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Professor M. Brian Maple Recipient of the Ninth Frank H. Spedding Award

At each of the past eight meetings of the Rare Earth Research Conference there has been the presentation of the Frank H. Spedding Award for research on the rare earths. The previous awardees in the order of presentation have been: W.E. Wallace, Georg Busch, S. Legvold and W. Koehler, A. Mackintosh and H. Bjerrum Moeller, B.R. Judd, Karl Gschneidner, LeRoy Eyring, and Gregory R. Choppin. From the excellent group of nominees for the Ninth Frank H. Spedding Award the committee has selected Professor M. Brian Maple of the University of California, San Diego to join this distinguished group of scientists. The citation for the award to Professor Maple reads: 'For the discovery of novel materials and new phenomena that have advanced the understanding of superconductivity, magnetism, and their mutual interaction, as well as valence fluctuations, heavy fermion, and other strongly correlated electron phenomena in f-electron materials.'

M. Brian Maple was born on November 20, 1939 in Chula Vista, California. He received a B.S. degree in physics and an A.B. degree in mathematics, both with distinction, from San Diego State University in 1963. In 1965 he earned the M.S. degree in physics and in 1969 the Ph.D. degree in physics from the University of California, San Diego. After receiving his Ph.D. he served as a research physicist at the University of California, San Diego and as a visiting scientist at the university of Chile. He began an academic career in 1973 at UCSD rising to the rank of professor in 1981. In 1990 he assumed the Bernd T. Matthias Endowed Chair in Physics and in 1995 he became the Director, Institute for Pure and Applied Physical Sciences at UCSD.

He has received a number of awards and honors over his career. Among these have been an Excellence in Teaching Award, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, Distinguished Alumnus Award, Humboldt Research Award, an endowed professorship, and numerous presentations of invited lectures at meetings of various professional societies and organizations. Appropriately included among the latter was the Frank H. Spedding Lecture at Iowa State university in 1994. Moreover, he has served on review and advisory committees for several journals, the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories, as a member of several IUPAP committees, and as a member of the US delegation at a number of international conferences and workshops.

An essential element of his long and productive research career has been the development of novel materials containing the rare earth and actinide elements which serve as a vehicle for studying challenging problems at the forefront of condensed matter physics. This has allowed him to be able to modify the materials quickly in response to measurements so that the relevant parameters can be tuned to optimize the properties and to access regimes where new and interesting phenomena occur.

In his nearly 650 publications Professor Maple has studied an unusually broad range of subjects including superconductivity, magnetism, the physics of correlated electron systems, low temperature and high temperature physics, and more recently, surface science and catalysis. The committee is extremely pleased to present this award to such an outstanding scientist.

This award has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of Rhodia Rare Earths, LaRochelle, France, and was presented on their behalf by Patrick Maestro.

Larry C. Thompson



Professor M. Brian Maple