

COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY PRESIDENTS

Recently the Geochemical Society (GS) began to participate in the Council for Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP, Executive Director Marty Apple, Washington DC) on a trial basis. The CSSP (www.cssp.us) is an organization of presidents, presidents-elect, and recent past presidents of about sixty scientific federations and societies whose combined membership numbers well over 1.4 million scientists and educators in the USA. The aim of the CSSP is to provide a strong voice to support science and science education. Members of the Council currently include the Geological Society of America and the American Chemical Society, among many others.

The GS joined this group in order to learn about issues related to outreach and public advocacy of science. As a relatively small society, the GS has not traditionally played a big outreach role. The board of the GS decided to find out more about these issues, and so we have been paying the expenses of the president or vice president to attend the CSSP meetings each year.

Past President Tim Drever attended the CSSP meeting in Washington DC in December 2006. I attended the May 2006 and December 2007 meetings. The meetings are unlike any I have ever attended! In addition to a series of talks by speakers hand-picked by the executive director, we also interact with elected government officials, congressional staffers, directors of institutions such as the National Science Foundation, and pre-eminent scientists and educators.

I find the meetings intellectually stimulating: it has been especially interesting to learn how science is perceived by non-scientists in the US government who are making decisions that affect students and faculty. I have also used the CSSP as a way to discuss GS problems with other society presidents. I have received advice about audits (we are currently getting an audit of society finances), national and international membership issues, changes in journal subscriptions and the effects of online journals, and many other topics. I have found that many of our problems are shared by many other major scientific societies. I have also forged relationships with the officers of the American Chemical Society and the Geological Society of America, all of whom have been supportive of activities of the GS.



Environmental scientist Gene Likens and Representative Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY, now retired), discuss environment policy and baseball at a CSSP meeting in Washington during Boehlert's tenure as the chair of the House of Representatives Science Committee.

Although the CSSP is idiosyncratic, I recommend that the society maintain its membership. I do not believe that our membership in the CSSP will only help US members of the GS. Membership in the CSSP will help us to expand our ideas about what the GS can do or should do as a major scientific society in a rapidly changing world.

Susan L. Brantley
President,
Geochemical Society

2007

May 22-25 AGU Joint Assembly, Acapulco, Mexico. E-mail: ja-help@agu.org; web page: www.agu.org/meetings/ja07

May 23-25 Geological Association of Canada and Mineralogical Association of Canada Joint Meeting (GAC-MAC): Yellowknife 2007 – For a Change in Climate, Yellowknife, Canada. Web page: www.nwtgeoscience.ca/Yellowknife2007

May 27-31 IMWA Symposium: Water in Mining Environments, Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy. E-mail: cidur@unica.it; web page: www.unica.it/geochim/imwa07

June 2-7 44th Annual Meeting of the Clay Minerals Society, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. Details: Randall Cygan, Sandia National Laboratories; e-mail: rctcygan@sandia.gov; tel.: 505-844-7216; web page: www.sandia.gov/clay

June 10-15 Gordon Research Conference: Interior of the Earth, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, USA. Web page: www.grc.org/07sched.htm

June 11-15 Meteoroids 2007, Barcelona, Spain. E-mail: meteoroids2007@ieec.uab.es; web page: www.spmn.uji.es/meteoroids-2007

June 14-19 23rd International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS), Oviedo, Spain. E-mail: iags2007@innova.uniovi.es; web page: www.uniovi.es/IAGS2007/

June 17-20 10th International Conference and Exhibition of the European Ceramic Society, Berlin, Germany. E-mail: ecers2007@dkg.de; website: www.ecers2007berlin.de

June 17-20 3rd International Conference on Sustainable Development Indicators in the Minerals Industry (SDIMI 2007), Milos Island, Milos, Greece. E-mail: sdimi2007@heliotopos.net; web page: <http://milos.conferences.gr/sdimi2007>

June 17-21 8th Multinational Congress on Microscopy (8MCM), Prague, Czech Republic. Details: Ms. Hana Hudecova; e-mail: hh@ccl.cz; web page: <http://nucleus.biomed.cas.cz/8mcm/>

June 19-23 2nd International Workshop on Exploring Mars and its Earth Analogues, Trento, Italy. Details: Stefania Celenza, e-mail: celenza@irsps.unich.it; web page: <http://irsps.sci.unich.it/education/mars07/>

