MOORE MEDAL
2011 CITATION

The International Marine Minerals Society (IMMS) would like to present Steven D. Scott, Ph.D., with The Moore Medal*, which is given in the name of Professor J. Robert (Robby) Moore for distinction in the development of marine minerals. Professor Moore conducted marine minerals research at Cardiff University in Wales, Great Britain and the Universities of Harvard, Wisconsin, Alaska, and Texas in the United States. He was committed to the intelligent integration of government, industry, and academia to address the development of marine minerals.

Robby founded the Underwater Mining Institute and IMMS, and he committed his research and many other considerable personal efforts to the multidisciplinary development of marine minerals. The Moore Medal is not awarded on any regular basis, but is reserved for those rare occasions when the career of an eminent figure in marine mining and minerals activities warrants such an honor.

*Robert W. Cooke earns a living designing and making monumental sculptures for many customers, mostly in the Northwest. Before becoming a full time artist, Bob was the Exploration Manager for the International Nickel deep seabed mining consortium. He attended many UMI’s and became a good friend of the Institute and many of its participants. He designed and made the Moore medal when IMMS decided to initiate the award.
Professor Scott completed his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Geology at the University of Western Ontario, which is nestled between the North American Great Lakes Huron and Erie at London, Canada. During these critical, formative years as a young scientist located in the middle of the North American Continent on the prosaic Saint Lawrence Platform and yet surrounded by these great water bodies, Steve must have been motivated to formulate his lifelong research passion, which is, quoting his own Curriculum Vitae, “Hydrothermal systems, massive sulfide deposits and tectonics of the modern seafloor and their relation to ancient ores on land.” Steve went on to earn a PhD in Geochemistry and Mineralogy at Pennsylvania State University in 1968 and has ever since been a major contributor to our understanding of seabed sulfide deposits.

Steve has received numerous honors. He has won the Haddon Forrester King Medal from the Australian Academy of Science. He has been a Distinguished Lecturer for the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum. He was awarded the inaugural title of Excellence Professor from the Dr. Werner Petersen Foundation in Germany. He has an Honorary Degree of Doctor from the Université de Bretagne Occidentale in Brest, France, and an Honorary title of Professor from the University of Geosciences in Beijing, China, to name but a few of the awards he has won. Perhaps most important, ranking next to his acknowledgement here as the 2011 Moore Award winner, in 1977 he had dinner with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of "A tribute to young Canadians who have achieved excellence in the Arts and Sciences."

Steve is the first ore deposits geologist and first Canadian to witness the formation of metal sulfide deposits by hot spring activity on the modern seafloor. He is one of the first to conduct research on these as analogues for ancient ore deposits on land. Steve was the first to recognize that seafloor deposits could be an economic resource. He has also conducted seminal research with biogeochemists to examine the process of bacterial biomineralization. Of great importance to us marine mining folks, Steve is the co-discoverer, with Ray Binns of CSIRO, of several deep seafloor metal-precipitating hydrothermal sites that are currently the primary target for commercial mining by Nautilus Minerals, offshore Papua New Guinea.

Steve has been a highly productive research scientist throughout his entire career, with more than 170 publications to his name and a more than $83 million dollars won in research grants used with his colleagues around the world to study seafloor hydrothermal deposits. These are impressive numbers, but probably more impressive are the students that Steve has supervised, including 26 Bachelors, 21 Masters, and 24 PhD degrees. Many of these students, including Mark Hannington, Jan Peter and Tim McConachy, and post-doctoral fellows such as Peter Herzig, and others are currently active in the study and
development of marine minerals. Forget the honors, publications and research money, though they are related. Steve’s students stand out as professional leaders in the development of marine minerals, and, though Steve is famous for many things, the training of these exceptional contributors is likely to be his most important and enduring mark in his qualifications for the Moore award.

Steve was a Charter Member of the International Marine Minerals Society. He served as President and Executive Board Member of the Society. He has been a strong and very popular contributor to the UMI and IMMS for more than twenty years. He is a wonderful example of the talent and character that epitomize the winners of the Moore Award.

Charles L. Morgan

A Friend and Colleague
IMMS Board Member
September 2011

Georgy Cherkashov, President

Charles L. Morgan, UMI Chair