



**Jillian F. Banfield** was named the 2011 North American Laureate by the L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Foundation. Banfield is a geomicrobiologist and biogeochemist whose work focuses on the fundamental relationship between microorganisms and their natural environment. She was selected for her work on bacterial and material behavior under extreme conditions relevant to the environment and the Earth.

Originally from Australia, Jillian Banfield received her bachelor's and master's degrees in geology from the Australian National University. She subsequently completed a PhD in Earth and planetary science at Johns Hopkins University, USA. From 1990 to 2001 she was a professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Since then she has been a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and an affiliate scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. She has been honored with numerous prestigious awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship, the Dana Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America, and a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. She was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2006. She was also one of seven recipients of the 2011 Franklin Medal, presented every year by the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia to “preeminent trailblazers in science, business and technology.”

For the past 13 years, the L'Oréal Corporate Foundation and UNESCO have recognized women researchers who have contributed to overcoming the global challenges of tomorrow. Each year, the For Women in Science Program highlights scientific excellence and encourages talent. Faced with global challenges such as the acceleration of new technologies, aging populations, and the threat to biodiversity, L'Oréal and UNESCO remain convinced that these women researchers will have a major impact on society and lay the foundations for the future. As such, L'Oréal and UNESCO want to contribute to their recognition and provide them with the means to continue their commitment to science with energy and passion. In 13 years, the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards have recognized 67 laureates, and 864 fellowships have been granted to young women scientists from 93 countries so that they can continue their research projects. The program has become a benchmark of scientific excellence on an international scale. The awards ceremony took place on March 3, 2011, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Each of the five women laureates (one per continent) received US\$100,000 in recognition of her contribution to science.



**Alexandra Navrotsky**, Interdisciplinary Professor of Ceramic, Earth, and Environmental Materials Chemistry, Edward Roessler Chair in Mathematical and Physical Sciences, director of the Nanomaterials in the Environment, Agriculture and Technology (NEAT) Organized Research Unit, and Distinguished Professor, University of California at

Davis, was one of the 37 new members elected to the American Philosophical Society (APS). Alex's research addresses the fundamental question of why a chemical compound forms a particular structure at a given temperature and pressure. That question has taken her into studies of the deep Earth, other planets, and the behavior and fate of nanomaterials in the environment.

The APS was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin and others to promote knowledge in science and the humanities. Today, the society runs an academic library and museum, publishes books and journals, organizes meetings, and gives grants and prizes for scholarly work.

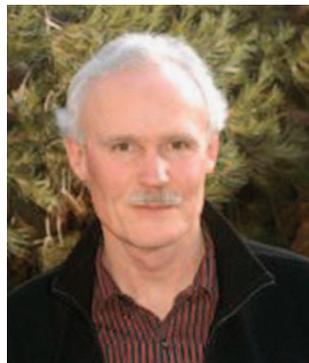
**T. MARK HARRISON – NEW MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**



Mark Harrison, director of the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics and professor of geochemistry in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles, has been elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences. He is one of the 72 new members elected this year. Harrison studies the very early years of the Earth's history. In 2008, he and UCLA colleagues Craig Manning and Michelle Hopkins presented a new picture of what the early

Earth was like in the journal *Nature*, including the surprising finding that plate tectonics may have started more than 4 billion years ago, much earlier than scientists had believed.

**2011 JAEGER MEDAL TO IAN JACKSON**



Ian Jackson, professor in the Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University, was awarded the 2011 Jaeger Medal for Research in Earth Sciences of the Australian Academy of Science. His research has centered on laboratory study of the physical properties of geological and analogue materials under conditions simulating those of the Earth's deep interior. His work has involved the development of novel methods for the measurement and analysis of elastic and near-elastic behavior related to

the speeds and attenuation of earthquake waves. Such laboratory-based insights find application in the interpretation of seismological models for the Earth's internal structure in terms of temperature and chemical composition.

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