June 26-28 Frontiers in Mineral Sciences 2007: Combined Societies' Meeting: MinSoc, MSA, MAC, and SFMC, Cambridge, UK. E-mail: info@minersoc.org; web page: www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/frontiers/index.html

July 2-6 Sixth Hutton Symposium on the Origin of Granites and Related Rocks, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. E-mail: Hutton@sun.ac.za; web page: <http://academic.sun.ac.za/geology/hutton/hutton2007.htm>

July 2-7 XVI International Conference on Crystal Chemistry and Diffraction Studies of Minerals, Miass, Russia. E-mail: krzhizhanovskaya@mail.ru; web page: <http://meetings.miass.ru/?LinkId=39>

July 2-13 International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) 2007 General Assembly, Perugia, Italy. E-mail: secretary@IUGG2007perugia.it; website: www.iugg2007perugia.it

July 8-13 Gordon Research Conference: Catchment Science: Interactions of Hydrology, Biology & Geochemistry, Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH, USA. Details: Elizabeth W. Boyer & Helen A. De Wit; web page: www.grc.org/programs/2007/catch.htm

July 8-13 Gordon Research Conference: Origins of Solar Systems, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, USA. Details: Lee W. Hartmann; e-mail: lhartm@umich.edu; web page: www.grc.org/programs/2007/origins.htm

July 9-13 Seventh International Conference on Mars, Pasadena, California, USA. Details: David Beaty, e-mail: david.beaty@jpl.nasa.gov; web page: www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/7thmars2007/home.shtml

July 9-13 11th Congress of the International Society of Rock Mechanics, Lisbon, Portugal. E-mail: spg@inec.pt; website: www.isrm2007.org

July 12-16 Bioastronomy 2007: Molecules, Microbes, and Extraterrestrial Life, San Juan, Puerto Rico. E-mail: sonoda@ifa.hawaii.edu; web page: www.ifa.hawaii.edu/UHNAI/bioast07.htm

July 17-20 European Current Research on Fluid Inclusions (ECROFI-XIX), Bern, Switzerland. E-mail: antenen@geo.unibe.ch; web page: www.geo.unibe.ch/ecrofi

July 21-26 American Crystallographic Association 2007 Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Details: Jill Trehwella, e-mail: 82jtrehwella@usyd.edu.au; web page: www.hwi.buffalo.edu/ACA/meetingspgp_list/futuremeetings.html

July 22-27 Euroclay 2007, Aveiro, Portugal. Details: Secretariado Euroclay 2007; e-mail: info@euroclay2007.com; website: www.euroclay2007.com

July 31-August 5 Twelfth International Symposium on Water-Rock Interaction (WRI-12), Kunming, China. E-mail: wri12@cug.edu.cn; website: www.wri12.org

August 5-11 The 13th International Summer School on Crystal Growth, Park City, Utah, USA. Details: Jim De Yoreo; e-mail: deyoreo1@llnl.gov; web page: <http://www.crystalgrowth.us/isscg13/index.php>

August 12-17 15th International Zeolite Conference (15th IZC), Beijing, China. E-mail: izc@jlu.edu.cn; website: www.15izc.org.cn

August 12-17 9th EMU School 'Nanoscope Approaches in Earth and Planetary Sciences', Munich; Germany. Organizers: Frank E. Brenker (f.brenker@em.uni-frankfurt.de), Guntram Jordan (guntram.jordan@rz.uni-muenchen.de); e-mail: info@9th-emu-school.de; website: www.9th-EMU-School.de

August 13-17 2007 Meteoritical Society Annual Meeting, Tucson, Arizona, USA. Details: Dr. Tim Jull, e-mail: jull@u.arizona.edu; web page: <http://metsoc2007.org>

August 13-17 Large Igneous Provinces of Asia, Mantle Plumes, and Metallogeny, Novosibirsk, Russia. Details: Evgeniy Naumov, Executive Secretary; e-mail: LIP-asia@uiggm.nsc.ru; web page: <http://www.uiggm.nsc.ru/conf/lip-asia/>

August 19-23 American Chemical Society 234th National Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. E-mail: natlmgtgs@acs.org; web page: www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acsdisplay.html?DOC=meetings%5cfuture.html