



European Association of Geochemistry



www.eag.eu.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Liane G. Benning

Recent events show that we have before us rocky times of uncertain worldwide leadership, which will change the world in directions that are not healthy for our planet. As geochemists, we have the skills to address major human impact issues like pollution, ocean acidification or climate change and we need to stand together doing so.

My two years as EAG President have passed quickly with a mixture of very stimulating and, at times, highly time-consuming challenges, as well as rewards. This would not have been possible without

the steadfast help of Marie-Aude Hulshoff, our business manager; she is the perfect glue that holds us together at the EAG. Thanks, Marie-Aude.

Over the last two years, I am proud to say that we strengthened our already good collaboration with the Geochemical Society (GS). We also expanded our bilateral agreements (MOUs) – that my predecessor Chris Ballentine started – to now include several European and international societies (most recently including the International Association for Geochemistry and the Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits). These agreements provide our members and our MOU societies members with more benefits and advantages. We also strive to reach geochemists in under-represented regions of the world through our Distinguished Lecture Program in Eastern Europe and EAG-GS Outreach Series in Africa. We support early career geochemists through our Student and Ambassador Programs, and we built a database of PhD/MSc/BSc programs and courses in geochemistry as well as links to available bursaries. We need your help to make this resource even better so please become active and send us your input.



Finally, the initiative and new member benefit that I am particularly proud of is the launch of Geochemical Perspectives Letters (GPL), a new short-length style geochemical journal written, edited and published by, and for, the geochemical community. We launched it in 2015. Together with the continually successful Geochemical Perspectives, the EAG has created a new home for excellent geochemical science publishing.

For me the highlight each year is the Goldschmidt Conference. In 2015, I helped Eric Oelkers and the Cambridge Publications team organize and run the Prague meeting. Seeing its success was a happy moment of achievement. On the other hand, in 2016, I was terrified as I had to give a President's plenary lecture in front of a highly diverse geochemical audience. Thankfully, the pre-talk stress was rewarded with joy and happiness through positive reactions received after the talk (those who thought otherwise would be wise to not say so and let me continue to dream).

My EAG President's tenure also coincided with my gradual move from the University of Leeds (UK) to the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ, Potsdam, Germany). This transition is a long endeavor that is testing my patience and increasing my airmiles.

As you are reading this, I have passed EAG's rudder to Bernard Marty (Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Géologie, Université de Lorraine, France). I am sure he will, considering the challenges that face geochemists in the near and far future, lead the EAG in new fruitful directions that I am excited to see happen.

Liane G. Benning, EAG President

WORKSHOP REPORT: ORAL PRESENTATION SKILLS FOR NON-ANGLOPHONE STUDENTS (GOLDSCHMIDT 2016 – YOKOHAMA, JAPAN)



The Early Career Events program at the 2016 Goldschmidt conference in Japan included a new workshop aimed at helping non-Anglophone students to improve their oral presentation skills. Co-organised by Shuhei Ono of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) and Alice Williams, an English language instructor from Nancy in France, the workshop brought together PhD students and post-docs from all over the world for a day of informal group sessions led by early-career scientists from the UK, Canada, and the USA. Working in small groups, the participants used tips and advice from the workshop manual to discuss ways to plan and prepare an effective presentation, and then had the opportunity to rehearse their Goldschmidt talks in a relaxed atmosphere at the JAMSTEC Yokohama Institute for Earth Sciences.

The students received feedback on diverse aspects including pronunciation, speed of delivery, improving slide content and design, emphasizing key points, and creating effective openings, closings and transitions. The presenters appreciated the input from the other students and group leaders, and received a real confidence boost going into their talks later in the week. Those participants not presenting at Goldschmidt 2016 came away with a lot of advice and ideas for planning and practicing talks and felt better prepared to give an oral presentation at their next international conference.

Although already being experienced presenters in their fields, the group leaders themselves got new ideas about how they might improve their own presentations and gained an awareness of some of the difficulties that mixed-language audiences might have in understanding native English speakers, who can sometimes be prone to speaking fast or using unfamiliar, non-technical language.

The workshop is sure to become a regular fixture at future Goldschmidt conferences and it is hoped that it can be expanded to provide specific help for designing posters and opportunities for native English-speaking students who are presenting at an international conference for the first time.

The organizers would like to thank the Local Organizing Committee in Japan, Elsevier for sponsoring the event, the staff and volunteers at JAMSTEC for their help on the day, and the six group leaders, who contributed their time and energy to the workshop's success. Anybody interested in attending the workshop at Goldschmidt 2017 in Paris should keep an eye out for news and registration details on the conference website: www.goldschmidt.info/2017/

Presentation Tips

STRUCTURE

- Identify your key messages (for example, a new method or approach, some surprising results, or questions for future research) and plan your presentation around these. Try giving a very quick presentation to a non-geochemist to help you identify the three or four main points.
- Create an effective opening to capture your audience's attention, for example tell an anecdote, ask a rhetorical question, give an interesting fact, or include a thought-provoking image. End your talk in an interesting way and don't forget to remind the audience of your key messages.

SPEAKING

- Give the audience time to get used to your accent. Speak clearly and slowly, especially at the start.
- Give synonyms for any unfamiliar or non-technical words that the audience may not understand.
- Try to use every-day English to make your talk more personal. Use active rather than passive forms.
- Avoid saying long numbers in full and approximate them when possible (e.g., “about five million years ago”, instead of “four million, eight hundred and ninety-six thousand years ago”).
- Practice any difficult pronunciation with a native English speaker or listen to examples at www.forvo.com.

SLIDES

- Aim for one clear message per slide and a maximum of 12 to 15 words of text.
- Limit the use of bullet-pointed lists—these can become very boring for the audience after a week of presentations!
- Avoid large blocks of text. The audience will attempt to read the text rather than listen to what you have to say.
- Plan to spend about 1-2 minutes on each slide. If you change slides too quickly, the audience won't have time to digest the information; if you spend too long on a slide, the audience may lose concentration.
- Adapt and simplify graphs, maps and diagrams. Use thick lines and bold text to highlight key information; remove any unnecessary text or detail.
- Make sure your data can be distinguished by people who are colour-blind. Use symbols for data points.

AND OF COURSE...

- Practice, practice, practice! On your own, in front of friends, with colleagues, with your supervisor, in front of the dog, in a lecture hall, in your office, in the shower, on the bus...



It seems that the geochemists are lobbying for the creation of a patron saint of Mineralogy.

EAG MEMBERSHIP: JOIN OR RENEW

Professionals €25/year or €100/5 years
Students €15/year or €35/3 years

EAG endeavours to offer a comprehensive set of membership benefits, including:

- Reduced rates at Goldschmidt conferences
- Print and online issues of *Elements*, *Geochemical Perspectives*, *Geochemical Perspectives Letters*
- Reduced subscription rates to *Chemical Geology* and *Geofluids*
- Student sponsorship
- Ambassador Program supporting Early Career Scientists
- Sponsorship of member led workshops and conferences in Europe
- Member rates for print publications of the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland (MinSoc), Società Geologica Italiana (SGI), Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia (SIMP) and Association Française pour l'Etude du Quaternaire (AFEQ), as well as member rates for events organised by the International Society for Environmental Biogeochemistry (ISEB), the International Association for GeoChemistry (IAGC), and the Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA).

Join/Renew before 1 January to make sure you receive all publications for 2017. **Find testimonies from EAG members on the EAG Blog (blog.eag.eu.com) about why they joined our society.**



GOLDSCHMIDT®
PARIS | 2017

Abstract deadline : 1 April

GOLDSCHMIDT® 2017
13–18 August
Paris, France

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