

WE HEAR THAT

AGU Presents Awards and Medals in Washington

A highlight of the American Geophysical Union's spring meeting in Washington, DC, in June was the presentation of awards and medals for outstanding contributions to the field of geophysics.

The William Bowie Medal, AGU's highest honor, went to **John A. Simpson**. According to the award citation, "his accomplishments—spanning a half century—both in scientific research and in the realm of science and policy are unusually significant and important." Simpson has made a number of discoveries regarding cosmic rays and the heliosphere. Known as the father of the neutron monitor, he led in the development of space-borne detector systems and invented a number of particle detection techniques; all are among his contributions to space science. The awards announcement also acknowledged Simpson's "far-sighted and important" contributions to science policy issues. Simpson is the Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor of Physics Emeritus at the University of Chicago.

Erik H. Hauri was awarded the James B. Macelwane Medal, given for significant contributions by a young scientist. AGU honored Hauri for "the wonderful knitting of geochemistry, experimental petrology, and fluid dynamics together into the larger tapestry of the Earth." Hauri is research staff member at the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

The John Adam Fleming Medal was presented to **John T. Gosling**, a fellow in the space and atmospheric science group at Los Alamos National Laboratory, for his "outstanding contributions to our understanding of the solar wind and its interaction with the geomagnetic field."

M. Gordon Wolman, professor of geography and environmental engineering at Johns Hopkins University, received this year's Robert E. Horton Medal. Wolman was honored for his career, which has left "substantial legacies in hydrology and geomorphology," including his concepts, insights, publications, and his stu-

dents. Interestingly, Wolman's father, **Abel Wolman**, won this same medal from AGU 14 years ago.

The Waldo E. Smith Medal was awarded to **Rosina M. Bierbaum** for her "outstanding contributions throughout the last two decades to the analysis and assessment of a wide range of global and regional environmental issues." Bierbaum is associate director of the environment division in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The Walter Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Journalism went this year to **Alexandra Witze**. She was chosen for her article "Paradise Submerged" on the Kerguelen Plateau in the Indian Ocean. The article appeared in the 12 July 1999 issue of *The Dallas Morning News*, for which Witze is a writer.

David W. Mogk, professor of geology at Montana State University-Bozeman, is the winner of AGU's Excellence in Geophysical Education Award. AGU praised Mogk for making a "major impact on science education in this country" through his work in the classroom, community, professional societies, and the National Science Foundation. The awards announcement acknowledged his leadership in establishing a central role for Earth sciences in science education.

Astronomical Society of the Pacific Presents Awards

At its annual meeting in July in Pasadena, California, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific presented six awards. **Rashid A. Sunyaev**, director of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Garching, Germany, and head of the high-energy astrophysics department and chief scientist at the Space Research Institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences, received the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal. The society honored Sunyaev for his "fundamental, lifelong contributions to astronomy," especially his theoretical work, which "spans an enormous range and is the foundation of several major fields of current astrophysics."

Jack F. Horkheimer, director of the Space Transit Planetarium at the Miami Museum of Science in Florida,

garnered the Dorothea Klumpke-Roberts Award, given to an individual who contributes to public understanding and appreciation of astronomy. According to the society, Horkheimer's "enthusiasm and energy have enticed many people to go outside and look at the sky and learn more about astronomy." Horkheimer is best known for his TV show "Star Gazer."

The Thomas J. Brennan Award went to **Jeffrey F. Lockwood**, director of the astrobiology curriculum project at TERC, a not-for-profit education research and development organization in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Lockwood was recognized for his "exceptional achievement related to the teaching of astronomy at the high school level."

Scott D. Burles was presented with the Robert J. Trumpler Award, given to a recent PhD recipient whose research is considered "unusually important to astronomy." Burles received his doctorate at the University of Chicago for work done with his adviser, **David Tytler**, on a precise measurement of the primordial deuterium-to-hydrogen abundance ratio, and, hence, of the baryon density in the universe.

Peter B. Stetson, senior research officer with the National Research Council of Canada, received the Maria & Eric Muhlmann Award, which is given "for recent significant observational results made possible by innovative advances in astronomical instrumentation, software, or observational infrastructure." Stetson was honored for developing DAOPHOT, software that enables scientists to precisely determine the brightness of point sources imaged with area detectors.

The society presented its Amateur Achievement Award to **Paul Boltwood**, an amateur astronomer for 40 years who lives in Stittsville, Ontario, Canada. The society recognized Boltwood for his development of hardware and software for "precise deep-sky imaging, his research on brightness variations in active galactic nuclei, and his studies of near-nucleus activity in Comet Hyakutake."

IN BRIEF

Shi-Qing Wang, formerly professor of macromolecular science at Case Western Reserve University in Cleve-