

ANDREW HYNES: 2013 RECIPIENT OF THE CFES/FCST MENTORSHIP MEDAL



Andrew Hynes (right) accepts the Mentorship Medal from CFES Mentorship Medal Committee Chair Shoufa Lin

Citation (Brendan Murphy)

Andrew Hynes, Logan Professor, Dept. of Earth and Planetary Sciences at McGill University, is the 2013 recipient of the CFES/FCST Mentorship medal. This medal was created in 2008 to “recognize the sustained and inspirational mentorship of colleagues and employees including peers, graduate students, undergraduate students and technicians”. The sole criterion for the medal is “excellence in mentoring over a sustained period of time”.

By any measure, Andrew has been an outstanding mentor and is a thoroughly deserving recipient of this prestigious award. Born in Liverpool, U.K., Andrew emigrated as a teenager to Canada, completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto and a PhD at Cambridge University in 1972. In 1975, he joined McGill as a (very) young professor, and 38 years later he is still there (but no longer young)! He has had a profound impact on the careers of generations of former graduate and undergraduate students, not only at McGill but also in the broader geoscience community. His one-on-one sessions in the office or the local hostelry, and his unwavering commitment to the educational and intellectual development to the very many students who were captured and captivated within his broad sphere of influence, are but a few of the attributes that have made Andrew an inspirational role model. Andrew also has contributed to the wider community, for example as Dept. Chair of at McGill (1987-91; 2010-present), as Technical Program Chairman for the 1989 and 2006 GACMAC’s, as a member of the editorial board of Geoscience Canada, an Associate Editor of Geological Society of America Bulletin (2007-12), and as a member of the NSERC Grants Committee for the Solid Earth Sciences (2000-3).

If we were to advise our young generation of researchers as to what is expected of them in their career, we would say they need to conduct independent, process-oriented, rigorous research on first-order issues, be a mentor to a generation of students and contribute to the broader research culture in Canada. And if we were to find a role model for our young researchers, we need to look no further than Logan Professor, Andrew Hynes.

Responses (Andrew Hynes)

I would like to thank the Earth-science community, and most particularly my former students, for this award. I was surprised to learn I had won it, since I know many Earth scientists who are far more deserving of the medal than am I. I concluded from this that my students had simply been particularly aggressive about securing the award. I thank them for that.

My personal view, as a professor, is that it is only the presence of the students - both graduate and undergraduate - who justify our receiving salaries for the exciting work we do. It is delightful to learn that some of the effects of this view are regarded as positive by the students themselves. I have learned as much from the students I have taught as they have learned from me, but even more important has been that the students have undoubtedly kept me younger than I would otherwise have become. For this, as well as the award, I am extremely grateful.