

In the News: Honors and Acknowledgements

- **Professor Jean Bahr** was elected President of the Geological Society of America. She delivered the Presidential Address at the GSA Annual Meeting in Portland in October, with the title “O Brave New World: Geoscientists in an Emerging Green Economy.” See page 7.
- **Professor Laurel Goodwin** was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.
- **John Eiler (PhD 1994)**, a professor of geochemistry at CalTech, is the first recipient of the European Association of Geochemistry’s Epstein Medal in 2009
- **Richard Alley (PhD 1987)**, a professor of geoscience at Pennsylvania State University, was awarded the \$200,000 Tyler Prize for 2009, one of the top awards for environmental achievement. He has spent decades probing the planet’s ancient ice for climate clues. The prize will be shared with Veerabhadran Ramanathan, an atmospheric scientist at UC-San Diego. Both are being honored for their efforts to explain climate science to the public as well as their breakthroughs.
- **Matt Knuth**, a graduate student in geophysics, has been awarded the highly competitive Schlanger Ocean Drilling Fellowship for 2009-2010, which provides \$28,000 for 12 months of support for his doctoral research.
- **Meg Dickoff** and **Andy Leaf**, graduate students in hydrogeology, shared the first prize for student presentations at the Wisconsin Ground Water Association meeting in Stevens Point, WI.
Andy Leaf was also selected as the winner of one of the student presentation awards given by the GSA Geology and Society Division on the basis of his talk presented at the GSA annual meeting in Houston in October.
- **Gabriela Farfan**, while a Madison, WI West High School senior student, won 10th place in the national Intel Science Search 2009 based on her research carried out in our department with **Huifang Xu**. Under the guidance of Professor Xu, Gabriela used optical microscopes, XRD and SEM to identify micro- and nano-precipitates of native copper and closely associated Fe-bearing enstatite in the gem quality labradorite (a Ca-rich plagioclase feldspar) phenocrysts from Lake Country, Oregon. Gabriela also presented her research results at the Goldschmidt Conference in Vancouver, Canada. See more on the web at < http://www.geology.wisc.edu/~hfxu/xu_outreach.html >
- **Gabriela Farfan** was seated with First Lady Michelle Obama at the State of the Union Address by President Obama on January 27, 2010. Gabriela was complimented for her accomplishments in Geology and Mineralogy.
- **Fangfu Zhang**, a graduate student in geochemistry, has been awarded a GSA 2009 Research Grant Award.
- **Gordon Medaris**, Professor Emeritus, was awarded the Goldich 2009 Medal by the Institute on Lake Superior Geology. See page 12.
- **Professor Shanan Peters** has been selected as the 2010 recipient of the SEPM James Lee Wilson Medal, which recognizes excellence in sedimentary geology by a young scientist.
- **Mary P. Anderson**, Professor Emerita, received the 2009 Keith Anderson Award for outstanding service to the National Ground Water Association. The award is presented for outstanding contributions to NGWA by the Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers.
- **Professor Huifang Xu’s** discovery about a generation of banded iron formations appeared in UW news. <<http://www.news.wisc.edu/17210>> The research paper has been published in Nature Geoscience (advanced online publication).
- **Marjorie Chan (PhD 1982)** received a YWCA Salt Lake City 2009 Outstanding Achievement Award for being “an outstanding scientist and educator, advocate for women and inspiring role model.”
- **Professor Nita Sahai** was elected as a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America. The Fellowship “recognizes a distinguished group of individuals for their significant contributions to the fields of mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, and petrology.”
Professor Sahai also received a Romnes Faculty Fellowship Award from the UW. The Romnes Award is meant to “honor those faculty who have made major contributions to the advancement of knowledge, primarily through their research endeavors, but also as a result of their teaching and service activities.”
- **Heather Macdonald (MS 1979, PhD 1984)**, Professor of Geology at William & Mary, is the winner of the Neil Miner Award by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT). The award is presented to “an individual for exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the earth sciences.”
- **Melodie French**, a graduate student in structure, received the Best Student Paper Award in Rock Mechanics for her presentation at the 2008 Fall AGU meeting, according to a spring 2009 announcement.
- **Jennie Cook**, a graduate student in structure, received a \$2,500 fellowship from the GDL Foundation, to support her work in “structural diagenesis”—the impact of diagenesis on the material properties and deformation of sandstone.
- Board of Visitors Vice Chair **Bill Morgan** was chosen as an Honorary Member of SEPM, which acknowledges excellence in professional achievements and extraordinary service to the Society.
- **Professor Cliff Thurber** has been elected a Fellow of AGU. This prestigious recognition goes to only 0.1% of AGU members each year.
- **Robert Blodgett (BS 1972)** of Austin Community College, TX is co-author of an introductory textbook, *Natural Hazards: Earth’s Processes as Hazards, Disasters, and Catastrophes*. He has been elected to a three-year term as Councilor-at-Large for the National Association of Geoscience Teachers.
- **L. Frank Brown, Jr. (MS 1953, PhD 1955)** has been named the 2010 recipient of the AAPG’s most prestigious Sidney Powers Award.
- **David Fastovsky (PhD 1986)**, professor of geosciences at the University of Rhode Island, was a featured expert in two episodes of the television network’s Animal Planet mini-series, *Animal Armageddon*.
- The firm of Barr Engineering, with **Douglas Connell (MS 1984)** as president, has again been listed as one of the top three firms in the National “Best Environmental Services Firms to Work For” contest. It is also listed as one of the top Civil Engineering Firms.
- **Ian Orland**, a graduate student in Geochemistry, presented his paleoclimate research (See page 23) in a broadcast by Wisconsin Public Television (channel 21-2). Ian’s talk was a WPT taped recording of his 50 minute talk in February 2009 at the “Wednesday Night at the Lab” seminar series (sponsored by the Wisconsin Alumni Association) and has been aired twice on the program “University Place.”

