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European Association for Geochemistry

2008 MEDALS AND LECTURESHIP AWARDEES

The EAG is proud to announce this year's annual medal and lectureship winners. The **Urey Medal** is awarded for outstanding contributions to geochemistry over a career. The **Houtermans Medal** is awarded to a scientist under 35 years of age for exceptional contributions to geochemistry. The new **Science Innovation Award** is bestowed upon scientists who have recently made a particularly important and innovative breakthrough in geochemistry. Finally, the **Gast Lectureship** is awarded to a scientist who is not more than 45 years of age for outstanding contributions to geochemistry. Congratulations to this year's honoured group!

Urey Medal to Pascal Richet



The Urey Medal is named in honour of Harold Clayton Urey, an American physical chemist whose pioneering work on isotopes earned him the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1934 and later led him to theories of planetary evolution. The 2008 Urey Medal has been awarded to Pascal Richet of the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, for extensive contributions toward understanding the physical properties of minerals and melts under high temperatures and pressures. For example, he devised new methods and concepts to study the effects of water on melt properties, to investigate melting and crystallization reactions, and to establish connections among the thermodynamic, transport and structural properties of Earth materials. To share his interest in these topics he initiated, in 1991, the Silicate Melt Workshop series. In addition to his numerous important papers in specialized journals, he published a treatise called *The Physical Basis of Thermodynamics* and a research book, *Silicate Glasses and Melts, Structure and Properties* (with B.O. Mysen). Pascal Richet has also published a number of articles and books dealing with the popularization, history and philosophy of science (e.g. in English, *A Natural History of Time*).

Houtermans Medal to Nicholas Dauphas



The Houtermans Medal is named in honour of Friedrich Georg Houtermans, a Dutch-Austrian-German physicist. The 2008 Houtermans Medal has been awarded to Nicolas Dauphas of the University of Chicago, United States. Nicolas Dauphas is a leading expert on the geochemistry and cosmochemistry of non-traditional isotopes. His work spans a wide range of topics, from Fe isotope systematics to U/Th cosmochronology. Highlights of his recent research include the determination of the age of the galaxy using U/Th measurements of low metallicity halo stars and meteorites, the identification with Fe

isotopes of 3.7–3.8 Ga chemical sediments in SW Greenland and northern Quebec and the development of an elegant solution to Earth's missing-xenon paradox.

Science Innovation Award to Larry Edwards



This is the inaugural year for the Science Innovation Award, and this year's medal is named in honour of Nicholas John Shackleton. Shackleton died in 2006 following a long career at the University of Cambridge. In 1995 he became the director of the Godwin Institute of Quaternary Research, and in 1998 he was knighted for his contributions to science. The **2008 Shackleton Medal** has been awarded to Larry Edwards of the University of Minnesota, United States, for novel uses of elemental and isotopic tracers and chronometers in addressing fundamental problems in geochemistry, oceanography, climatology and geology. These include Th-230 and Pa-231 dating techniques to understand the timing and causes of Quaternary climatic and oceanographic changes and the development of coral Sr/Ca and U/Ca thermometry to understand oceanographic and climatic processes.

Gast Lectureship to Jérôme Gaillardet



The Paul W. Gast Lecture Series honours the Geochemical Society's first Goldschmidt Medalist. The lecture is awarded to a mid-career scientist and is presented at the GS/EAG annual Goldschmidt Conference. This year's winner is Jérôme Gaillardet, who will present his lecture at Goldschmidt 2008, in Vancouver, Canada. Jérôme Gaillardet received his PhD from Paris University, where he worked with Bernard Dupré and Claude Allègre on the geochemistry of the Congo and Amazon rivers. He is currently Professor of Geochemistry at the Institut de

Physique du Globe de Paris, where he leads a team working on the geochemistry of rivers and their use as sensors of environmental and geological changes.

MEETING NEWS

Experimental Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry XII



The 12th International Conference on Experimental Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry (EMPG-XII) will be held at the University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria, from September 8 to 10, 2008. In the tradition of the biennial EMPG conference series, EMPG-XII will bring together researchers from all fields of experimental

mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry in a location at the centre of Europe and the heart of the Alps – an area that has inspired both field and experimentally oriented Earth scientists for many years. For more information please go to www.uibk.ac.at/mineralogie/empg2008/index.html.