



The National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping
University of Houston • University of California, Berkeley

NCALM Announcement

February 3, 2014

Taylor Perron Receives 2013 Kenneth Clinton “Clint” Slatton Award

On December 11, 2013, Taylor Perron was presented with the University of Houston/Optech Incorporated Kenneth Clinton “Clint” Slatton Award. The award was presented to Taylor by Angie Swarski, representing Optech, and Ramesh Shrestha, representing the University of Houston, at the annual meeting of the NCALM steering committee, held each year in conjunction with the AGU Fall meeting. The inscription on the plaque presented to Taylor reads: *In recognition of creative and innovative research applying airborne LiDAR and multi-scale estimation, data fusion, and statistical signal processing for scientific, engineering, military and management applications.*



Taylor Perron (center) receiving plaque from Angie Swarski, Optech Incorporated (right). Bill Dietrich (left) gave a brief overview of Taylor's work that led to his selection for the Slatton award.

Taylor Perron is the Cecil and Ida Green Assistant Professor of Geology, in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He holds an A.B. in Earth and Planetary Sciences and Archaeology from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in Earth and Planetary Science from the University of California, Berkeley (UCB). After graduating from UCB, Taylor spent two years as a Daly Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard, before becoming a member of the faculty at MIT.

Taylor's research seeks a quantitative understanding of the processes that create landscapes. His approach combines theory and numerical modeling, field and remote sensing observations, and laboratory experiments. A central theme in his research is to learn and understand why landscapes develop uniform patterns, such as evenly spaced valleys and branching river networks, and how to interpret these patterns as records of the geological past. Taylor's contributions to science have been recognized previously by: the Luna B. Leopold Young Scientist Award of the Earth and Planetary Surface Processes focus group of the American Geophysical Union, selection as the Robert P. Sharp lecturer at the AGU fall meeting, membership in the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), and selection as a Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow by the National Academy of Sciences.

The results of Taylor's research have been reported in several refereed papers, including: Perron, J.T., P.W. Richardson, K.L. Ferrier, and M. Lapôtre (2012), "The root of branching river networks," *Nature*, 492, 100-130., and Perron, J.T., J.W. Kirchner, and W.E. Dietrich (2009), "Formation of evenly spaced ridges and valleys," *Nature*, 460, 502-505.