



The Geochemical Society



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The launch of *Elements* is an exciting event for the Geochemical Society. We see it as an opportunity to spread the word on what we're doing to a wider community and also as an opportunity for us to learn more of what is going on in the mineralogical community. The boundaries between geochemistry, mineralogy, and petrology have always been indistinct—most of us have interests that overlap at least two of the three fields. We thus welcome a magazine that presents the fields in a unified way, a way that stresses the unity of our common interests rather than focusing on just one part of the scientific continuum. The magazine also promises to be a good read—something that will entertain us as well as keep us informed about important scientific topics. We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Rod Ewing, whose enthusiasm and persistence brought this magazine into existence.

I would also like to say a few words about *The Geochemical News*. Over the last few years, the GN has evolved into a first-rate news magazine with a range of features of interest to the geochemical community. I would like to recognize Carla Koretsky and Johnson Haas for the excellent job they have done. We are not terminating *The Geochemical News*. In future years it will continue as an online magazine with one hard copy issue each year to coincide with the Goldschmidt conference.

Enjoy the new magazine!

James I. Drever
Geochemical Society President



NOTES FROM THE GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY

The Geochemical Society was formally organized on November 7, 1955, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America at New Orleans, USA. The Society was founded to encourage the application of chemistry to the solution of geological and cosmological problems. Membership is international and diverse in background, encompassing such fields as organic geochemistry, high- and low-temperature geochemistry, petrology, meteoritics, fluid-rock interaction, and isotope geochemistry. Each year, the Geochemical Society sponsors (jointly with the European Association of Geochemistry) the V. M. Goldschmidt Conference, a broad-scope conference covering all aspects of geochemistry and cosmochemistry. The Geochemical Society also sponsors (jointly with the Meteoritical Society) the professional research journal *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, which is the Society's official journal.

15th V.M. GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE: A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY, MOSCOW, IDAHO USA, MAY 20–25, 2005

Two hundred years ago, in August 1805, the Lewis and Clark expedition reached what is now the state of Idaho, after nearly two years of travel through the then wild country of western North America on their way to the Pacific ocean. On May 20–25, 2005, geochemists, mineralogists, and petrologists will have the opportunity to come to Idaho for the 15th V.M. Goldschmidt Conference on their own voyage of discovery to learn about the latest developments in their fields, see spectacular geology, and take part in world-class outdoor recreation. Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Geochemical Society is an additional reason to come to “the meeting in Idaho.” Low registration fees (with most lunches and dinners included) and the availability of very economical on-campus housing should permit record numbers of students to attend the conference.

The International Program Committee (IPC) and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) are working hard to provide an interesting and broad scientific program. A full list of special sessions/symposia and general sessions is available on the conference website and includes the names of organizers and descriptions of the sessions. The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 15, 2005.



FIGURE 1: Photograph of the main mall on the campus of the University of Idaho. The second building on the left just past the library houses five of the lecture halls to be used for the conference, and the building just behind that (not visible) has two lecture halls. The tower is one of the options for on-campus housing and the buildings on the right-hand side are part of the Living Learning Center, where many participants will be housed. The newly constructed student recreation center is at the mall's end and will be a good place for those who want a physical workout after the mental workouts of the meeting.

FIGURE 2: The Kibbie Dome will house poster sessions, exhibits, conference meals and the plenary session.

All presentations will take place on the campus of the University of Idaho in a small group of buildings that are within a ten-minute walk from one another and from campus housing (**FIGS. 1 AND 2**). Posters and exhibits will be emphasized during dedicated 2- to 3-hour sessions in the late

afternoon prior to dinner. Social events will include an ice-breaker party, a barbecue at Hells Gate State Park (including jet boat rides into Hells Canyon, the deepest canyon in North America), a sidewalk fair in downtown Moscow, a conference dinner-dance, and an array of day trips to local points of interest.

Moscow is located on the Palouse, an area spanning parts of northern Idaho and eastern Washington that comprises gentle rolling hills of loess. Moscow Mountain, an intrusion of granite, rises approximately 2500 feet above the town, itself at an

elevation of 2500 feet. The main industry on the Palouse is agriculture: wheat, lentils, and dry peas, but alas no potatoes! On the Palouse, one can partake of gourmet coffee, excellent regional beers, and fine dining on fresh seafood and wild game. Moreover, participants will be able to taste wines produced nearby in central Washington; these wines compete favorably with those from California and other more well-known wine-producing regions of the world.

The opportunities in outdoor recreation in Idaho, and neighboring states and provinces, are legendary and range from hiking and rafting to rock climbing and mountain biking. More than 15 National Parks and Monuments are within a day's drive of Moscow, including Yellowstone and Mount Rainier. Cities in the Pacific Northwest (Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Boise) are among the most scenic in the world.

