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AAG – SGS

### 2012 Student Paper Prize

The AAG will be selecting the best paper published in *GEEA* over the period 2011-2012, in which a student is the lead author. The winner will receive \$1000 from SGS Mineral Services and two years of membership in the AAG.

Competition rules are on the AAG website under the Students tab.

## START OF THE NTH GRADUATE SCHOOL GEOFLUXES



The graduate school GEOFluxes of the Niedersachsen Institutes of Technology (NTH) officially started on 10 April 2012 with an opening ceremony in Hannover, Germany, in the presence of Prof. J. Wanka, secretary of science and culture of the German state of Lower Saxony. Keynote addresses were given by Prof. F. von Blanckenburg (German Research Center for Geosciences, GFZ, Potsdam) and Prof. H.-J. Kumpel (president of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, BGR, Hannover). NTH is an association of three universities located in northern Germany: Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technische Universität Clausthal, and Leibniz Universität Hannover.

The graduate school GEOFluxes explores the role of fluid exchange in Earth and environmental systems, with particular attention to the formation and evolution of soils and metals as georesources, and is devoted to promoting NTH research in the geosciences. GEOFluxes benefits from expertise at NTH and the BGR Hannover. The research and teaching will focus on the formation and evolution of georesources, and the approach is best suited to complement well-established applied research in the geosciences and to develop a transformative research direction, from fundamental to applied geosciences. GEOFluxes merges traditional disciplines in the Earth sciences and associates abiotic processes occurring at depth (metal deposits, active faults) with biogeochemical and physical processes occurring in the critical zones of the Earth (for example, organic material and metal transfer in soils). The graduate school focuses on the critical zones located close to the Earth's surface, where anthropogenic and global changes will have particular socioeconomic consequences in the future.

The graduate school includes a well-structured credit points system, which focuses on the education of the students by integrating approaches from different scientific fields. Several scientific workshops, lectures, and field trips covering a wide range of disciplines, such as soil biogeochemistry, the formation of metal deposits, and the use of geochemical and microspectroscopic methods, are offered to the graduate students. In addition to the teaching and research programs focusing on georesources, particular attention is given to the acquisition of "soft" skills that favor contacts with industrial partners and/or scientific partners for academic careers.

The interdisciplinary teaching of graduate students in the field of resource-oriented fluid flow and transport processes is of high priority for Lower Saxony. Currently, sixteen doctoral students are participating in the graduate school and half the projects are supported financially by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony. Other doctoral students are either employed at the BGR or supported by German Science Foundation (DFG) projects at NTH.

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