

Neal Driscoll

Professor of Geosciences at UC San Diego

La Jolla, CA, US

Neal Driscoll co-leads the ALERTWildfire network, and also researches tectonic deformation and the evolution of landscapes and seascapes.

Biography

Driscoll is a professor of geosciences in the Geosciences Research Division at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. Driscoll researches tectonic deformation and the evolution of landscapes and seascapes. His work primarily focuses on the sediment record to understand the processes that shaped the earth. As part of this research, Driscoll spends time at sea acquiring images of the seafloor and subsurface layers to understand the processes that shape Earth. Driscoll also co-leads a program called ALERTWildfire, an early fire detection and situational awareness tool built by UC San Diego, the University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Oregon. ALERTWildfire is a network of state-of-the-art Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) fire cameras and associated tools to help firefighters and first responders discover, locate and confirm fire ignition; quickly scale fire resources up or down appropriately; monitor fire behavior through containment; and provide enhanced situational awareness to inform fire fighting strategy and aid in evacuations. The system is used by fire managers and has been instrumental in detecting and tracking more than 500 fires since it was first developed in 2013. The infrastructure for the system was first developed as an earthquake monitoring tool, but evolved into a multi-hazard system that continues to provide valuable monitoring during other extreme weather events and earthquakes. Driscoll attended the University of New Hampshire in Durham, where he received a B.S. in geology. He worked at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) as a research assistant. He received a master's of science from the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island, and a master's in philosophy and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Prior to joining Scripps, Driscoll was the Storke-Doherty Lecturer at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, where he received the Heezen Award and the Storke Award for excellence in research. He was also previously an associate scientist WHOI. He was awarded the Office of Naval Research's Young Investigator Award and the Cecil and Ida Green Technology Award. Driscoll was the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Distinguished Crosby Lecturer. He was chosen by Scripps students as the inaugural winner of the institution's Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Areas of Expertise

Tsunami, Wildfire, Landscape and Seascape Evolution, Tectonics and Structural Geology, Marine Geology and Geophysics, Earth Through Space and Time, Neotectonics and Geohazards, Earthquakes

Affiliations

Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Distinguished Crosby Lecturer, Storke-Doherty Lecturer at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)

Education

Columbia University,
Ph.D. Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

University of Rhode Island
M.S. Graduate School of Oceanography

University of New Hampshire
B.S. Oceanography

Accomplishments

Heezen Award
2016 Awarded for excellence in research

Office of Naval Research's Young Investigator Award
2016

The Storke Award
2015 Awarded for excellence in research.

Cecil and Ida Green Technology Award
2008

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