WE HEAR THAT

AGU Presents Awards at Bay Area Meeting

At its fall meeting in San Francisco, the American Geophysical Union presented medals to the following individuals. **Edouard Bard**, a researcher at France's Centre Européen de Recherche et d'Enseignement de Géosciences de l'Environnement, was one of two recipients of the James B. Macelwane Medal, given for contributions made by a young scientist. The medal citation called Bard "the person to watch if one wants to learn about how the Earth's surface climate is recorded over time and how the cosmos influences the climatic and oceanographic tracers found at our planet's surface."

The other Macelwane Medal winner was **Robert van der Hilst**, an assistant professor of geophysics at MIT. According to the citation, van der Hilst "has made important discoveries about the fate of subducting slabs and brought profound new insight to the problem of global circulation."

Jean-Louis Le Mouël, head of the geomagnetism section at the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, accepted the Fleming Medal for his "many significant contributions to the collection, analysis and interpretation of magnetic data" and for solving "several long-standing theoretical problems."

The Horton Medal went to **John D. Bredehoeft**, whom the citation called "a pioneer in the study of groundwater flow systems" and a "leading thinker on water-related issues of scientific and social importance." Retired from the US Geological Survey, Bredehoeft heads a consulting company, Hydrodynamics Group, in La Honda, California.

Hans A. Oeschger, a professor emeritus of physics at Switzerland's University of Bern, garnered the Roger Revelle Medal. According to the citation, Oeschger "has pioneered many innovations which have led to a better understanding of how the carbon cycle currently operates, how it might have differed during glacial time, and how human activity might alter it in the future."

Donald V. Helmberger, a professor of geophysics at Caltech's Seismological Laboratory, received the first Inge Lehmann Medal, which recognizes contributions made to the understanding of the structure, composition and dynamics of Earth's mantle and core. The citation stated that Helmberger has "more than anyone else, pioneered quantitative seismology: the comparison of realistic, computed seismograms with observed data to infer deep Earth structure."

AGU presented its first Excellence in Geophysical Education Award to **Robert D. Ballard**, president of the Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Connecticut. The award citation praised Ballard's success as a "spokesman of marine science" and noted his founding of the Jason Project, through which school children can interact with scientists aboard oceanographic expeditions; last year, the project reached over 2 million students.

Two journalists were among those honored by AGU. **David Perlman** received the Sustained Achievement Award in Science Journalism for his "daily devotion to his craft, his sturdy sense of responsibility, his devotion to accuracy, his warm regard for human diversity and his appreciation that science is an uncertain work in progress." Perlman has been the science editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* for the past 30 years.

Freelance writer **Jon Krakauer** accepted the Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism for his article "Geologists Worry about Dangers of Living 'under the Volcano' ", which describes the hazards posed by the geological instability of Washington's Mount Rainier. The article appeared in *Smithsonian* in July 1996.

IN BRIEF

Leo Esaki, president of Tsukuba University in Japan, is one of three winners of the 1998 Japan Prize, given by the Science and Technology Foundation of Japan to reward scientists for their practical contributions to society. (The other two share the prize given for biotechnology in agricultural sciences.) The prize goes to Esaki, who spent most of his career at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York, for his work on superlattice crystals.

In December, the Open Society, a foundation created by philanthropist George Soros, honored **Lev Okun** with a special humanitarian award. At a ceremony at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Okun, a professor at the Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics in Moscow, was recognized for "his dedication and selfless devotion to the cause of Russian scientists." Soros set up the Open Society in 1992 to help the most talented scientists from the former Soviet Union through their economic and political transition without having to leave their work or their country.

On 17 November, astrophysicist **Margaret Geller** was among four individuals honored by the New York Public Library as a "library lion." The other three honorees that evening were educator Johnnetta B. Cole, theater producer George C. Wolfe and art critic Robert Hughes. The field of each library lion was matched to one of the public library's four research branches, with Geller—a professor of astronomy at Harvard University and a senior scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics—representing the science, industry and business collection.

In October, **Zang Hee Cho**, a professor of radiological sciences at the University of California, Irvine, was elected a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

John H. Weaver, professor of materials science at the University of Minnesota, has been named 1997 scientist of the year by *R&D Magazine*. In its November issue, the publication stated that Weaver's research "has enhanced the understanding of the fundamental properties of solids and thin solid films."

Tsahi Gozani has been appointed president and CEO of Ancore Corp in Palo Alto, California, a spin-off of Science Applications International's advanced nucleonics division. Gozani had been senior vice president and manager of the division.

The Materials Sciences Award, given annually by the US Department of Energy, has gone this year to two scientists from Ames Laboratory at Iowa State University. **Karl A. Gschneidner Jr**, a senior scientist, and **Vitalij K. Pecharsky**, an associate scientist at the lab, were honored, according to the awards announcement, for "discovering a new class of materials made of a gadolinium–silicon–germanium alloy that are the key to magnetic refrigeration systems, which are more energy efficient and environmentally friendly than current gas-compression coolers."

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