Association Announcements

Sixth William Christian Krumbein Medalist: Daniel Francis Merriam

Daniel F. Merriam was one of the founding members of the IAMG at the XXIII International Geological Congress in Prague; he established *Journal of Mathematical Geology* and edited the journal for eight years; established and edited *Computers & Geosciences*; served as the Association's Secretary General and later as President; and now continues to serve on the IAMG Council as Past President. No individual has devoted more time and effort to the success of the

International Association for Mathematical Geology than has Dan Merriam. It is therefore especially appropriate that he be honored as the sixth recipient of the William Christian Krumbein Medal, the highest award the IAMG can bestow. The medal was presented by President Tim Whitten in Golden, Colorado, on January 27, 1982. The occasion was the first annual meeting of the Mathematical Geologists of the U.S.--an IAMG regional organization that Dan Merriam also helped to establish.

Dan was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on February 9, 1927. After a stint in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he attended The University of Kansas where he obtained a B.S. degree in 1949. He worked briefly as a geologist for the Union Oil Company, then returned to Kansas for graduate studies. He obtained his M.S. in 1953 and joined the Kansas Geological Survey, an affiliation which continued for 18 years. Combining research and academic pursuits, he received his Ph.D. in 1961 for his monumental treatise *The Geologic History of Kansas*. During this first stage of his career, Dan produced over 70 publications on the petroleum geology and regional geology of Kansas.

A critical turning point in Dan's professional interests occurred in 1963 when he was Visiting Research Scientist with John Harbaugh at Stanford University. Introduced to the computer and immediately grasping its enormous potential in the Earth sciences, he has since devoted his professional life to quantitative research and the popularization of computing among geologists.

Upon returning from Stanford, Dan established the Geologic Research Section of the Kansas Geological Survey, and steered its activities into computer applications in the face of strong skepticism and resistance by many of his more conservative peers. The Section published the *Computer Contribution Series*, the direct forebear of *Computers & Geosciences* and the first periodical devoted to computer applications in geology. It also sponsored the "Computer Colloquia," twice-a-year meetings in Lawrence where the early practitioners of mathematical geology sought and found mutual solice. Through a program of international exchange at the Kansas Geological Survey, most of the major personalities in mathematical geology from around the world were brought together during these years. Thus was formed much of the network of friendship and association which held the IAMG together during its critical formative years.

Appointed Jessie Page Heroy Professor at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, in 1971, where he served 10 years as Chairman of the Department of Geology, Dan wasted no time in establishing a new mechanism for the promotion of mathematical geology. This was the series of annual meetings dubbed the "Geochautauquas," devoted to various quantitative topics and patterned after the earlier meetings at Kansas. The series still continues, now hosted by various universities and geological surveys. In 1982, Dan was apointed Endowment Association Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Geology Department at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas.

During his "second career," Dan published over 70 articles on various aspects of mathematical geology and edited eight books in the field. With John Harbaugh he wrote *Computer Applications in Stratigraphic Analysis*, the first textbook to be devoted exclusively to the application of computers in geology. He counseled and taught students from all over the world, many of whom are now themselves leading workers in the field. Not content to stay in one place while others came to him, he was a Fulbright Senior Fellow in England in 1964. From this came M.Sc. and D.Sc. degrees from Leicester University in 1969 and 1975. He directed the AGI Field Institute in Japan in 1967, was Esso Distinguished Lecturer in Australia in 1979, and Visiting Professor at the Centre d'Informatique Geologique in Fontainebleau, France, in 1980.

In addition to his work on behalf of the IAMG, Dan has been active in the affairs of many other professional organizations and has been particularly unstinting in the promotion of international cooperation and exchange. He has served on numerous committees of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Geological Society of America, of the Classification Society, and the Geoscience Information Society. Dan is a member of several committees of the International Union of Geological Sciences, is on the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, and is a member of two U.S. National Academy of Science committees concerned with international programs.

The William Christian Krumbein medal is awarded for exceptional contributions in the field of mathematical geology. The IAMG bylaws state that "conditions for the medal include: (1) original contribution to the science, (2) service to the profession, and (3) support of the Association." Few persons could exceed the record of Daniel Merriam in any of these areas, and probably no one has contributed more in the aggregate. The Association is proud to recognize his achievements by including him among the Krumbein medallists.

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John C. Davis
Secretary General
International Association for Mathematical Geology

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