

ALVIN VAN VALKENBURG AWARD TO MAIK LANG



Maik Lang, a research scientist at the Department of Geological Sciences of the University of Michigan, has been selected to receive the 2010 Alvin Van Valkenburg Award. The award will be presented on 27 June during the Gordon Research Conference on Research at High Pressure, which will be held at Holderness School, Holderness, New Hampshire, from 27 June to 2 July, 2010. The Gordon Conference on Research at

High Pressure is one of the longest-running Gordon Conferences and covers a wide range of high-pressure research areas, from planetary interiors to novel high-pressure material structure. Traditionally the attendees of this conference have honored a promising young scientist conducting high-pressure research. The award is named after Alvin Van Valkenburg, inventor of the diamond anvil cell and one of the most important and best-loved pioneers in the field of high-pressure research.

Maik has been a member of Rod Ewing's research group for over three years. During the first two years, he was supported by the German Science Foundation as a postdoctoral fellow. He worked on radiation effects as part of the BES/DOE team. This past year, he was supported by the Energy Frontier Research Center – Materials Science of Actinide Materials, with a research focus on the behavior of materials under extreme environments (theme #3 of the EFRC).

DEXTER PERKINS, NORTH DAKOTA PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR



Dexter Perkins III has been recognized as the 2010 North Dakota Professor of the Year. Dex has worked diligently for the past 15 years to improve geoscience education at all levels. He is an international leader in the scholarship of teaching and learning, and has made important contributions to the design and implementation of active classroom practices, assessment of learning, and research on the cognitive aspects of stu-

dent learning. In addition to his mineralogy course, he also teaches introductory environmental geology, routinely offers field experience to students, and supervises students in independent research projects. He developed the Geoscience Digital Image Library (GeoDIL, www.geodil.com/index.asp) and has shared his experience by contributing over 100 teaching activities, essays, and articles to the Teaching Mineralogy and Teaching Petrology collections through the On the Cutting Edge program for professional development of geoscience faculty (<http://serc.carleton.edu/>). He was one of the authors in the *Elements*' teaching issue (volume 3, number 2, 2007).

ERIC ESSENE 1939–2010



Eric J. Essene died on May 20, 2010, at home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, following a courageous battle with cancer. Eric Essene completed his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1967 under the direction of William S. Fyfe. He joined the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1970, where he enjoyed a very productive and distinguished career, retiring in 2009 as the William C. Kelly Chair of

Geological Sciences. Author of well over 200 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, Professor Essene made numerous and profound contributions in broad areas of mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry. Another of Eric's enduring legacies is his direction and codirection of over 100 MS and PhD students, many of whom have gone on to stellar careers in the geosciences and are themselves training the next generation of geoscientists. Eric Essene received many awards and honors, including the Bowen Medal from the American Geophysical Union in 1991, the first Sokol Award for excellence in graduate education of the sciences from the University of Michigan in 1993, and the Penrose Medal for lifetime achievement from the Geological Society of America in 2010. He was elected Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America in 1981 and Fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 1991. For the last several years Eric had not been able to attend scientific meetings. He kept in touch with the scientific community—often daily—through the MSA talk list. The MSA talk list enabled Eric to continue to engage fully in the intellectual discourse at which he clearly excelled and which he deeply loved. Our scientific community has lost a vibrant and dynamic colleague who possessed a keen, adventuresome intellect. He will be greatly missed! Donations in honor of Eric can be made to the Eric J. Essene Endowment for Graduate Student Fellowships c/o Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Michigan, 2534 C. C. Little Bldg, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1005 or online at www.lsa.umich.edu/alumni/giveonline.

John Bowman, University of Utah



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