

ALLISON MACFARLANE TO HEAD THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Allison M. Macfarlane, designated by President Obama as chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was sworn in on July 9 as the 15th person to lead this agency charged with regulating the civilian use of nuclear materials. She will serve a term ending June 30, 2013. "The agency faces multiple challenges. I look forward to working collegially with my fellow commissioners and the excellent, dedicated staff at the NRC to address these issues," said Macfarlane, an expert in nuclear waste issues.

Allison Macfarlane holds a doctorate in geology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Most recently she was an associate professor of environmental science and policy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. She has held fellowships at Radcliffe College, MIT, and Stanford and Harvard universities. From 1998 to 2000 she was a Social Science Research Fellow–MacArthur Foundation Fellow in International Peace and Security. She has served on National Academy of Sciences panels on nuclear energy and nuclear weapons issues.

From 2010 to 2012 she served on the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, created by the Obama Administration to make recommendations about a national strategy for dealing with the nation's high-level nuclear waste. Her research has focused on environmental policy and international security issues associated with nuclear energy, especially the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle. In 2006 MIT Press published a book she coedited with Rod Ewing, *Uncertainty Underground: Yucca Mountain and the Nation's High-Level Nuclear Waste*, which explored technical issues at the proposed waste-disposal facility at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Allison Macfarlane is the third woman to serve as chair of the commission, the 33rd member to serve on the panel, and the only individual with a background in geology to serve on the commission.

GORDON BROWN HONORED BY AGI



The Medal in Memory of Ian Campbell for Superlative Service to the Geosciences is the American Geosciences Institute's highest award, given in recognition of singular performance in and contributions to the profession of geology. The 2012 Campbell medalist is Gordon E. Brown Jr., Dorrell William Kirby Professor of Earth Sciences at the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences of

Stanford University. Dr. Brown's stellar career as a professor and researcher in mineralogy and geochemistry is well known and amply justifies the award.

Dr. Brown received his BS in chemistry and geology from Millsaps College (1965) and his MS (1968) and PhD (1970) in mineralogy and crystallography from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University. He has served as president of the Mineralogical Society of America (1995–1996) and is a fellow of the Geological Society of America (1997), the Geochemical Society (1999), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2000). He has also received the Mineralogical Association of Canada's Hawley Medal (2007) and the Mineralogical Society of America's Roebling Medal (2007).

He has made major contributions to a broad range of fundamental and applied problems, at the interface between Earth science, environmental science, physics, and chemistry. His public service is reflected by the positions he has held and the more than 30 committees in which he has participated at various levels, including occupying key positions advising and providing research management for NSF- and DOE-supported centers. He is also known for the many students he has advised and the extensive effort he has made to get students involved in mineralogy. His research has been concerned with major societal issues, such as the remediation of polluted or contaminated sites, the sequestration of heavy metal/metalloid and organic pollutants/contaminants in ecosystems, the impact of certain minerals or the elements they contain (or release) on human health, and the disposal of waste (industrial, nuclear, etc.). He also helped popularize large user facilities and has contributed to increasing the visibility of the geosciences.

HONORARY DOCTORATES FOR DONALD DINGWELL



The University of Alberta awarded a DSc to Donald Bruce Dingwell on 6 June in Edmonton for his contributions to experimental geosciences, volcanology, and excellence in science. He delivered a convocation address—at the university where he obtained his PhD in 1984—entitled "Preparing for the Unexpected."

University College London also awarded a DSc to Dingwell on 5 September for his major achievements in experimental Earth sciences. Dean Catlow cited his important role in the scientific landscape of Europe and the world.

Renowned for establishing the experimental investigation of melts and magma as a vital component of Earth sciences, Don Dingwell holds the Chair of Mineralogy and Petrology at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. He is serving as the secretary general of the European Research Council, a major position in the international granting system.

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