



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

CITATION

CITIZEN'S AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

ROBIN BRYANT

In recognition of her outstanding volunteer contributions to the mission of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

As a USGS Volunteer for Science with the Alaska Region, Robin Bryant has helped improve the geologic basis for identifying soil organic carbon that is highly vulnerable to climate change. This soil organic carbon is located in Siberia where vast regions retain wind-blown, lacustrine, and alluvial permafrost deposits rich in organic carbon and ground ice yet highly remote and inaccessible for study by scientists. In 2011, Ms. Bryant and a team of other volunteers began to scan, rectify, digitize, and help publish Quaternary geologic maps made in Russia by Russian geologists. As an initial product, the team published the extent and description for "Yedoma" (frozen, wind-blown, Pleistocene in age) deposits in the Siberian region. This initial product was used in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report for 2012. Subsequently, Ms. Bryant has single-handedly continued the digitization of all geologic units for some 15 maps, logging in hundreds of volunteer hours toward this end. This unique and extensive digital database is now being used by members of the Permafrost Carbon Network to explore and assess where and how terrestrial carbon was buried and frozen over the past 20,000 years. This information helps to constrain rates of carbon sequestration of atmospheric CO₂ by northern latitude terrestrial systems. In turn, these map-based estimates provide landscape attributes such as depth, proximity to water, and permeability that improve our understanding of carbon accumulation in these sediments. Importantly, as climate changes and permafrost degrades in these regions, these maps will help to constrain the potential for permafrost carbon release as these sediments are subjected to decomposition during thaw. The efforts of Ms. Bryant have provided digital, accessible data from remote, inaccessible regions to the international community of terrestrial scientists. Thanks to her scientific contributions, USGS conceptual and mathematical models can be built with a robust set of spatial data types that constrain the amounts and locations of sediment carbon in Siberia and show its vulnerability to climate change. For her outstanding volunteer contributions, Robin Bryant is granted the Department of the Interior's Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service.

Suzette M. Kimball
Acting Director



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

CITATION

CITIZEN'S AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

ANTONIO SIMONETTI

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the mission of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to provide unbiased, accurate, high quality natural science information.

The USGS is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the scientific activities it conducts as well as those that are conducted on its behalf. The USGS will not tolerate loss of integrity in the performance, use, or communication of scientific activities and their results. Following a recent allegation of the loss of USGS scientific integrity, and pursuant to the Department of the Interior's policy on the *Integrity of Scientific and Scholarly Activities*, the USGS convened a Scientific Integrity Review Panel to investigate the allegation. This Panel included Antonio Simonetti, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Science of the University of Notre Dame, and three USGS senior scientists. Forming a trusted, cohesive team, Professor Simonetti and his USGS colleagues conducted an extensive investigation into the allegation, contributing their collective, vast expertise to probe and evaluate significant scientific information. Professor Simonetti and his fellow team members' thoroughness and dedication to determine the core factors of the issue were driven by a collective desire to protect the scientific integrity of the USGS as a world renowned provider of accurate natural science data that can be trusted by scientists and the general public. For his outstanding contributions, dedication, and commitment to scientific integrity, Professor Antonio Simonetti is granted the Department of the Interior's Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service.

Suzette M. Kimball
Director