



2018 Recipient of the Distinguished Research Award

Dr. Erik Sotka

The Distinguished Research Award recognizes those faculty members who have a significant career of research. This year's award goes to Dr. Erik Sotka from the Department of Biology.

In his thirteen years at the College, Erik has built a remarkable research program involving significant extramural funding, consistent involvement of both undergraduate and graduate students, diverse collaborations locally and around the globe, and prolific publications in major journals.

Erik's research interests are in the ecology and evolution of species interactions, involving the fields of molecular ecology, chemical ecology, and population genetics. His research productivity is remarkable in both quality and quantity, and he has been the PI or a Co-PI on over \$1.6 million in grant money at the College of Charleston. His most recent work has focused on an invasive marine alga, a project funded by a \$623K grant from the National Science Foundation.

Erik is a prolific publisher and his work appears in some of the best international journals. He published 9 articles in 2017 alone and has published 18 papers since 2015, a record eclipsed by few scientists, even at large prestigious R1 institutions. Erik's papers have been cited a total of 2068 times (1030 times since 2013) which is among the best citation records earned by CofC faculty. It is no surprise that his work is widely recognized internationally, and his standing in the research community is further reflected by his service on editorial boards of several major international journals including Ecology, PLoS ONE, and Marine Ecology Progress Series.

At the College, Erik has served as the principle advisor for 9 marine biology graduate students and has served as a committee member for an additional 23 graduate students. He has also mentored 26 undergraduates, 5 Academic Magnet High School students, and 8 visiting scientists. By any measure, his scholarship and mentorship of young scientists in research has been outstanding.

We are pleased to recognize Dr. Sotka's outstanding career of research with the 2018 Distinguished Research Award.

