



International Association of GeoChemistry

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HAIL AND FAREWELL TO TOM BULLEN AS IAGC SECRETARY

In the spring of this year, Tom Bullen retired from the U.S. Geological Survey after an illustrious career spanning a few decades and many topics, but focused on applications of metal and metalloid isotopes to address geologic, geochemical, and environmental problems. At the same time, Tom stepped down after serving as IAGC secretary for almost 6 years. Tom served admirably as secretary; perhaps the biggest job he had was keeping me organized—no small feat! Fortunately for all of us, Tom is not going away entirely: he will continue to serve as IAGC's liaison to *Elements* magazine and he will still be on the Executive Committee of *Elements*. When he isn't sailing around the waters of California, Tom also plans to stay active in science with visits to universities and other institutions around the world, so I hope you will be lucky enough to see him!

In addition to serving as IAGC secretary, Tom has been very active in our working groups, especially Applied Isotope Geochemistry and Water-Rock Interaction. Tom was the chief editor of the Proceedings volume for WRI-12, which took place in Kunming, China, in 2007. I can tell you from personal experience that editing the WRI volume is a lot of work. For all his service to IAGC over the years, I offer my heartfelt thanks to Tom and ask you to join me in wishing him a long, healthy, happy retirement!

Rich Wanty, IAGC President

INTRODUCING THE NEW IAGC SECRETARY – ORFAN SHOUAKAR-STASH



Orfan Shouakar-Stash is a research assistant professor of isotope hydrogeochemistry at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Canada. He completed his PhD in 2008 at the University of Waterloo, where he started his career in academia shortly thereafter. His research focuses mainly on the development and application of isotopic tools in

different settings, especially where organic contaminants are concerned. Orfan continues to have a strong interest in investigating the emerging organic contaminants. He is heavily involved in many national and international collaboration projects with universities, government agencies, and industry. Orfan has published over 40 peer-reviewed papers and over 120 abstracts, and he is regularly invited as a speaker at conferences. His publications, which appear in a wide range of journals, are a reflection of his interest in both the development and the application of environmental isotopes in different areas of the Earth and environmental sciences.

URBAN GEOCHEMISTRY WORKING GROUP MEETING

A meeting of the IAGC Urban Geochemistry Working Group was held at Ohio State University on August 5 and 6, 2014. The meeting was facilitated by W. Berry Lyons and David Long, co-chairs of the working group, and Chris Gardner from the IAGC business office. Day one consisted of introductions by the participants using one to two slides each summarizing their interests; excellent plenary presentations by Joel Moore (Towson University), Yu-Ping Chin (Ohio State University), and Gabe Filippelli (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis);



Participants in the Urban Geochemistry Working Group meeting

and a poster session. Prior to the meeting, participants were asked to submit questions related to current and future issues confronting urban geochemistry. On day two, the resulting 106 questions were reduced to eight key questions through a set of breakout sessions. Teams of participants are now researching these questions, and the results will be combined into a joint paper and submitted to *Applied Geochemistry* this fall. A joint research project was proposed and is being led by Shawn McElmurry (Wayne State University) and Gabe Filippelli. The project will examine the hypothesis that residential coal burning has left a mercury legacy in urban environments. Soils samples will be collected by participants this fall from various urban centers in historical coal-burning and non-coal-burning areas. The results will be submitted as a joint paper to *Applied Geochemistry*. It was agreed upon that the next meeting should be next year, and the dates and location are currently under discussion within the group. Look for more information about next year's meeting in *Elements* and on the IAGC website.

ELSEVIER PHD STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Generously supported by Elsevier, the PhD Student Research Grants help support the analytical costs of geochemistry PhD students. PhD Student Research Grants of up to US\$3000 may be awarded annually, based upon receipt of deserving proposals, as determined by committee.

Applications for Student Research Grants for 2015 will be accepted through 1 December 2014. Funds will be dispersed to winning applicants before 1 May 2015. The recipients of each Student Research Grant will be profiled in *Elements*, on the IAGC website, and in the spring edition of the IAGC Newsletter. Recipients will also receive a one-year complimentary IAGC membership. For application instructions and to download the necessary forms, please visit www.iagc-society.org/phd_grants.html.

CALL FOR 2015 AWARD NOMINATIONS

Now is the time for 2015 IAGC award nominations! The window of opportunity for nomination submission will extend through **1 December**. Awards available for nomination in 2015 are the Distinguished Service Award, IAGC Fellow, Certificate of Recognition, and, for the first time, the Kharaka award, which will be given to two deserving scientists (which may include senior graduate students) from developing countries. The award consists of a framed certificate plus an IAGC membership and *Applied Geochemistry* subscription for a period of three years. For a summary of the awards and instructions on how to submit your nomination, visit www.iagc-society.org/awards.html.