



On the Cutting Edge principal investigators, from left to right, Heather Macdonald, Barb Tewksbury, David Mogk, and Cathy Manduca

ON THE CUTTING EDGE WINS SPORE PRIZE

The On the Cutting Edge website (<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/index.html>) has been awarded the Science Prize for Online Resources in Education (SPORE) from *Science*. The prize honors the work of On the Cutting Edge principal investigators Heather Macdonald (College of William and Mary, Virginia), Dave Mogk (Montana State University, Montana), Barb Tewksbury (Hamilton College, New York), and Cathy Manduca (Carleton College, Minnesota); the contributions of hundreds of geoscience faculty to the site content; and the efforts of the Science Education Resource Center staff at Carleton College, Sean Fox, Karin Kirk, John McDaris, Carol Ormand, Monica Bruckner, and Ellen Iverson, in developing and evaluating the site.

SPORE was designed to honor and promote the originators of the best online materials available to science educators. The contest bears the acronym SPORE—meaning a reproductive element adapted to develop, often in inhospitable conditions, into something new—with the idea that these winning projects may be the seed for valuable progress, despite widespread challenges to educational innovation. This year, there were 12 winners from nearly 100 entries. An essay in the February 26 issue of *Science* outlines how On the Cutting Edge is transforming the culture of geoscience education by promoting the sharing of scientific content and teaching methods (www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/327/5969/1095).

On the Cutting Edge was launched in 2002 and provides an important mechanism for geoscience faculty to learn from one another and from other experts in teaching and learning. In 2009, visitors numbered more than 700,000. They visited the site's 3000 pages a total of 850,000 times. The site contains more than 1200 classroom activities contributed by the teaching community and includes step-by-step instructions for putting new techniques into place. The website also includes a wide variety of visual tools for use in the classroom, such as artistic renderings, visually represented data, and videos and models of Earth processes.

The On the Cutting Edge professional development project for geoscience faculty is sponsored by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, is funded by the National Science Foundation Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement Program, and contributes to the National Science Digital Library.

A Teaching Geochemistry workshop will be held in conjunction with the Goldschmidt Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee (<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/geochemistry10/index.html>), one of the many workshops held every year for geoscience faculty across the United States (<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/workshops.html>). David Mogk was guest editor of a thematic issue of *Elements* on the topic of teaching mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry (volume 3, number 2, April 2007).

ENI PRIZE TO FRANÇOIS MOREL



François Morel was awarded the Eni Protection of the Environment Prize for his discovery of a new class of enzymes that play a crucial role in CO₂ transport and fixation. The finding is particularly important for understanding the biochemical mechanisms of CO₂ absorption into oceans, which is one of the key processes in global carbon recycling. François is the Albert G. Blanke, Jr., Professor of Geosciences at Princeton University.

The annual Eni prize was officially launched in July 2007 to encourage better use of energy sources, promote environmental research, and recognize new generations of researchers. The award demonstrates the critical importance that has been recently assigned by Eni to scientific research and to issues of sustainability. Eni is an integrated energy company headquartered in Italy. It is active in more than 70 countries, with 79,000 employees working in oil and gas, electricity generation and sales, petrochemicals, and oilfield services.

3M NATIONAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP TO ALAN MORGAN



Alan V. Morgan, professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Waterloo, Canada, since 1971, has received a 3M National Teaching Fellowship, considered Canada's most prestigious award for excellence in teaching. The award is given by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in partnership with 3M Canada. His research interests lie in Quaternary stratigraphy and climate change.

Alan Morgan has taught Earth 121, an introductory course at Waterloo, over nearly four decades. He has also energetically promoted public awareness of science, especially geology, outside the university. Morgan previously received Waterloo's Distinguished Teacher Award in 1991; the Royal Society of Canada's Bancroft Award in 1994 for promoting public awareness of science; the National Association of Geology Teachers John H. Moss Award for Excellence in Geology Teaching in 1995; and the Royal Society of Canada's McNeil Medal in 2008, recognizing his outstanding ability to communicate science to students and the public.