



# Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology

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## SWISS GEOSCIENCE MEETING 2013 IN LAUSANNE

The 11<sup>th</sup> Swiss Geoscience Meeting (SGM) was organized jointly by the University of Lausanne, the Cantonal Museum of Geology and the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences. On 15 November 2013, the plenary session was held in the Palais de Rumine, and on 16 November, the special sessions were held in the new building of the Faculty of Geosciences and the Environment – Géopolis – of the University of Lausanne.

The Lausanne meeting broke all records with regards to the number of participants (750 in total), the number of scientific symposia (24), and the number of presentations (over 430); please go to [www.geoscience-meeting.scnatweb.ch/sgm2013/](http://www.geoscience-meeting.scnatweb.ch/sgm2013/) for details of the program and presentations, and the abstracts. The theme of the SGM was "Cycles and Events in the Earth System." Five invited keynote speakers illustrated the importance of stochastic events and recurrent mechanisms in shaping and changing the Earth and its biosphere. Kurt Konhauser of the University of Alberta spoke about the importance of biogeochemical cycles during the Precambrian and their impact on the evolution of the atmosphere and biosphere; Angela Coe of the Open University discussed the importance of global oceanic anoxia events during Earth's history and their impact on life and the environment; Oliver Korup of the University of Potsdam talked about events and cycles in the Earth's sediment-routing systems; Bruce Yardley from the University of Leeds gave a presentation on the changing nature of crustal processes and the role of fluids through orogenic cycles; and Peter Kelemen from Columbia University addressed issues pertaining to CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage in the Earth's lower crust and mantle. The 24 scientific symposia covered a fairly complete



spectrum of current research in the geosciences in Switzerland, encompassing the lithosphere, the hydrosphere, the cryosphere, the biosphere, the atmosphere and the anthroposphere, and ranging from human geography to applied geophysics.

**Karl Föllmi**  
University of Lausanne

## BAPTISTE DAFFLON RECEIVES THE 2013 PAUL NIGGLI MEDAL



Baptiste Dafflon

At the 11<sup>th</sup> Swiss Geoscience Meeting in Lausanne, Baptiste Dafflon, a Swiss research scientist currently working at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in the US, was awarded the Paul Niggli Medal for 2013 for his original research contributions to the geophysical exploration of aquifers and permafrost environments. Baptiste studied geophysics at ETH Zürich and did his MSc thesis in the field of hydrogeophysics, specifically on the geostatistical characterization of aquifers based on geophysical measurements.

Before starting his PhD at the University of Lausanne in 2005, he completed his fifteen months of civil service constructing and restoring dry stone walls in the Alps. During his PhD he developed quantitative integration methods designed to assimilate a large variety of geophysical and hydrogeological data to improve the estimation of hydrological properties. Baptiste finished his PhD in just over three years, with six papers accepted or already published at the time of his defense. He was awarded the Prix de la Faculté des Géosciences et de l'Environnement de l'Université de Lausanne, and he received a best student paper award from the AGU. Baptiste was then awarded an SNF postdoctoral fellowship and moved to Boise State University in Idaho, USA, which operates the world's premier hydrogeophysical test site. He spent a year and a half working productively on the development of novel hydrogeophysical methods for enhanced 3-D simulation and inversion of hydraulic properties, before winning a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in Berkeley, California. There, he initially worked on advanced complex electrical monitoring methods for detecting and imaging CO<sub>2</sub> intrusions into shallow aquifers. Recently, Baptiste has become interested in the use of geophysical techniques for studying the terrestrial carbon cycle. In particular, he is seeking to develop multi-method monitoring strategies across a wide range of spatial scales. Baptiste has now been promoted to a stable position at LBNL and has thus achieved what is widely considered the most critical step in a scientific career. Still, Baptiste's objective is to eventually find a similarly rewarding opportunity back in his native and beloved Switzerland. With this in mind, please join us in congratulating Baptiste and wishing him continuing joy and success in his research and the very best for his future career.

**Christoph Heinrich** (ETH Zürich) and  
**Klaus Holliger** (University of Lausanne),  
for the Board of the Paul Niggli Foundation