

The following acceptance speech was delivered by Huayong Chen:

Thanks to SGA, without SGA, no this award and I cannot stand here.

Thanks to Barrick, without you, no money, which is sad for a young economic geologist.

Thanks to my nominator: Dr. Dave Leach who gave me lots of courage and help during application. Also thanks to my three referees: Dr. Rich Goldfarb, Dr. Dave Cooke and Dr. Noel White. They have used their best words for me although I can only give back to them a big hug.

During my short academic life (not very short if count from my first year entering university), there are many people giving me abundant selfless help. Although I cannot mention all of them (which will take me hours to do this), I want to address four people here and show many thanks.

Professor Yanjing Chen, who was my supervisor for my bachelor and master thesis study in Peking University, is my first “talent scout”, without him, I don’t even know what’s economic geology and why we need to study ore deposits (now I often ask my students this question). After I finished my master thesis study, I went to Queen’s University in Canada for a further Ph.D. study and met my two supervisors, Prof. Alan Clark and Kurt Kyser. I have to say, they are two totally different person, the most distinguished difference between them is: Alan is English and Kurt is American. This is the first time I see how different between English and American, before this, I thought they should be the same language and both imperialist countries. Alan is very strict to his students, if you don’t believe, you can ask Dr. Dick Sillitoe, who was his first Ph.D. student. Anyway, I spent 6.5 years to get Ph.D. from Alan and our head of department told me: “Congratulations, you finally survived from Alan”. I still remember the last comments from Alan, to my acknowledgements in my Ph.D. thesis, in which I said “Alan used his sharp axe to open my granite brain in this 6.5 years”, Alan commenced: “it’s a little bloody, but I like it”. I have to say, this is the most “polite” comment I ever got from Alan. Kurt is different; he didn’t use sharp axe, but money and sweet hart. Especially during my last 3 years for Ph.D. without Kurt’s financial help, I may have to drop from university. Thanks to Prof. Alan Clark and Kurt Kyser, without you, nobody in economic geology field today will know my name. My Ph.D. study at Queen’s is my most important period in my life. The last but not the least, I want say great thanks to Prof. Dave Cooke, who is my big boss during my work as a postdoc at CODES, University of Tasmania. Dave is probably the most generous and considerate economic geology professor I have ever seen. Especially when I got the current professor position in China but the contract with UTAS not finished yet, he kindly helped me to get this job but not stop me or kill me (even he can easily do this). Honestly speaking, I don’t like my postdoc to do this to me because I am not Dave.

Thanks to all people who have given me help in my young academic life. This award is very important for me even I know I am not perfect. Chinese old saying said “no the best, only better”. I am probably not the best, but I promise I will do better in the future.

Thank you!