- **Professor Basil Tikoff** was co-author on the national EarthScope Science plan, to be published in early 2010.
- **M. Ray Thomasson** (PhD 1959), Department's Distinguished Alumnus for 1999, was featured in an article in the June 2009 edition of the AAPG Explorer. A recent winner of the Michel T. Halbouty Outstanding Leadership Award, he is also past president, past Advisory Board chair and Honorary Member of AAPG.
- **Bill Doll** (MS 1980; PhD 1983), past president of the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS), was honored with their 2009 Gold Medal Award at the EEGS national conference (photo, right).

- **Jon Nyquist** (PhD 1986), current President of EEGS, is also the winner of an inaugural Provost's Award for Innovative Teaching in General Education for developing a course "Disasters: Geology vs. Hollywood." Jon is Weeks Chair in Environmental Geology in the College of Science and Technology at Temple University. (http://www.temple.edu/newsroom/2008_2009/04/stories/nyquist.htm). ●



Bill Doll, left, and Jonathan Nyquist at the Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS) 2009 national conference in Fort Worth where Bill was awarded the Gold Medal.

WEEKS LECTURES AND SPEAKERS OF OPPORTUNITY IN 2009

January 30—Chunmiao Zheng, University of Alabama and Peking University, China, 2009 GSA Birdsall/Dreiss Lecturer
"Will China Run Out of Water?"

February 6—Jennifer L. Eigenbrode, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
"The Quest for Organics on Mars: From Analogs to Missions"
"Molecular Fossils for Cyanobacteria and Eukaryotes in the Neoproterozoic"

February 13—David L. Bish, Indiana University-Bloomington
"X-ray Diffraction on Mars"
"Water on Mars: How Can It Exist Today?"

February 19—Stephen R. Meyers, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
"The Evolution of Cenozoic Climate Noise: Linkages to Ice Sheet History?"

March 26, 27—Leigh Royden, MIT
"Trench Motion, Slab Geometry and Viscous Stresses in Subduction Systems"
"Uplift, Evolution and Geodynamics of the Tibetan Plateau"

April 10—Joseph S. Stoner, Oregon State University
"Climatic Implications of Abrupt Geomagnetic Change"

April 2—Susanne U. Janecke, Utah State University
"The Last 7.5 M.Y. History of a Reorganizing Plate Boundary Revealed by Basins, Faults and Folds, Southwest of the San Andreas Fault, S. California"

May 1—Laurent Charlet, University of Grenoble, France
"Clay Minerals and the Fate of Prion Proteins in Soils"

May 8—Pieter Visscher, University of Connecticut
"Microbial Mechanisms Forming Modern Marine Stromatolites—Using the Present to Predict the Past?"

September 11—Ed Brook, Oregon State University
"Past Gas: The Ice Core Record of Atmospheric Methane and Climate"

September 14—Ed Medley, 2009 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer in Engineering Geology
"The Least You Should Know about Characterizing Geological Chaos"
"The Comforts of Ignorance and the Benefits of Arrogance—Lessons of the Failure Kind for the Geopractitioner"

September 25—Stephanie Prejean, USGS Alaska Volcano Observatory
"Lessons Learned from the 2008 Eruption of Kasatochi Volcano"

September 29—Steven Stanley, University of Hawaii, Honolulu and National Academy of Science
"Effects of Secular Changes in Seawater Chemistry on Biocalcification: Paleontological and Experimental Evidence"

September 30—Ian W. D. Dalziel, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas-Austin
"Rocks, Ice and Water: Geological Perspectives on the Antarctic Ice Sheet and Its Future"

October 2—Charlie Bacon, USGS
"Dating Young Plutonic Rocks Hidden Beneath Active Volcanoes"

October 9—Russell H. Vreeland, Ancient Biomaterials Institute, West Chester University of Pennsylvania
"New Visions on Microbial Evolution from Ancient Halite"
"Tiny Critters, Huge Impacts: Why Earth Needs Microbes in Its Rocks"

October 16—Mark Zoback, Stanford University
"A Strategy for Enhanced Recovery and CO₂ Sequestration in Gas Shales"
"Scientific Drilling Into the San Andreas Fault Zone: SAFOD's First Five Years"

October 23—Chris Marone, Penn State University
"Friction, Stick-slip, and the Rate of Fault Healing During the Earthquake Cycle"
"The Strength and Rheology of Brittle Fault Zones"

October 30—Lorraine Liseicki, UC-Santa Barbara
"Atlantic Overturning Responses to Ice Volume and Orbital Forcing"
"The Effects of Eccentricity, Obliquity and Precession on Plio-Pleistocene Glacial Cycles"

November 13—Rob DeConto, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
"A Reevaluation of the Cenozoic Evolution and Variability of the Cryosphere"
"New Perspectives on the Past and Future Stability of the Antarctic Ice Sheet"

December 4—Martin O. Saar, University of Minnesota
"CO₂—Use It or Lose It: How to Use CO₂ as a Geothermal Working Fluid to Generate Carbon-negative Renewable Electricity" ●