

Annual report for CASCA Awards Committee, November 2012.

The committee, as of November 2012, consists of:

Patrick Côté, chair (2010-14) NRC/NSI
Michael Balogh (2010-13) University of Waterloo
Paul Charbonneau (2012-15) Université de Montréal
Samar Safi -Harb (2011-14) University of Manitoba
Ian Short (2010-14) St. Mary's University
Ethan Vishniac (2010-13) McMaster University
Jasper Wall (2010-13) University of British Columbia
Tracy Webb (2012-15) McGill University

Charbonneau and Webb joined the committee in 2012; the terms of Balogh, Wall and Vishniac will end in 2013. Cote continues as chair of the committee.

The 2012 Carlyle S. Beals Award -- awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement in research, either as a specific achievement or as a lifetime of research -- was presented to Dr. David Crampton (NRC/NSI) who delivered a lecture at the 2012 Calgary meeting entitled "Carpe Lux".

The J.S. Plaskett Medal -- given to the Ph.D. graduate from a Canadian university who is judged to have submitted the most outstanding doctoral thesis in astronomy or astrophysics in the preceding two calendar years -- was awarded to Dr. Pier-Emmanuel Tremblay (currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Heidelberg) for his doctoral thesis at the University of Montreal, which was carried out under the supervision of Prof. Pierre Bergeron. Dr. Tremblay accepted his medal and presented a lecture entitled "Improved View of Hydrogen-Rich Atmosphere White Dwarfs".

The 2012 Qilak Award -- for outstanding contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy in Canada -- was presented to Prof. John R. Percy (University of Toronto), who gave a lecture entitled "A Half Century of Astronomy Outreach: Reflections, and Lessons Learned".

The committee shall meet in the coming months to decide on recommendations for the following awards that will be bestowed in 2013: (1) The R.M. Petrie Prize Lecture; (2) the Peter G. Martin Award; (3) the J.S. Plaskett Medal; and (4) the Qilak Award.

Patrick Cote (NRC/NSI)