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German Mineralogical Society

DMG – DEUTSCHE MINERALOGISCHE GESELLSCHAFT – THOUGHTS AND GOALS



Ulrich Bismayer

In compliance with the DMG elections of 2005, president Gregor Markl and I have switched offices as president and vice-president. I would like to thank all DMG members for their vote of confidence, and Gregor Markl, on behalf of all DMG members, for his great work and enthusiastic commitment to the DMG. Gregor's central interest has always been that all geoscientists should share a common goal and that the national and international visibility of the DMG should be clear. With the unanimous decision to join *Elements*, the council and members of the DMG clearly support Gregor's vision of a multidisciplinary approach and international presence.

The international commitment of our society will be accentuated by this year's combined DMG and Goldschmidt meeting in Cologne, Germany, under the title "atoms to planets." We ask all DMG members to help us create a great meeting by attending in large numbers and participating actively. We should also encourage our young members to take advantage of this chance to present their work to the international community and to forge international links. One of the DMG's primary aims is to further the work and development of young students and scientists. Therefore we will be supporting the attendance of young scientists at future international meetings as well. A second focus is the sponsoring of DMG postgraduate courses at various universities and research centers in order to introduce students to new scientific research directions and their methods and techniques. During the past years the spectrum of topics has continually evolved, thanks in part to close cooperation with other societies, and the attractiveness of these courses has

clearly increased. DMG postgraduate courses close gaps in the routine university education of our young scientists, often caused by the lack of appropriate financial and human resources and by heterogeneity in local BSc and MSc syllabuses. The program and financial support to the local organizers are coordinated by the DMG Research Committee under the chairmanship of Hans Keppler. These courses are demonstrably highly effective and successful, and thus they represent a rewarding path that the DMG will continue to follow.

Although various initiatives exist to further excellence at the end of a university education, the lack of basic mineralogical knowledge acquired in schools remains problematic. I ask all DMG members for support in our efforts to reach school teachers and those responsible for teacher education in order to convince them of the significance of mineralogy in the geosciences and its importance in linking neighboring disciplines. Mineralogical topics can be taught in conjunction with school subjects like geography, chemistry, and

physics. I ask our members to strengthen the foundations of our society by clearly identifying yourself with mineralogy and by recruiting new members to the DMG. We now offer students the possibility of becoming joint members of the DMG and the Geologische Vereinigung (Geological Union) for the price of only 40 Euros a year, which includes all publications offered by these two societies.

In a letter to the membership in the year 2000, then DMG president Friedrich Seifert offered a definition of mineralogy that fittingly describes the research and work we do without erecting barriers to neighboring disciplines:

Mineralogy relates materials science to geoscience and explores the chemical, physical, and biological properties of matter and their role in the Earth System.

The methods and concepts used can equally well be applied to the investigation of both natural and synthetic substances and their applications.

As I see it, public awareness of the importance of the Earth System is steadily increasing because society has recognized that it is a part of this complex and very delicate system. The many and diverse research topics offered by this system are reflected in the internal structure of the DMG and its research groups. I would like to encourage all DMG members to continue to commit their experience and knowledge to the benefit of our science and the German Mineralogical Society, and I look forward to an extensive, inspiring exchange with the other societies participating in *Elements*.

Ulrich Bismayer
President

INTERNATIONAL SHORT COURSE AT THE BAYERISCHES GEOINSTITUT

"High-Pressure Experimental Techniques and Applications to the Earth's Interior"

Since 1999, the Bayerisches Geoinstitut, University of Bayreuth (Germany), has been running an annual short course on high-pressure experimental techniques and how results of such experiments can be used to understand the structure and properties of the Earth's interior. This course is one of a number of postgraduate courses that are sponsored by the German Mineralogical Society.

The 9th short course took place on 19–23 February 2007 in Bayreuth with 21 participants, 11 of whom came from Germany and 10 from seven other European countries. While the participants were mainly PhD students, several undergraduates and one senior scientist (from industry) also took part. The participants represented not only the Earth sciences but also chemistry and physics.

As in previous years, the course consisted of a combination of lectures and laboratory-based practical sessions, which were given and organized by staff scientists of the Bayerisches

Geoinstitut. The short course topics included not only high-pressure experimental techniques but also computational mineral physics and a broad range of techniques for characterizing the properties of samples, such as scanning and transmission electron microscopy, X-ray diffraction, and spectroscopy (optical, infrared, Raman, and Mössbauer).

High-pressure aspects included synthesis at high pressures and temperatures (using multi-anvil, piston-cylinder, and diamond anvil cells) and in situ methods (in situ X-ray diffraction, high-pressure crystallography). Theoretical sessions covered thermodynamics, phase equilibria, crystal chemistry, equations of state, and reaction kinetics with emphasis on the mineralogy and structure of the Earth's mantle.

The next short course will be held in February 2008, and details will eventually be available at www.bgi.uni-bayreuth.de/.