IUGS 50th Anniversary – Young Scientists Essay Contest Winners

In celebration of the IUGS 50th Anniversary throughout 2011, the IUGS Executive Committee hosted a global essay contest for early career geoscientists under the age of 35 years of age to express their views on the future of the geological sciences. IUGS is now honoring the best four essays submitted by young scientists by highlighting in *Episodes* their opinions on *The Future of the Geological Sciences*. The winning author, Gemma Venhuizen from the Netherlands, will be provided with a travel grant to attend the International Geological Congress (IGC) in Brisbane, Australia in August 2012 to present her paper and receive an IUGS medal for her creative and inspiring article *CoCoA: the Future Ingredient for Geoscientific Research* which focuses on the future of geoscience research. Other honored articles were submitted by Anne Carter Witt from the United States of America, Tim Stahl from New Zealand, and Nathan Barber from the United States of America.

The early career global essay contest was launched in January 2011 through the YES Network and other IUGS partners and affiliate organizations. Twenty nine (29) essays were submitted for the contest from 20 countries. The IUGS President formed a judging panel and essays were judged on the criteria of: content relative to the theme (*future of the geological sciences*), original idea, science and overall score. Essay contest partners are IUGS, IGC, and the YES Network. The IUGS Executive Committee congratulates the winning author as well as the additional three honored essay authors, and encourages early career scientists to continue to submit their research and opinions to *Episodes* for future publication.

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