

**FROST AND ERNST HONORED AT 2006 MSA AWARDS LUNCHEON**

The eighty-seventh annual awards luncheon of the Mineralogical Society of America was held on October 24, 2006, during the 2006 Geological Society of America meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Medallists were Daniel Frost (MSA Award) and W. Gary Ernst (Roebing Medal).

Daniel Frost received the Mineralogical Society of America Award for outstanding research early in one's career. Daniel Frost received a Bachelor of Science degree in geology and chemistry from the University of London, Royal Holloway College. His PhD research, at the Department of Earth Sciences of the University of Bristol under the supervision of Bernie Wood, focused on redox reactions involving fluids at high pressures and temperatures. He became a permanent member of staff of the Bayerisches Geoinstitut of the University of Bayreuth (Germany) in 2001, where he had been a research assistant since 1998. For the last few years he has investigated phase transformations in multicomponent mantle minerals and he has carried out studies on the redox state of the deep mantle and the processes that resulted in terrestrial core formation.



From left to right: John Valley, MSA outgoing president, Daniel Frost, MSA Awardee, and David Rubie, citationist



From left to right: John Valley, MSA outgoing president, Gary Ernst, Roebing Medalist, and Peter J. Wyllie, citationist

W. Gary Ernst was awarded the Roebing Medal, the Society's highest honor, in recognition of lifetime scientific achievement. Gary Ernst received his BA from Carleton College (1953), MS from the University of Minnesota (1955), and PhD from the Johns Hopkins University (1959). After predoctoral and postdoctoral studies at the Geophysical Laboratory (1955–59), Ernst joined the UCLA faculty in 1960, and became Dean of the School of Earth Sciences at Stanford University in 1989. Ernst has earned many awards and honors (including the MSA Award in 1969), and has ably contributed to the Earth science field, including

**FALKO LANGENHORST AWARDED A 2007 GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ PRIZE**



Falko Langenhorst has received a 2007 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize awarded by the German Research Society (DFG). The Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize is the highest honour awarded in German research. Prof. Dr. Falko Langenhorst is one of 10 exceptional German scientists and academics to be so honored for their outstanding achievements in experimental and instrumentation-related fields. The prize is valued at 2.5 million euro (about US\$3.2 million), and the money can be used flexibly over a period of seven years to finance independent research.

Falko Langenhorst investigates the impact records of celestial bodies colliding with Earth and with other planets and moons. Impacts have played a major role in the evolution of our planet and the solar system. He focuses on the basic physics and chemistry of impact processes and their effects on the biosphere ("astromineralogy"). Falko Langenhorst was the first to detect high-pressure minerals in the Martian meteorite Zagami, which had been ejected from the surface of Mars by another meteorite and flung all the way to Earth. Langenhorst has been able to determine a pressure of about 300,000 bars and a temperature of 2400 to 2500 degrees Celsius for the impact event that produced this Martian meteorite. He has also received great international attention for his research on the crystal chemistry of perovskite, a main component of Earth's lower mantle.

Falko Langenhorst studied mineralogy in Gießen and Münster, where he received his PhD in 1993, before he went to Lille as a postdoctoral researcher. Since 2004 he has held the chair for general and applied mineralogy in Jena. His high international reputation is reflected in numerous honors, such as his membership in the Academia Europaea and a fellowship from the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science.

serving terms as president of MSA (1980–81) and president of the Geological Society of America (1985–86). Ernst has authored seven books and research memoirs, is an editor of 18 scholarly volumes, and is the author of more than 200 scientific papers on the physical chemistry of rocks, minerals, and mineraloids; Phanerozoic plate tectonics and the evolution of mountain belts, especially in central Asia, the Circum-Pacific, and the western Alps; early Precambrian petrotectonic evolution; ultrahigh-pressure subduction-zone metamorphism and tectonics; geobotanical studies in the western US; Earth system science and remote sensing; and geology and human health.



At the end of the luncheon, outgoing president John Valley passed the gavel of the MSA presidency to Barbara L. Dutrow, who then closed the 2006 MSA Awards luncheon.