DAVID VAUGHAN ELECTED AS FOREIGN FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

David Vaughan, Research Professor of Mineralogy at the University of Manchester (UK), has achieved the rare distinction of being elected a Foreign Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), that country’s national academy.

David was the founding Director of the University of Manchester’s Williamson Research Centre for Molecular Environmental Science, and is also an Honorary Research Fellow at the Natural History Museum (London, UK). In addition, he has uniquely served as President of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, President of the Mineralogical Society of America, and President of the European Mineralogical Union. He has also been a Principal Editor of Elements magazine (2008–2010).

The Royal Society of Canada was founded in 1882 and recognises scholarly research and artistic excellence, advises governments and organisations, and promotes a culture of knowledge and innovation in Canada and with other national academies around the world. Annually, the RSC elects up to four Foreign Fellows who, at the time of their election, are neither residents nor citizens of Canada and who, by their exceptionally distinguished intellectual accomplishments, have helped promote the object of the RSC in ways that have clear relevance for Canadian society.

The Fellowship citation for David reads as follows: “David Vaughan is the leading international authority on metal sulphide minerals, key materials for the Canadian economy and natural environment. He has pioneered applications of spectroscopic, imaging and computational techniques to study the structure and reactivity of such minerals, and played a major role in establishing the field of molecular environmental science which integrates research on the mineralogical, geochemical and biological systems of the Earth’s surface at the molecular scale.”

BARBARA DUTROW: AMERICAN WOMEN IN GEOSCIENCES OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

Barbara (Barb) Dutrow, the Adolphe G. Guemard Professor of Geology at Louisiana State University (USA), has received the 2016 Outstanding Educator Award from the American Women in Geosciences, this organization’s premier professional award. The award honors women who are well-established college or university teachers who have played a significant role in the education and support of geoscientists within and beyond the classroom, in advancing the persistence of females and underrepresented minorities in geoscience careers, and in raising the general profile of the geosciences. The award was presented to Barb at the September 2016 Geological Society of America meeting in Denver (Colorado, USA).

Barb was cited for her contributions in all three of the areas of consideration for this longstanding career award (mentoring, instruction and curriculum, and outreach to the broader community). In the area of mentoring, Barb went beyond the traditional responsibilities of a tenured professor at a research institution by skillfully guiding many undergraduates through their first experiences with geological research, as well as mentoring many graduate students and helping them to secure funding for their degrees and research projects. By way of outreach, Barb has created museum exhibits elucidating concepts related to gems and minerals, and she has participated in the annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (Arizona, USA), which reaches tens of thousands of people. However, her nomination package was most striking as giving the “most caring, patient, meticulous, and beneficial advising any undergraduate could possibly ask for” balancing her approachability and careful guidance with “vigor, scientific integrity, and work ethic.” This commitment and devotion has brought about deep respect from her students. Bohrson’s undergraduate research students regularly win presentation awards at regional and national meetings and have met success post baccalaureate.

Bohrson is a “leader of undergraduate research at the university level.” She was the director of both the Office of Undergraduate Research as well as the National Science Foundation (NSF) funded Science Talent Expansion Program (STEP). She tirelessly worked to transition the STEP mentored research ‘bridging program’ to become a permanent part of the university curriculum. Her colleagues note that even while focusing on administrative duties, Bohrson maintained a vibrant research group, where “a student can succeed and experience research at a level suited to their ability.” She is known as a “role model for productive and transformative faculty-student mentoring relationships.”

WENDY BOHRSON: GEOSCIENCE DIVISION OF THE COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTOR AWARD

Wendy Bohrson, Professor of Geological Sciences at Central Washington University (USA), has been awarded the 2016 Undergraduate Research Mentor Award by the Geoscience Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research (GeoCUR). This annual award recognizes not only exceptional ability in maintaining good student-faculty relations but also in developing innovative approaches to undergraduate-level research.

In his citation in support of Wendy for this award (paraphrased below), Professor Erin Kraal (Kutztown University, USA) wrote:

Wendy Bohrson has engaged undergraduates in research since 1999, by working with individuals and by transforming university culture. Over 25 undergraduates have worked with Bohrson on her research to understand the evolution of magma chambers and young volcanoes. She is described as giving the “most caring, patient, meticulous, and beneficial advising any undergraduate could possible ask for” balancing her approachability and careful guidance with “vigor, scientific integrity, and work ethic.” This commitment and devotion has brought about deep respect from her students. Bohrson’s undergraduate research students regularly win presentation awards at regional and national meetings and have met success post baccalaureate.

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2016 DAY MEDALIST: DONALD B. DINGWELL

Donald B. Dingwell (Director of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich, Germany) is the 2016 Arthur Louis Day Medallist of the Geological Society of America (GSA). The award text cited how Donald has applied the principles of physics and chemistry to the solution of geologic problems. It is intended to inspire further effort and is, thus, awarded to geoscientists actively pursuing a research career. It is one of the highest honors in geosciences.

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The medal was established in 1948 by Arthur Louis Day, the founding Director of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington DC (USA). It has been awarded annually ever since.