



***Earthzine* Announces its Second Annual College and University Essay and Blogging Contest Theme “Making Citizen Observations a Global Vision”**

Earthzine will host its second essay and blogging competition in 2010 for college and university students worldwide on the theme “Making Citizen Observations a Global Vision.”

“As a web magazine dedicated to fostering Earth observation and global awareness, *Earthzine* hopes to encourage a new generation of Earth observers through these competitions,” said Editor-in-Chief Paul E. Racette, D Sc.

“The 2010 essay theme, “Making Citizen Observations a Global Vision,” seeks to explore the benefits and challenges of the collaborative role citizen observers play in the collection and validation of Earth observations,” he said.

The contest is open to undergraduate and graduate college and university students who are currently enrolled in any program of study at least half-time at an accredited institution worldwide. More details, including prizes, will be announced on www.Earthzine.org/

Associate Editor for Education David F. Mullins, PhD, said, “I’m excited about this year’s essay contest! Everyone in the world makes observations of the Earth in one way or another every day, so this contest is really open to students from practically every discipline.”

Judges will choose the contest finalists based on the quality of their written essays. The finalists’ essays will be posted on *Earthzine* and the winners selected on the quality of their online blogging that explores and debates the concepts presented in the essays. Winners will receive certificates of award, cash prizes, and memorabilia, as well as international recognition afforded by *Earthzine* publication.

Earthzine’s [first 2009 student essay contest](#), “Sustainability through Earth Observation and Engineering”, drew entries from Africa, India, Russia, and the United States. The three winners were: **David Tshimba**, Uganda Martyrs University, Kampala, Uganda; **Sulaiman Tejan Jalloh**, Institute of Advanced Management and Technology, Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa; and **Benjamin-Axel Mugema**, Uganda Martyrs University, Kampala, Uganda.

[Earthzine](#) is an on-line publication of the [Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers \(IEEE\)](#). *Earthzine* supports the [Group on Earth Observation \(GEO\)](#) in establishing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, and provides informative articles for citizens, policy planners and others on the environmental status and impacts of climate change to the nine GEOSS societal benefit areas: agriculture, biodiversity, climate, disasters, ecosystems, energy, health, water and weather.

Important Dates for 2010 Earthzine Essay and Blogging Competition

September 22 (Equinox):
Essays due to *Earthzine*

October 4: Judging complete
and finalist essays prepared for
posting

October 7 (New Moon):
Blogging begins

November 13: Essay blogging
ends and judging occurs

November 21 (Full Moon):
Announce winners

**Submit essays to: David F Mullins
[DMullins@sf.edu]**

Earthzine 2010 Essay and Blogging Competition: “Making Citizen Observations a Global Vision”

Some of Earthzine’s previously published articles that explore citizen science.

To The Nth Degree...and Minute, and Second: Confluence Hunting on Planet Earth *The “reality TV” craze that is sweeping a significant portion of the worldwide television-watching public has nothing on the worldwide “confluence hunting” craze that is sweeping a significant portion of adventurous geographers!*

Filling in the GAPS: Citizen Scientists Monitor Local Biodiversity *The [NatureMapping](#) program is about inter-connections among species of animals, professional and citizen scientists, government agencies, policy planners, land owners and the land itself.*

Forest Watch Science and Education Strive To Halt Climate Change *The Forest Watch Program has trained literally hundreds of elementary, middle and high school students in 160 schools throughout New Hampshire and beyond to collect data measurements of the Eastern white pines’ carbon intake.*

Native Waters; a Sacred Learning Place *Native Waters demonstrates the successful integration of American Indian traditional knowledge and the western view of science in dealing with water research.* Sockeye salmon NOAA



The 2010 theme draws its inspiration from the vision of the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society’s [2010 annual symposium theme](#).

The Vision for Community Remote Sensing

Information technologies will provide the foundation for society’s rapid progress in the 21st century. Information about the environment (both natural and human-built) is central to this progress. The enormity of the required undertaking – observing and understanding our world at all space and time scales – takes your breath away.

Accomplishing it will be enabled in part by citizens who contribute to ‘remotely sensed’ versions of the world around them.

Governments will depend on such information to understand local details of climate change and respond to natural disasters. The private sector will use it to build online maps and virtual worlds that make commerce more efficient and accessible. Within just a decade or so, the influence of community remote sensing will be as profound for understanding our Earth as the satellite revolution has been over the last five decades.