author of 92 publications, 86 in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The following selected list best supports Jane's nomination for the G. F. White Distinguished Lecture Award.*"

Holdover Nominations

Holdover nominations are strong contenders/candidates who were not selected but were recommended by the Award Committee for consideration for the following nomination cycle. Nominations can be held over for no more than 2 years after the original date of submission, unless the Committee recommends otherwise. Nominators are encouraged to update documentation in held-over packages (i.e. nomination letter, curriculum vitae, bibliography, and supporting letters). Held-over candidates who were not selected and can no longer be held over for the following year will require a new nomination submission.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submission Timeline:

- Nomination for the G. F. White Distinguished Lecture Award can be submitted at any time before 15 April of the year of award.

Submission Method:

A nomination in an electronic form (as a single PDF file) should be submitted to:

Dr. Ilya Zaliapin,
Secretary, AGU Focus Group on Natural Hazards
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557
Tel: +1-775-784-6077
E-mail: **zal@unr.edu**

EVALUATION PROCESS

Basic Evaluation Guidelines/Criteria:

1. Stature of the candidate and her or his contributions to the field of natural hazards research and practice.
2. Scientific body of work in the natural hazards and disaster risk research.
3. Focused on excellence and impact (lifetime achievement, contribution across the research fields).

Evaluation Process/Balloting Procedure:

- Committee members will review all nomination packages, rank the candidates, and send list to committee chair. The committee chair will sum up the points for each candidate and share with the committee via e-mail.
- The committee chair will divide the top few nominees among the committee members by area of expertise. During discussions, each of the committee members who were designated the discussion leader, present information as to why the candidate(s) should be chosen for the Award.
- At the end of the discussion, a new ranking vote is taken either on conference call or via separate e-mail. The candidate with the most votes is selected. If a clear candidate is not decided, or if the points are close for first place, the committee will discuss either by e-mail or conference call the top candidates and make a decision.

Approval by the Chair of the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group:

- The role of the Chair is to accept or reject the recommendation of the Award committee on the basis of its evaluation of the process and its knowledge of the candidates. Whereas the Chair may not substitute for the choice, it can ask for further clarification or additional deliberation.
- The Award committee's report to the Chair must state the number of candidates considered, how many of these were holdovers and how many were new, and whether the new candidates were nominations from the general call or were actively encouraged by the committee. The report should also describe the process used for reaching the decision and the degree of unanimity on the decision.

Evaluation Timeline:

- 16 April – 19 April:

Nomination packages are reviewed for completion and accuracy by the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Secretary. Within this timeframe, nominators are informed of additional requirements needed to complete the packages.

- 20 April to 10 May:

Once the reviews are completed, the nomination packages, in pdf formats, are e-mailed to the Award Committee by the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Secretary. The Award Committee starts evaluation directed by the Chair of the Award Committee.

- 11 May:

Committees forward their final recommendations to the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group for approval.

Award Committee Charge

- Select the recipient of the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award; the final decision is subject for approval of the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Chair.
- Interpret the scope of the award broadly and in accordance with stated purpose for the award.
- Do not depend solely on unsolicited nominations. Although committee members are not eligible to submit nominations, they need to be proactive by encouraging nominations through committee member contacts.
- Conform with AGU conflict of interest policies and protocols for selection committees.
- State, as part of the award recommendation to the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Chair, the number of candidates considered. Since this is a new award, there won't be any holdovers for this year.
- Define an objective and fair process used for reaching the decision.

In addition to selecting the recipient of the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award, the Award Committee members should work with the Natural Hazards Focus Group Executive Committee and Advisory Board to increase the number of nominations of viable candidates in underrepresented groups.