



Awards

Best Student Paper in Planetary Sciences Award for 2001: Björn J. R. Davidsson

We are proud to announce that the winner of the Best Student Paper in Planetary Sciences Award for the year 2001 is Björn J. R. Davidsson of Uppsala University, Sweden, for his paper “Tidal splitting and rotational breakup of solid biaxial ellipsoids” (*Icarus* 149:375–383). He has recently received his Ph.D. in theoretical astrophysics from the Department of Astronomy and Space Physics and was nominated for this award by Anja C. Andersen of Copenhagen University, Hans Rickman of Uppsala University, and Horst Uwe Keller of Max-Planck-Institut für Aeronomie.

Björn was born in Åseda, Sweden and grew up in the small village of Vida. By age 10, he was interested in astronomy, but it was reading about the fly-by of Comet 1P/Halley in 1986 that cemented his interest in planetary science in general and comets in particular. He studied mathematics, physics, and astronomy as an undergraduate at Uppsala University. The research that formed the basis of his award winning paper was done during his undergraduate studies. He went on to do graduate work in theoretical astrophysics at the Department of Astronomy and Space Physics at Uppsala studying the thermophysics of cometary nuclei. Other projects included observations of Trojan asteroids, participation in the Uppsala-DLR Asteroid Survey program, and writing a monthly astronomy news bulletin for newspapers and amateur astronomical societies. He has been honored by the naming of asteroid 11798 Davidsson.

I wish to join with the officers and members of the Meteoritical Society and Planetary Division of the Geological Society of America, as well as the competition judges in

congratulating Björn J. R. Davidsson. His work stood out in a field of extremely strong papers and shows the high standards attained by students in planetary science.



Dan Britt
University of Central Florida
Department of Physics
Orlando, Florida 32816–2385