

INTRODUCING SUSAN STIPP

It is with great pleasure that the *Elements* editorial staff welcomes Professor Susan Stipp, Geological Institute, Copenhagen University, Denmark, as our next principal editor. Her term began officially on January 1, 2007. She replaces outgoing editor Michael Hochella. Susan brings a wealth of scientific and international experience to her new role. A Canadian by birth, she obtained her BS and MS degrees from the University of Waterloo, where she did graduate work in hydrogeology in one of the most famous natural water science groups in the world. Her PhD, which focused on mineral surface processes relevant to groundwater remediation, was obtained from Stanford University in 1989. Since that time, she has carried out research and taught at the University of Geneva and ETH of Lausanne, Switzerland. Since 1995, she has been on the faculty of Copenhagen University, where she founded and leads the NanoGeoScience Laboratory. She is currently director of the Nano-Chalk High Tech Fund, a new and very large research effort funded by the Mærsk Oil and Gas Venture. She is a member of the Danish Parliament Technology Advisory Panel. In 2004, she organized and ran the international Goldschmidt Conference at her university. Professor Stipp's vast

research, publishing, and editorial experience in low-temperature water-rock interaction, biogeochemistry, and hydrogeology will complement the editorial team nicely. We welcome her to the *Elements* editorial team!

A WORD FROM SUSAN



I am honored to be joining the *Elements* team. When Rod Ewing described the goals of a new publication to the board members of the European Association for Geochemistry and the Geochemical Society at Goldschmidt 2002 in Davos, he dreamed of creating a colourful periodical that would unite mineralogists, petrologists and geochemists and put attractive and understandable information about our work into the hands of people in industry and government. The aim was to show the size and breadth of our community and the power of the research we do. This would strengthen our profile and would provide information for industrial applications, policy making and decisions about research funding.

In its two years of publication, *Elements* has come a long way. It is already uniting our community. Its scientific quality is high. It is now included in the citation index and is doing very well. People outside our field are beginning to know of its existence and ask for it, and it has already become a teaching tool in upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses. During my term on the team of principal editors, I hope to help *Elements* become a means for encouraging links between academics and industry through *applied research*. I hope to help create thematic issues that will allow government officials to understand some of today's

important scientific topics and to see that funding *basic research* is fundamental to national economic well-being. These goals are not contradictory. Through better communication, academics, industry and government will have a better understanding of geoscience topics and will be able to see the benefits for society of *both types of research*. *Elements* can be a key player in this communication.

Susan L.S. Stipp

WELCOMING FIVE NEW SOCIETIES

We are thrilled to welcome five new societies to the *Elements* family as of January 2007: the Association of Applied Geochemists, the Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft, the Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia, the International Association of Geoanalysts, and the Polskie Towarzystwo Mineralogiczne (Mineralogical Society of Poland). This translates into about 2000 new readers. We look forward to their contribution.

ADVERTISERS IN 2007

Our 2006 regular advertisers—RockWare, Rigaku, PANalytical, Meiji, Excalibur, Materials Data, Actlabs, CrystalMaker—all booked advertising again in 2007. We are thankful for their continued business. We also welcome new advertisers in this issue: among others, Thermo Scientific, Australian Scientific Instruments, and Bayerisches Geoinstitut. *Elements* puts our advertisers' messages in the hands of more than 9,000 mineral scientists, and the income generated from advertising goes a long way towards printing the magazine. This is a mutually beneficial partnership. Currently, advertising content is about 10% of the magazine. One way you, our readers, can help us with advertising is by telling our advertisers you have noticed their ads in *Elements*.

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Now you see it, now you don't

A cubic micron of a typical silicate contains around a billion unit cells, each composed of several tens of atoms – plenty of space for all manner of defects, dislocations, twins, exsolution textures, zoning, subgrains, solid inclusions, fluid inclusions... For routine petrography these sub-optical features may not matter at all, but if we determine properties like diffusion coefficients using supposedly 'perfect' gem-quality crystals, whose perfection has often been judged only by optical microscopy, we may be on very shaky ground indeed. And the 'ordinary' crystals to which we later apply these coefficients are each likely to be replete with an inventory of sub-optical features which may or may not be relevant. New devices are on the horizon, such as cheap, miniaturized Raman spectrometers, that will make the identification of many minerals semi-automatic. Optical microscopy will remain the method of choice for petrography, but we should trade the time that students often now spend on optical theory for at least a superficial introduction to the whole wonderful world of imaging techniques that the 21st century provides.

Ian Parsons
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WELCOMING 2000 NEW READERS

If you receive an issue of *Elements* for the first time, you have either just joined one of *Elements* founding Societies or you belong to one of the five societies that joined as of January 2007.

MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING SOCIETIES RECEIVE *ELEMENTS* AS A MEMBER BENEFIT.

European Association for Geochemistry • Geochemical Society • International Association of Geochemistry • Mineralogical Association of Canada • Mineralogical Society of America • Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland • Société Française de Minéralogie et Cristallographie • The Clay Minerals Society

NEW SOCIETIES AS OF JANUARY 2007

Association of Applied Geochemists • Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft • Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia • International Association of Geoanalysts • Polskie Towarzystwo Mineralogiczne (Mineralogical Society of Poland)

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE FOLLOWING JOURNALS ALSO RECEIVE ONE COPY OF *ELEMENTS*

American Mineralogist • Clay Minerals • Clays and Clay Minerals • MINABS Online • Mineralogical Magazine • The Canadian Mineralogist