2020 MONTGOMERY PRIZE

Administered by Community Foundation for Southern Arizona

A former NAU professor, Dr. Errol “Monte” Montgomery, is the founder of Montgomery and Associates, a water resources firm based in Tucson, Arizona, and has generously supported NAU-Geology over the years. In 2009, he established the Montgomery Prize for the best graduate student poster on her/his MS research. Evaluation criteria include the communication skills demonstrated by the presenter as well as the quality of the research.

Here are the details of the poster competition this year.

1. The amount of the prize this year will be $2000.

2. We will have a judging for this prize on April 25.

3. MS graduate students whose research is at an advanced stage are eligible – it is intended for 2nd and 3rd year graduates who will graduate in calendar year 2020.

4. **Apply by emailing Nancy Riggs by Friday, March 29 that you intend to join** the competition for the Montgomery Prize. Then produce and present a first-rate poster at the designated event.

5. The event will be a 3MP (three-minute presentation) and poster session. You must send a PDF or Powerpoint file of your poster no later than 5 pm April 17 to Nancy Riggs, so that the judges will have a week to review the posters before the main event. Applicants will hang their posters in room 103 on Saturday, April 25. Before the event, each applicant present a 3-minute summary with no more than three slides. Rebecca Best will send out an email with details about the 3MP – it comes with its own prize, and you can participate in that without doing the poster for the Monte prize. Then the judges will spend 1 – 1½ hours looking at the posters and discussing the projects with the applicants.

6. A committee of three (typically two NAU Geology professors who do not have participating students and a representative from Montgomery and Associates or the AZ Hydrological Society) will judge the posters and decide on the award recipient. The winner will be announced at the close of the poster session.

Poster guidelines:

1. Posters are to be no larger than 3 feet high and 4 feet long. Use AGU or GSA poster guidelines (e.g., see next page) for help with planning your layout.

2. Tony Wolkowinsky will send instructions on when he needs posters for printing.
**AGU poster guidelines**

- Highlight the authors’ names and contact information in case the viewer is interested in more information.
- Prepare diagrams or charts legibly in a size sufficient to be read at a distance of 2 meters.
- Paragraph and figure captions should be at least in a 24-point font (0.9 cm height) and headers at least in a 36-point font (1.2 cm height). Be creative by using different font sizes and styles, perhaps even color.
- When working with graphs or charts, use different colors and textures/symbols for each line or bar. A serif font (e.g., Times) is often easier for reading main text, and a non-serif font (e.g., Arial or Helvetica) is legible for headers and figure labels.
- Organize the presentation so it is clear, orderly, and self-explanatory.
- Use squares, rectangles, circles, etc., to group similar ideas. Avoid cluttering your poster with too much text. Label different elements as I, II, III; or 1, 2, 3; or A, B, C, making it easier for a viewer to follow your display.
- Include the background of your research followed by results and conclusions. A successful poster presentation depends on how well you convey information to an interested audience.