

ABOUT AGU

Lee Receives 2008 Hisashi Kuno Award

Cin-Ty Lee received the 2008 Hisashi Kuno Award at the 2008 AGU Fall Meeting Honors Ceremony, held 17 December 2008 in San Francisco, Calif. The award is for outstanding contributions to the fields of volcanology, geochemistry, or petrology.

Citation

It is very appropriate that Cin-Ty Lee has been selected to receive the inaugural AGU Hisashi Kuno Award for young scientists. Kuno made seminal discoveries related to arcs, and one of Cin-Ty's primary research focuses is on generating the continental crust, which ultimately must be linked to arc genesis.

Cin-Ty's curiosity knows no bounds, and his skill in analytical geochemistry, his mathematical abilities, and his tremendous imagination and creativity have allowed him to be a "kid in the geological candy shop." Add to this his unselfish, collaborative spirit and his excellent ability to mentor young people, and you form a picture of a truly remarkable individual.

Cin-Ty has made contributions on a very wide range of topics, from element partitioning to the depth of origin of magmas, to the influence of weathering on the continental crust composition, and to Hadean magma oceans. Now, this might be considered to be the mark of attention deficit disorder, except that each and every one of these endeavors has led to papers published in the top peer-reviewed journals.

Here are some numbers: ~50 papers published or in press, 13 papers in 2008 alone;

and over 450 citations and an *h*-index of 14. And all of this accomplished in the 7 years since his Ph.D.!

The students Cin-Ty has mentored have gone on to graduate study or postdoc positions at Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, Caltech, Stanford, Brown, University of Texas at Austin, and Peking University. I think, more than anything, Cin-Ty has the ability to bring out the fun in science and instill this in his collaborators and students.

I hope by now you are truly impressed. However, a not too tightly held secret is that Cin-Ty is, in real life, a birder. His very first publication was a book on bird-watching in Riverside, Calif., in 1995. He has published 13 papers on bird-watching and ornithology. If you are lucky enough to be on his Christmas card list you will receive a card with exquisitely painted birds, by Cin-Ty. In reviewing these works of art for this presentation I was a bit chagrined to see that many of the paintings date to his days as a Ph.D. student. Was he slacking off, not throwing himself into his research? Was I too lax as a Ph.D. supervisor? But I was mildly relieved to see that this behavior also continued through his postdoc with Gerry Wasserberg and into his days at Rice University. It's clear that Cin-Ty somehow manages to be a world-class geoscientist and a world-class birder.

In summary, please join me in celebrating the remarkable creativity of a true Renaissance man.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Cin-Ty Lee, winner of the 2008 Hisashi Kuno Award.

—ROBERTA L. RUDNICK, University of Maryland, College Park

Response

Thank you, Roberta, and the community for presenting me with the Kuno Award. There are many others just as deserving, so I can only consider myself very lucky. When I was an undergrad at Berkeley, I was interested in all aspects of the Earth sciences, but I was originally planning on being a geophysicist. However, in my junior and senior years, G. Brimhall, D. DePaolo, I. Carmichael, R. Wenk, and M. Manga wore off on me. In particular, George got me interested in looking at xenoliths, so at the last minute, after I had sent in all my applications, I changed my mind and decided I wanted to work on xenoliths. Roberta Rudnick at Harvard was one of few working on xenoliths. I took a red-eye flight to Harvard for my interview and could barely stay awake. I'm sure I didn't make a good impression that day, but Roberta apparently took a risk with me. For the next 2 years, I wandered and stumbled over everything and was distracted by many random interests, such as bird-watching. It was a bad way to get started. However, Roberta, Bill McDonough, and others at Harvard never lost faith in me and gave me room to mature, and to this day, I'm indebted. I owe a number of other people as well. Qing-Zhu Yin helped me in almost every way one can imagine; S. Jacobsen, R. O'Connell, and my classmates inspired me; G. Wasserberg and D. Shuster discussed



Cin-Ty Lee

science with me at Caltech; Doug Morton took me under his wing and taught me the value of field geology; the faculty at Rice never stopped supporting me; Bill Leeman taught me so many new things; and all of my students and postdocs gave me the benefit of the doubt. In the end, it all goes back to an orange grove by a chicken farm just outside of Riverside, Calif., where my parents, Tien and Zora, raised my brother and me; they stressed the importance of nature, observations, thinking analytically, and drinking orange juice. Finally, I thank Yu-Ye for her unrelenting love and support. This award is more hers than mine.

—CIN-TY LEE, Rice University, Houston, Tex.