



Dr. Peter Bobrowsky

Citation, Dr. Peter Bobrowsky, IUGS James M. Harrison Award for Distinguished Service

IUGS takes great pleasure in presenting Prof. Dr. Peter Bobrowsky with the James M. Harrison Award for Distinguished Service. The award honors the memory of Dr. James Merritt Harrison, a Canadian geologist, scholar, scientist and public servant who was one of the founding members of the Union – and: its first President from 1961 to 1964. IUGS believes it is appropriate to bestow in 2020 this prestigious recognition on another Canadian geologist who many years later devoted a substantial part of his professional career promoting the mission and goals of the International Union of Geological Sciences, namely, Peter Bobrowsky.

Peter has always been involved in professional activities and organizations; he never stops. His introduction to the IUGS was through his participation in its Commission on the Geological Environment (COGEOENVIRONMENT). Within a year of joining COGEO, Peter was elected Secretary General of the Commission (1994-2000). During that time, Peter worked nationally in Canada to promote and elevate the stature, relevance and importance of IUGS to all Canadian geoscientists. In 2000 Peter was

elected Vice President of the IUGS. Thereafter he developed, launched and wrote the monthly IUGS E-Bulletin. Peter's hard work, efficiency, devotion and strong belief in IUGS was globally apparent, and he was elected uncontested in 2004 and again in 2008 for two terms as Secretary General where he loyally served two presidential officers and worked with 18 other IUGS EC members to enhance the global presence of earth sciences. Besides overseeing and reporting on the internal activities of the Union, Peter strove to develop new directions in the Union and to involve new groups of people. He contributed to a new category of Union activities (Initiatives) from which the International Association of Medical Geology was launched and into which the current Forensic Geology initiative was elevated.

Scientific opportunity and inclusion were paramount guides to his work in the Union. Peter helped launch a new website for the Union and served as Webmaster from 2008 to 2018. In that additional role, he strove to maintain active global communication for the IUGS.

Peter's contributions to earth sciences on a global level as measured by his hard work for some 25 years in the Union have left a signifi-

cant positive legacy to the discipline and, most importantly, to the Union. It is most apropos that the distinguished service to IUGS of Canadian Geologist Peter Bobrowsky be recognized with this award that recognizes an earlier Canadian Geologist whose dedicated service was critical to the successful establishment of the IUGS.

F.Wolfgang Elder, GeoScience Centre, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany

Citation Response by Dr. Peter Bobrowsky

President Qiuming Cheng; Secretary General Stan Finney; Treasurer Hiroshi Kitazato; friends, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

I am truly surprised and equally elated to be the 2020 recipient of the James M. Harrison Outstanding Achievement Award. This award was created to honor an incredible Canadian earth scientist and the Union's first President. Dr. Harrison's tenure in the Geological Survey of Canada comprised an impressive career as an accomplished geologist, an effective senior bureaucrat, a respected science practitioner and an internationally influential visionary who helped launch the IUGS as a global organization that benefits both the geological community and society at large.

Indeed, I am extremely proud to be the first Canadian geologist and former Geological Survey of Canada scientist to receive this recognition. This award aims to acknowledge an individual who displayed an extended commitment to the mission of the Union, including

fostering and promoting widespread opportunities for global geoscientific enhancement, education and application. As a recipient of the Harrison Award, I feel privileged to be in the company of the previous awardees. Not only am I humbled to be included in their company, it is a pleasure to recognize these individuals as friends and colleagues.

More importantly, I believe I share this current distinction with a number of international dignitaries who provided critical mentorship, collaboration, support and opportunity throughout my IUGS related career – in particular Ed M, Ed D, Hongren, Wolfgang, Margarete, Lio, Antonio, Jean Paul, Jacques, Jonas, Colin, Brian, Olle, Eldridge, Silvia, Giuseppe, Kyoji, Paolo, Claudio and David. A lifetime of support provided by Nat, John, the BCGS and GSC allowed me the chance to pursue a passion centered on international geoscience collaboration. My years in COGEOENVIRONMENT, IGCP, UNESCO, GEOUNIONS, IYPE, ICSU, IAPG, ICL, GSA, GAC, IGC, etc., as well as countless events, meetings, conferences, programmes, field excursions very much reflected the heart and soul of the International Union of Geological Sciences. None of this could have been possible without the generous moral and financial support provided by the Government of Canada under the auspices of the Geological Survey for more than 10 years.

Finally, my sincere thanks to Wolfgang Eder for initiating this nomination and Attilio Boriani, Brian Marker, Eduardo de Mulder, Kyoji Sassa and Alik Ismail Zadeh for their letters of support.

Never able to leave my interest in human evolution far behind, I have also used isotopes to study animal diets. Parallel studies of modern ecology coupled with studies of fossils led to the discovery of unexpected diet “inversions” in the fossil record and to detailed diet histories of modern elephants using isotopic data recorded in their tail hairs.

A chance conversation at an AGU meeting led to the early use of the tritium-helium method for dating groundwater,

And studies of modern mammals helped develop new geochemical tracers for elephant ivory, pangolin scales, and charcoal in the efforts to stop illegal trafficking in plants, animals, and other commodities.

Clearly, this geologist did not follow just one path!

This medal, given by the International Union of Geological Sciences, honors Émile Argand, one of the first geologists to embrace the concept of moving continental plates. Argand also made fundamental contributions to understanding the tectonics of folded mountain belts like the

collision zones that make up both the Alps of Europe and Himalayas of Asia. It is a great honor to be the second recipient of the Émile Argand Award, following in the footsteps of my good friend Judy McKenzie.

I would be remiss not to thank the many colleagues and students with whom I’ve worked. While the list is simply too long for this response, I would like to single out two of my University of Utah colleagues. Jim Ehleringer has helped me to see and understand ecological processes hidden from most geologists; the late Frank Brown helped me to see and understand not just the Turkana Basin but much of life. It has been in conversations with colleagues and with students where many ideas have had their beginnings, taken root, and sometimes flowered in unexpected ways.

My scientific journey has been immeasurably enriched by students, colleagues, and family. Together we have hiked, both literally and figuratively, to remote corners of our planet and I am glad of their laughter, friendship, and insights.

IUGS James M. Harrison Award for distinguished service

1. Rationale for the award

IUGS, which is one of the largest international scientific unions, is run by many dedicated individuals who devote much of their time to its activities. Some of them have greatly contributed to the IUGS activities and hence to the global geosciences. The purpose of the IUGS Harrison Award is to acknowledge such persons. The award, established in 2004, celebrates Dr. James M. Harrison (1915-1990), an internationally respected Canadian geologist who was the first IUGS President from 1961 to 1964, as well as President of ICSU (International Council of Scientific Unions) from 1966 to 1968.

2. Awardee profile

Nominees should have made an outstanding contribution to the Union over many years. Active officers of the various IUGS bodies and initiatives, including -among others- the IUGS Executive Committee, Commissions, Task Groups and Initiatives are excluded.