

2012 Presidential Achievement Award from the Association of American Geographers



Dawn Wright

Professor

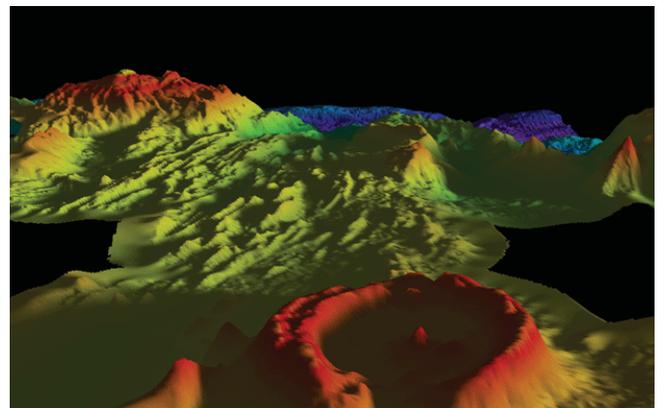
Dawn Wright, a professor of geography and oceanography at Oregon State University, received the 2012 Presidential Achievement Award from the Association of American Geographers.

Wright, a nationally recognized expert in geographic information systems, is on a two-year leave from OSU to serve as chief scientist for the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), a leading company in providing GIS software and services to hundreds of thousands of organizations worldwide, including most of the world's governments.

Wright's research interests include geographic information science, ocean floor habitat and terrain, tectonics of mid-ocean ridges, and the interpretation of high-resolution bathymetry and underwater videography/photography. She has studied the recovery of coral reefs and other seafloor habitats after tsunamis and other extreme events.

Known as "Deepsea Dawn" for her work in mapping and studying the deep ocean, Wright has numerous achievements and awards. Other recent awards:

- In 2013, she received Distinguished Teaching Honors from the Association of American Geographers.
- In 2011, she was appointed Chief Scientist by Esri.
- In 2011, she was named an Aldo Leopold Fellow.
- In 2008, she was named a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, "for distinguished contributions to the field of marine geospatial science and technology, particularly for leadership in the development of marine geographic information science theory and applications."
- In 2007, she was named Oregon Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation.
- She went to Ireland on a Fulbright fellowship.
- She has been featured in a National Science Foundation series on women oceanographers.



Bathymetry of a geologically active region of the seafloor west of Tonga Trench, southwest Pacific.

"I am very humbled and honored to achieve this award. The AAG is a tremendous organization that does so much for all of geography including the emerging area of marine and coastal geography. Professor Ken Foote is also one of my role models, so I am thrilled to be recognized by him in this way and to be honored along with Laura Pulido of USC." — Dawn Wright