

IES President Gene E. Likens Elected to American Philosophical Society

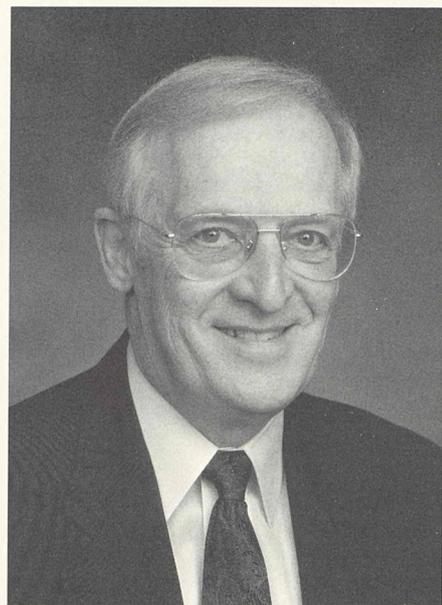
On April 29th, 2006, the American Philosophical Society announced the election of Dr. Gene E. Likens, President and Director of IES, as a new member. Established in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin for the purpose of "promoting useful knowledge," the Society boasts among its members many of the founding fathers, scholars from all fields, and those representing the arts, professions and public and private affairs. Dr. Likens also joins influential scientists, such as John James Audubon, Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein.

Dr. Likens founded IES in 1983 as an international center for ecology research and education. He and his colleagues were the first to document the presence of acid rain in North America, and his decades of research have contributed greatly to our understanding of limnology, ecosystem disturbance and recovery and human accelerated environmental change. In the words of Dr. Estella B. Leopold, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Washington, "This honor is way past due to a very prestigious and wonderful scientist... [one who has] contribut-

ed so very much in ... creativity and enduring research of great social value."

The American Philosophical Society, located in Philadelphia, is the oldest learned society in the United States. The activities of this eminent organization reflect the founder's spirit of inquiry, while sustaining a mission for the 21st century. The APS honors and engages leading scholars and professionals with membership and opportunities for multidisciplinary intellectual fellowship, supports research and education through grants, lectures and publications and serves scholars via an extensive research library of manuscripts and internationally recognized collections. Current membership of the APS includes 791 resident members and 153 foreign members. Dr. Likens is joined by an impressive group of new members that includes John Nash, subject of the movie *A Beautiful Mind*, novelist Joan Didion and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Election to membership in the American



Dr. Gene E. Likens

Philosophical Society recognizes extraordinary accomplishment, and we congratulate Dr. Likens on this latest honor. ●

Literacy, *continued from page 1*

To promote a greater knowledge of ecosystems, ELI will have both regional and national dimensions. Programs such as the Ecology Field Programs for school groups and Ecology Day Camps will continue to serve as community resources, as well as testing grounds for new educational modules. Teacher workshops and in-class support will enhance the ecosystem literacy of the entire Hudson Valley, while web-based materials will be of interest and use to the general public. Ecosystem-focused events at IES, such as behind-the-scenes tours of the research facilities and symposia applying the ecosystem approach to practical concerns, also are in the works.

The Changing Hudson Project

One new component of ELI is the Changing Hudson Project (CHP). We all know the river is constantly changing – hourly, daily, seasonally, as well as over years, decades, centuries. The physical and chemical character of the river varies, as do the living things within it. Some changes may be normal parts of the Hudson River ecosystem, while others can lead to significant, irreversible alterations in its character. Which of these are simply "bends" in the river ecosystem and which are "breaks" – fundamental, long-lasting shifts?

Thanks to a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, CHP will help teachers and students explore this question

using real evidence that they collect themselves or obtain from existing scientific studies. A team of practicing teachers, scientists and educators will develop tools to help students visualize the Hudson River ecosystem – both in its unperturbed state and under various forms of disturbance. Using animations, graphics, simulation models and comparative studies, CHP will grow a web-based resource for educators and students throughout the Hudson River Valley. Understanding how changes can impact the biological communities of the river, or the usefulness of the river for drinking water and human recreation, make the study of science that much more relevant for students.

Since 1983, IES has been untangling the mysteries of ecosystem function while also helping advance the new field of ecology education. The Ecosystem Literacy Initiative will combine research and education in a focused effort to help address pressing concerns facing our society. "We now need to bring the concept of ecosystems more squarely into public discourse and into education," says Dr. Berkowitz. "The needs of the environment, the needs of the educational system and the needs of the public demand nothing less." ●

To learn more about ELI visit
www.ecostudies.org/eli.html

Calling All Campers!

Want to learn more about ecosystem engineers, the amazing plants and animals that make and change habitat for others? Come to the 2006 IES Ecology Day Camp, where you'll be a worm farmer, build a beaver dam, and explore the woods looking for leaf rolling insects and plants that make a habit of poisoning their neighbors!

Campers entering grades 2 through 7 will explore the ecosystems found on our 2000 acre property, perform experiments, hike, do nature crafts and play ecology games. Weekly sessions begin June 26 and run through August 25. For more information, visit our website at www.ecostudies.org/ed_eco_camps.html, or call Susan Eberth at 845-677-7600 ext. 316.