



Examining Mountains with Microscopes

August 2023 | Barry Friedman, Explorer Correspondent

“Oh, gosh! Surprise. Happiness.”

In case you were wondering how a Sidney Powers Memorial Award winner reacts when told she's won.

The pronoun here is important.

Since Wallace Pratt, who was its first recipient in 1945, Powers Memorial Award winners have all been men.

All 75 of them.

Until now.

Kitty Milliken, senior research scientist at the Bureau of Economic Geology at the Jackson School of

Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin, is the first not to be.

She wants to put this moment in perspective.

“I’m obviously not the first woman who might have qualified for the Powers Medal,” she said.

Even though she’s been a distinguished lecturer, a Pratt Memorial and Berg Outstanding Research Award winner, the Powers’ is different, both for her and for AAPG.

“The community of AAPG has been an important presence in my career and all of these awards represent wonderful acknowledgements of work that I’ve enjoyed so much. In a way, it’s my field of study that is being acknowledged here and I love that. It means a lot, not just to me, but to my mentors and fellow petrographers who’ve always kept faith with the notion that it’s important to look, closely, at the rocks,” she said.

An Affinity for the Small

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

A D V E R T I S E M E N T