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International Association of Geochemistry

INAUGURAL IAGC AWARDS

IAGC bestowed its first set of awards at the 2007 Goldschmidt Conference, held in Cologne, Germany, from 19 to 24 August. Fred Mackenzie of the University of Hawai'i was selected as the first recipient of the IAGC Vernadsky Medal, which honors a distinguished record of scientific accomplishment in geochemistry over the course of a career. Dana Royer of Wesleyan University and Seifu Kebede of the University of Addis Ababa shared the first Ebelmen Award, which recognizes a geochemist of particular merit and outstanding promise less than 35 years old. The Hitchon Award for the most significant paper published in the IAGC journal, *Applied Geochemistry*, went to Keara Moore, Brenda Ekwurzel, Bradley Esser, Brent Hudson, and Jean Moran for their 2006 paper "Sources of Groundwater Nitrate Revealed Using Residence Time and Isotope Methods" (*Applied Geochemistry* 21:1016-1029). Certificates of Recognition for a particular scientific accomplishment in a given area of geochemistry, excellence in teaching or public service, or meritorious service by an IAGC member to the Association or the international geochemistry community were awarded to U. Aswathanarayana of the Mahadevan International Centre for Water Resources Management, Mike Edmunds of Oxford University, John Gurney of the University of Cape Town, Jochen Hoefs of Göttingen University, Yousif Kharaka of the USGS, Herbert Palme of the University of Cologne, and Zell

Peterman of the USGS. The first Faure Award for the best student presentation at an IAGC conference was conferred at the AIG-7 conference in South Africa, as the WRI-12 symposium, by tradition, has had its own set of "best paper" awards. Congratulations to all IAGC award recipients!



Past President Harmon Russell (right) presenting the inaugural Vernadsky Medal to Fred Mackenzie



Dana Royer accepting the first IAGC Ebelmen Award



Seifu Kebede receiving the first IAGC Ebelmen Award

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN COLOGNE

IAGC celebrated its 40th anniversary on Saturday, 18 September, immediately prior to the Goldschmidt Conference. Attended by IAGC members and honored guests, this was a particularly memorable event. Founding member and former IAGC vice president Karl Hans Wedepohl, and the four most recent IAGC presidents, Heinrich Wänke, Gunter Faure, Eric Galimov, and John Ludden, were honored at the ceremony, and they provided personal perspectives on the development of geochemistry during the past half-century. Mike Edmunds of Oxford University and Balz

Kamber of Laurentian University, the Ingerson International Lecturers for 2006–2007, provided very interesting talks on two diverse facets of geochemistry, "Geochemistry's Vital Contribution to Solving Water Resource Problems" and "Geochemical Fingerprinting: 40 Years of Analytical Development and Real-World Applications," respectively. Stephen Moorbath wrapped up the afternoon's activities with an engaging keynote address, "Geochronology – Aims and Reminiscences." This festive event concluded with an evening reception at the University of Cologne Mensa.



IAGC past-president Gunter Faure (right) and former Council member and IAGC Ingerson International Lecturer Stephen Moorbath reminisce at the 40th anniversary celebration about graduate student (GF) and postdoctoral (SM) days at MIT.



IAGC Vernadsky Medalist Fred Mackenzie (right) and IAGC Council member Berry Lyons enjoying the 40th anniversary celebration



Former IAGC vice president Karl Hans Wedepohl (second from right) and the five most recent IAGC presidents (from left to right), John Ludden, Gunter Faure, Heinrich Wänke, Eric Galimov, and Russell Harmon

NEW IAGC WORKING GROUP INITIATIVE ON URBAN GEOCHEMISTRY

The Geological Survey of Norway has proposed the establishment of a working group on urban geochemistry within the IAGC. Urban geochemistry is a fast-growing field, and many urban geochemical atlases already exist throughout the world. Urban geochemical mapping is often carried out by geological surveys, but universities also play an important role. Urban geochemistry requires interdisciplinary research, with studies undertaken in close cooperation with local governments and medical communities.

IAGC members who support establishing a new IAGC working group on urban geochemistry should send an e-mail to IAGC secretary, Attila Demény (demeny@geochem.hu). Please note in your e-mail if you would like to be a charter member of the working group, if established. Expressions of interest in joining the working group by colleagues who are not IAGC members are also welcome.