



# Paul R. Ehrlich

GRFP Recipient: 1955

*Undergraduate Institution:*

B.S. 1953, University of Pennsylvania

*Graduate Institution:*

M.A. 1955, University of Kansas  
Ph.D. 1957, University of Kansas

*Graduate Field of Study:*

Zoology

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*Current Position:*

Bing Professor of Population Studies and President, Center for Conservation Biology, Stanford University (1959-present).

Adjunct Professor, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia (2012-)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS //**

Paul R. Ehrlich's research foci span a number of areas including the study of dynamics and genetics of natural populations of checkerspot butterflies (*Euphydryas*), which has applications in such areas as the control of insects and optimum designs for nature reserves. He has always gained great pleasure from working with organisms in the field – especially beautiful ones. In addition to butterflies, he has done research on the ecology, evolution, and behavior of birds, reef fishes, and reptiles as well as flies and bees (both of which are beautiful under a microscope). Recently he has been investigating ways that human-disturbed landscapes can be made more hospitable to biodiversity. A special interest of Ehrlich's is cultural evolution, especially with respect to environmental ethics and equity. He has deep interests in non-western art and the results of fermenting grape juice, and was an instrument-rated multi-engine pilot.

## AWARDS/ HONORS //

- Crafoord Prize, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (1990)
- Humanist Distinguished Service Award, American Humanist Association (1985)
- Gold Medal, World Wildlife Fund International (1987)
- Honorary Member, International Society for Philosophical Enquiry (1991)
- MacArthur Prize Fellowship (1990)
- Volvo Environment Prize (1993)
- Sasakawa Environment Prize, United Nations Environment Programme (1994)
- Heinz Award for the Environment (1995)
- Dr. A.H. Heineken Prize for Environmental Sciences (1998)
- Eminent Ecologist Award, Ecological Society of America (2001)
- Margalef Prize in Ecology and Environmental Sciences (2009)

*[And many others]*

## POSITION PROFILE //

Ehrlich is the Bing Professor of Population Studies in the Department of Biology at Stanford University and president of Stanford's Center for Conservation Biology (CCB). As co-founder, with Peter H. Raven of the field of coevolution, Ehrlich has pursued long-term studies of the biology of a series of natural butterfly populations. He has also been a pioneer in alerting the public to the problems of overpopulation, and in raising issues of population, resources and the environment as matters of public policy. He served for several years as a correspondent for NBC news and has given hundreds of public presentations. Ehrlich is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He is also a Foreign Member of the Royal Society.