Michel David Receives Krumbein Medal

Those of you who regularly read Mathematical Geology have undoubtedly noticed the sometimes intertemperate controversy that has raged in its pages during the last few years. It seems all members of our discipline belong to one of three schools of thought: Those who practice and strongly advocate geostatistics, those who are violently (and vocally) opposed to geostatistics, and the silent majority, who wonder what all of the shouting is about.

Over the past twelve years, the International Association for Mathematical Geology has recognized many members of the non-shouting third group, and has bestowed its highest honor on distinguished geoscientists who have worked on a great variety of problems, using a vast arsenal of techniques. In recent years the Association has also acknowledged the growing contributions made to all areas of the earth sciences by the geostatisticians by recognizing two of the foremost leaders in this area, Georges Matheron and Danny Krige.

The International Association for Mathematical Geology has now recognized the accomplishments of a third eminent geostatistician, Michel David, Professor at l’Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal and President of Geostat Systems International. The presentation of the twelfth William Christian Krumbein Medal was made to Michel in Canada during the Ottawa colloquium on “Statistical Applications in the Earth Sciences” in November, 1988. Michel has made his contributions through patient example and quiet, persuasive demonstration. In addition to being a highly regarded scientist, he has been an advocate of calm practicality, and a voice of clarity and reason.

Unlike many of us who have been content to dispense our wisdom and advice from within our academic or governmental sanctuaries, Michel has ventured into the cold, cruel world of commerce to practice what he preaches. So, it is not only for his scientific articles and scholarly books that the Association awards him the Krumbein medal. It is also for his practical applications of geostatistical theory, scientific judgement, and common sense.

Michel David was born in France and received his first degree from l’Ecole des Mines de Nancy in 1967, as a mining engineer. He worked in France, Canada, Mauretanina, and South Africa, on coal, iron, and gold deposits. He later received his Ph.D. from the University of Montreal, where he became a member of the faculty of the Department of Mineral Engineering. In 1975, he was Visiting Professor at Colorado School of Mines. He directed the Mineral Exploration Research Institute in Montreal from 1976 to 1981.

Michel has authored or coauthored over 100 articles on geostatistics and other topics in mathematical geology. In 1977 his book, Geostatistical Ore Reserve Estimation, which was the first comprehensive treatment of geostatistics to appear in English, was published. His new book, Handbook of Applied Advanced Geostatistical Ore Reserve Estimation, has just appeared (see the special offer elsewhere in this issue).

Michel David was one of the organizers of the 1st and 2nd Geostatistics Congresses in Frascati, Italy, in 1975, and Lake Tahoe, Nevada, in 1983. He has been active as a consultant and has served more than 100 companies worldwide. To further this practical aspect of his work, he founded Geostat Systems International and holds the office of Corporate President. The company began in Denver, Colorado, in 1979 and opened its Montreal quarters in 1981.

Although no longer actively teaching, his legacy of students, textbooks, scientific articles, and industrial trainees continues to contribute to the growth of geostatistics. The International Association for Mathematical Geology is pleased to honor Dr. Michel David for his many accomplishments.

Plans to Expand Computers & Geosciences in 1989

According to Editor-in-Chief Dan Merriam, so many good papers have been received by C\&G during the year that the decision has been made to go to eight issues in 1989. All issues of Volume 14 (1988) have gone to press and Volume 15, no. 1 is on its way.

Several special issues will appear in 1989, including a bibliography of computer geology from beginnings to 1970, papers from the II Ciocco NATO/ASI meeting in 1986, and proceedings of the British Geographers Quantitative Methods Study Group on “Fractals and the Geosciences,” held in 1987. An index of the first fifteen volumes of C\&G will also be prepared next year.

Certain issues of Volume 15 (1989) will include a COGS-sponsored section on microcomputers. Doug Peters of COGS (Computer-Oriented Geological Society) will be responsible. The special feature “Computer Corner” will be reinitiated, if all goes well; and Graeme Bonham-Carter of the Geological Survey of Canada will be heading up a new book-review section.

Dan reports that all is going well and C\&G’s future looks rosy, with steps taken to reduce the unacceptable length of time required for the C\&G review process, the addition of a part-time secretary to help with journal administration, and a larger, revitalized and reorganized international group comprising the editorial board.