We should note also the relationship between this award-winning paper and the origins of physiographic ecology in North America. W. S. Cooper, whose contributions the award recognizes, was a student of the great physiographic ecologist Henry Chandler Cowles at the University of Chicago, as was Walter Cottam, later of the University of Utah. Cowles pointed out the anomalous oak distribution problem in northeastern Utah to Walter Cottam many years ago, and it was Cottam, now retired, who pointed it out to Dr. Nielson.

Murray F. Buell ascribed great importance to the participation of students at meetings and to excellence in the presentation of papers. To honor his dedication to the Ecological Society of America and to the younger generation of ecologists this award is presented to a student (undergraduate, graduate or recent doctorate) for the outstanding oral paper presented at the Society’s annual meeting.

The 1987 winner of the award is Sharon Y. Strauss for her paper, “Historical effects of herbivory on sumac fitness.” Sharon received her bachelor’s degree from Harvard University, a master’s from the University of Minnesota and is currently completing her doctorate in the Department of Biological Science at Florida State University.

Receiving honorable mention citations were Susan Mopper of Northern Arizona University for her paper, “Skewed herbivore sex ratios: A plant defense mechanism?” and Shahid Naeem of the University of California at Berkeley for his paper, “Resource heterogeneity fosters coexistence of a mite and a midge in pitcher plants.”

Since being instituted in 1977, the award has been presented to the following individuals:

1977 James R. Ehleringer (Stanford University)
1978 Paul A. Delcourt (University of Minnesota)
1979 John Dacey (Michigan State University)
1980 Andrew Sih (UC–Santa Barbara)
1981 Becky J. Brown (University of Florida)
1982 Deanna J. Stouder (UC–Santa Barbara)
1983 Elaine M. Birk (University of North Carolina)
The following statement accompanied the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Francis Cope Evans.

In recognition of:

your sustained support of the Ecological Society of America over portions of five decades, including attending numerous annual meetings and stimulating students to join and participate actively in ESA,

your enormous contribution to the quality of the Society's publications, serving six long years as the sole zoology editor of Ecological Monographs, and later three more years as Chair of the ESA Publications Committee,

your thoughtful leadership of the Ecological Society of America, as our President in 1983–84, and as a Member of Council for five years, during an especially active and effective period in the history of our Society,

The Ecological Society of America is proud to present its Distinguished Service Award.

Francis Evans, Professor of Zoology and Associate Director of the Edwin S. George Reserve of the University of Michigan, retired from the faculty after a distinguished career as ecologist, teacher, and editor. A native Philadelphian, he received a baccalaureate degree from Haverford College, and three years later a D. Phil. from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar and studied with Charles Elton. After a fellowship at the University of California at Davis and five years on the faculty of Haverford College, he joined the University of Michigan faculty. Professor Evans' ecological research on small mammals, birds, insects, and grassland communities brought him international acclaim, and was recognized in receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Painton Award of the Cooper Ornithological Society, and a Visiting Erskine Fellowship at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.