**Mentorship Medal**

**2011 Recipient: Professor Douw Steyn**

Douw Steyn received his undergraduate degree in Physics and Applied Mathematics, and MSc in Physics from the University of Cape Town. He subsequently spent 6 years working as a research scientist at the University of Cape Town including some time at the School of Environmental Studies. This latter work sparked what was to become a lifelong interest in atmospheric science. In pursuit of a PhD in 1976, he came to The University of British Columbia where, under the supervision of Tim Oke in the Geography Department, he studied atmospheric turbulence and diffusion over coastal cities. It was in this department that Douw began his professorial career, subsequently moving to the Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences where he joined a multidisciplinary group working across the entire spectrum of the Earth Sciences. Douw’s primary research interest has always been urban and regional air pollution, driven by a concern for the quality of the air citizens are breathing. Douw has always insisted on matching his passion for the environment with solid, research-based knowledge. His research trajectory has been an iterative process that combines meticulous observation with sophisticated mathematical modeling. He has long maintained a small level of activity in the consulting realm, and this has given him a keen feeling for practical application of knowledge gained in his research. His conclusions have not always been well received by governments but this simply gave Douw the opportunity to let his integrity and bravery shine, to the inspiration of colleagues and students alike. Those students now operate in all levels of Canadian government, thrive in consulting companies across the country, occupy faculty positions in many universities, and inhabit almost every continent on the globe. Douw has many connections and keeps fully aware of opportunities for his students across the spectrum of academia, government and industry. He understands the talents of each individual student and how they might best meet the requirements of these different sectors. Douw describes the mentoring process as engaging with students on as many levels and within as many spheres as they are prepared for. He not only helps them structure their research, but also shows how their work will contribute to the ‘big picture’. He motivates them to persevere through scientific and personal difficulties offering advice and support at every turn. Douw is a renowned scientist but also a man of great charm, perception and humanity. His students describe him as the model supervisor.