

Meteoritical Society *Cont'd from page 416*

This year's winner of the **NIER PRIZE** for young scientists in the field of meteoritics is **Fred Ciesla** of the University of Chicago. Fred receives this award for his excellent work on the origin and evolution of solid material during the early stages of planetary-system development and star formation. His work uses constraints from cosmochemical investigations and considerations from the latest astrophysical observations. The citation was given by Dante Lauretta.



**Richard Pugh** is the winner of this year's **METEORITICAL SOCIETY SERVICE AWARD**. Dick receives this award for his excellent service toward increasing the education and public awareness of meteorites and the fireballs that produce them. Dick was also instrumental in establishing the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory at Portland State University and functions as its outreach coordinator. The citation was given by Alex Ruzicka.



**The GORDON MCKAY AWARD**, given for the best oral presentation by a student at the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society, is awarded to **Dennis Harries** of the Universität Bayreuth, Germany, for his talk entitled "Nanocrystalline P-Bearing Pentlandite and Chromium Nitrides from CM2 Chondrites Y-791198 and Y-793321." The award comes with a prize of US\$1000 and a certificate.

## METEORITICAL SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK

The Meteoritical Society now has a page on Facebook! Please visit to find job announcements, meeting information, and up-to-date Society news. We can be found at [www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Meteoritical-Society/132324490172621](http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Meteoritical-Society/132324490172621). Our Facebook page is maintained by Cari Corrigan ([corrigan@si.edu](mailto:corrigan@si.edu)). Suggestions and contributions are welcome!

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

2012 – Cairns, Australia, August 12–17

2013 – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, July 29–August 2

2014 – Casablanca, Morocco, September 7–14

2015 – Berkeley, California, USA, July 27–31

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please renew by March 31, 2012; after that date, a \$15 late fee will be assessed. You can renew online at <http://metsoc.meteoriticalsociety.net>.

Soci t  Fran aise  
de Min ralogie  
et de Cristallographie

[www.sfmc-fr.org](http://www.sfmc-fr.org)

## SFMC STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

Julie Cosmidis and Estelle Couradeau, PhD students at the Institut de Min ralogie et de Physique des Milieux Condens s, Paris, received a grant from the Society to help them attend the international school



Minerals and Biosphere. The school was held in Campiglia Marittima (Italy), on 27–30 September 2011 in a former mining site now covered by pines and olive trees. It gathered about 20 European PhD students and postdocs in microbiology, mineralogy and geochemistry. The aim

was to highlight the diversity of scientific questions concerning both minerals and living organisms/organic matter and how these questions can be addressed. The school featured lectures on techniques for investigating microbe–mineral interfaces and that allow the preservation of living structures and provide micrometre-scale resolution or better. Fundamental topics, such as the selection by organics of the orientation of mineral growth, as well as applied topics, like the remediation of polluted soils by plants and fungi and the impact of mineral dust on human were presented.

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Atalante 2012: "Nuclear Chemistry for Sustainable Fuel Cycles" – September 2012**

The Atalante 2012 conference will take place in Montpellier (Le Corum), France, on 3–7 September 2012. Previous Atalante conferences were



held in Avignon (2000), Nimes (2004) and Montpellier (2008). Organized by the French Alternative Energy and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), these conferences provide an international forum for discussing advances in fuel cycles and waste management.

Increasingly, nuclear energy has to demonstrate that it can contribute safely and sustainably to growing energy needs. Today, the acceptance of nuclear energy is still closely associated with increased reactor safety, with our capability to reduce the lifetime of nuclear wastes and to manage them safely, and with better use of the natural resources. These goals cannot be achieved only by optimizing industrial processes through engineering studies; we must also increase our basic knowledge in actinide science. In this way, we will be able to build the future of nuclear energy using reliable and scientifically based results.

For its fourth edition, the organizers will focus the Atalante conference on the nuclear chemistry of fuel cycles and waste management. More than 150 oral contributions will be presented by the international nuclear chemistry community. A poster session will also be provided. Information can be obtained at [www.atalante2012.org](http://www.atalante2012.org). Abstracts must be submitted before the end of February 2012. Registration is open and early booking rates will be available until the end of June 2012.

**Serpentine Days – September 2012**

After the success of Serpentine Days in Grenoble in 2007, a new edition, sponsored by the SFMC, will be held in September 2012. The conference will take place in Porquerolles, in the south of France. More details will be given in the next issue of *Elements*. You can also consult the SFMC website, [www.sfmc-fr.org/](http://www.sfmc-fr.org/).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: **M. Andreani, A. L. Auzende, A. Delacour**