



Ecole Internationale Daniel Chalonge



25 July 2009

The Daniel Chalonge Medal 2009 has been awarded to

Peter Biermann

The International School of Astrophysics "Daniel Chalonge" has awarded the Daniel Chalonge Medal 2009 to Professor Peter L. Biermann from MPI for Radioastronomie of Bonn (D) and University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa (USA).

The medal was awarded to Peter Biermann for his huge contribution to astrophysics (as for example high energy particle acceleration, cosmic rays, galactic nuclei and black holes), and for his support and outstanding contributions to the Chalonge School. In particular, Peter Biermann is involved in astrophysical dark matter research in the standard model of the universe, one of the most discussed topics in the Chalonge School. Leader of a theoretical group in Bonn, Peter Biermann actively contributed as lecturer of the School continuously participating to the training and formation of young physicists and astrophysicists (graduate and postdoctoral students) and promoting fruitful discussions and work with the participants and supporting the origin and development of new ideas and projects.



Peter Biermann, Doctor honoris causa at University of Bucarest, is member of many prestigious collaborations like Auger, Euso and IceCube. Always involved in international research programs he leads a theoretical group of researchers from different countries. Peter Biermann is author of numerous publications related to galactic cosmic rays, ultra high energy cosmic rays, active galactic nuclei, magnetic fields, dark matter and early black holes.



A surprise Award

The Chalonge Medal is a totally surprise award. The medal was presented to Peter Biermann on July the 25th 2009 during the last session of the 13th Paris Cosmology

Colloquium at the Paris Observatory (Observatoire de Paris) in the Cassini Hall, on the meridian of Paris, in the presence of three Chalonge Medals: Professors George F. Smoot (2006), Carlos S. Frenk (2007) and Anthony N. Lasenby (2008), and of about hundred participants from the world over.



Only six Chalonge Medals awarded in the 17-year school history

Peter Biermann received the seventh medal the school has awarded in its 18-year history. The first medal was awarded in 1991 to astrophysicist and Nobel prize of Physics Subramanyan Chandrasekhar (1910-1995), who was a great friend of Daniel Chalonge and delivered the school's inaugural lecture in 1991 “Daniel Chalonge and the Problem of the Abundance of the Hydrogen”. The second medal was awarded in 1992 to the distinguished high-energy physicist Bruno Pontecorvo (1913-1993), a pioneer of neutrino physics and a major supporter and lecturer at the school. The third medal was awarded in 2006 to cosmologist and Nobel prize of Physics 2006 George F. Smoot, who is at the center of the Chalonge School since its creation. George Smoot has the original copy of the medal: the noted french sculptor who designed the medal, Madeleine Pierre Qu erolle, today aged 95 and always active in her Parisian workshop, offered her own original copy of the medal for the third award presentation to George Smoot. Motivated by the Nobel prize of Physics to George Smoot and the success of the Chalonge School, the French Mint coined in february 2007 exclusively for the Chalonge School a second limited edition of the medal. This made possible the 2007, 2008 and 2009 presentations of the Medal. Science with great intellectual endeavour and a human face. True and healthy science. Outstanding scientists who are gentlepersons. Scientists recipients of the Daniel Chalonge Medal (Subramanyan Chandrasekhar, Bruno Pontecorvo, George Smoot, Carlos Frenk, Anthony Lasenby, Bernard Sadoulet, Peter Biermann) are Ambassadors of the School.



The Daniel Chalonge Medal was designed by the noted french sculptor and artist painter Madeleine Pierre Quérolle and coined by the Hôtel de la Monnaie de Paris (the French Mint). The first side of the medal shows Daniel Chalonge's portrait. The reverse side is composed of two scenes: the upper half depicts the mirror of a telescope on which a part of the Milky Way and the Orion constellation is reflected. The lower half depicts the French Alps and the "Pic Chalonge", (the mountain, 3343 m height, named after him).

Daniel Chalonge

The School is named after the pioneering French astrophysicist Daniel Chalonge (1895-1977) for his work in experimental and theoretical astrophysics. Precursor in France of stellar spectroscopy and stellar and atmospheric spectrophotometry, he worked on the conception and construction of new instruments like the hydrogen tube, the spectrographe to reach the far ultraviolet spectra and the microphotometer

named after him. He was a personality of his time, one of the founders of the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris. He worked at the Observatoire de Paris, at the Observatoire d'Haute Provence, and at the Jungfrau Scientific Station in Switzerland, where particle physics experiments (such as the Manchester-Cern collaboration) were performed.

Congratulations

Scientists from over the world participated to the event and congratulated Peter Biermann for being awarded with the Daniel Chalonge Medal. At the end of the 13th Paris Cosmology Colloquium 2009, a celebration took place at the Council room and the south terrasse of Observatoire de Paris. What started as a Colloquium celebration concluded as a twofold celebration.



<http://www.chalonge.obspm.fr/colloque2009.html>

Photo Gallery:

<http://www.chalonge.obspm.fr/album2009/album/index.html>

Peter Biermann's' Lecture 2009 (pdf)

http://www.chalonge.obspm.fr/Paris09_Biermann.pdf

The Daniel Chalonge Medal 2008 to Anthony Lasenby and Bernard Sadoulet

http://chalonge.obspm.fr/Medal_Chalonge2008.pdf

The Daniel Chalonge Medal 2007 to Carlos Frenk

http://chalonge.obspm.fr/Medal_FRENK.pdf

The Daniel Chalonge Medal 2006 to George Smoot

<http://www.lbl.gov/Science-Articles/Archive/Smoot-Chalonge.html>

http://chalonge.obspm.fr/Chalonge_Medal.pdf

The Daniel Chalonge Medal in the French Senate, 50th Anniversary of Sputnik
(October 2007)

<http://planetastronomy.com/special/2008-special/09oct07/spoutnik-senat.htm>

<http://www.starlight2007.net/spoutnikes.htm>

Archives Daniel Chalonge

http://chalonge.obspm.fr/Archives_Daniel_Chalonge.html

The Chalonge School <http://chalonge.obspm.fr>