Most participants in Goldschmidt 2005 will stay on campus. The advantages of on-campus housing are the very reasonable cost (less than \$50/person/night), proximity to conference events, and convenience. The new Living Learning Center offers suite-style accommodations, each suite comprising a number of private (mostly single) bedrooms, and shared bathroom, living area, and kitchen, and are particularly ideal for groups (Fig. 3). Space in hotels/motels in the Moscow-Pullman area is limited, so participants preferring hotel accommodation should book early.

Nowadays it is considerably easier to get to Idaho than it was for Lewis and Clark. There are several daily commuter flights from Seattle (SEA) to the Moscow/Pullman airport (PUW). The one-hour flight from Seattle to Moscow is one of the most scenic in the world, passing within view of such spectacular geological features as the Cascades volcanoes (Fig. 4), the northern Cascades, the Channeled Scablands of the Columbia basin, the Columbia River, the Columbia River basalts, and the Snake River exiting Hells Canyon. There are direct, non-stop flights to Seattle from several major world cities. Goldschmidt participants can also fly into the Spokane International Airport (GEG) which has daily, non-stop jet service to and from several

major US airports. Commercial shuttle service and car rental are available for the 90-mile ride from Spokane to Moscow. If you have time, one of the best ways to see the Pacific Northwest/Rocky Mountain region is to rent a car and drive from the following major cities: Seattle (6 hours), Boise (6 hours), Portland (7 hours), Vancouver (8 hours), Salt Lake City (12 hours), and San Francisco (14 hours).

Several field trips will take advantage of the fantastic geology and superb scenery in and around Idaho. These include trips to



FIGURE 3: Shared living and kitchen area in a suite in the Living Learning Center.



FIGURE 4: Photograph taken during the Seattle-Moscow flight. Mount Rainier is in the foreground and Mount Adams is in the distance to the left.

1) Yucca Mountain, the proposed nuclear waste site in Nevada; 2) The northwest border zone and main Bitterroot lobe of the Idaho Batholith; 3) EPA SUPERFUND sites in the classic ore districts of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and Butte, Montana; 4) the Columbia River basalts; and 5) Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and Craters of the Moon National Monument.

More detailed information on travel, accommodations, field trips, social events, and the scientific program are available on the conference website (www.uidaho.edu/gold2005). Follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and make your own expedition to Idaho and the Pacific Northwest!

**Scott A. Wood and
Mickey E. Gunter**



Poster sessions and exhibitions with beer and discussion in the Geocenter Rotunda.

GOLDSCHMIDT 2004 IN COPENHAGEN, 5 – 11 JUNE, 2004

Joint EAG–GS Meeting

The rotunda of the Geocenter buzzed every afternoon, when most of the 1500 conference participants assembled for posters and discussion. After a full day of deciding from among ten parallel sessions, one could choose from five floors of posters, with a beer in hand, or wander in the exhibition hall. The largest sessions presented the latest results on weathering and on the geochemistry of oceans. The most recent Mars data caused quite a stir, and there was lively interest in the sessions on biogeochemistry, environments for early life, mineral surface reactivity, and metals in the environment. Organizers used an optimisation, based on a list that each participant submitted beforehand, to minimise session overlap, but it was still impossible to select from among the 53 symposia and not miss something interesting. The program included presentations on processes ranging from the atomic to the cosmic scale and aimed to explain events from the dawn of time, through the development of the Earth to the present, along with discussions on changing climate and the environment.

The long nordic days showed themselves at their finest. In the light evenings, many Goldschmidt backpacks could be seen wandering the streets of Copenhagen or at one of the many social events. These included visits to the mineral collections from Greenland, a folk music concert in a historic church, and the conference dinner, which was preceded by a boat tour of the canals and was followed by dancing in the renovated cannon repair hall, and for some of us,



Plenary Day featured the awards ceremony and talks on hot topics. Here, Rod Ewing speaks about problems related to plutonium created by nuclear power plants.

ended with a walk back downtown as the sun rose again.

Plenary Day was a festive occasion that celebrated our science and our award winners. Five invited speakers gave exciting talks on topics of general interest. Rod Ewing put the problems of nuclear power into perspective and Dorthe Dahl-Jensen presented climate history as revealed by the Greenland ice-core drilling in relation to the current focus on global warming. Later in the afternoon, the awards of the sponsoring societies were presented against a background slide show highlighting the recipients and their research topics. The celebration ended with an evening in the famous Tivoli Gardens.

Theme plenary sessions were held each morning in the large auditorium of the Geocenter. In these well-attended events, this year's award winners presented longer, more general talks that put their research into a broader perspective.

Forty volunteer young researchers worked from early morning to midnight, loading talks into the central computer, keeping the projectors running, answering questions at the help desk, and completing the hundreds of other tasks that kept the conference going smoothly.

From the feedback we have received, both during the conference and afterwards, the people who came to Copenhagen enjoyed themselves – perhaps almost as much as we did.

**Susan Stipp, Convenor
and Børge Svane Nielsen,
Technical Coordinator**