

DINGWELL ELECTED MEMBER OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

The Academia Europaea, Europe's academy of science and letters, has elected **Prof. Donald Bruce Dingwell**, one of five geoscientists elected in 2007, to membership in the academy. The academy elected 81 new members in 2007. Prof. Dingwell is the chair of mineralogy and petrology and director of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of the LMU-University of Munich, Germany.



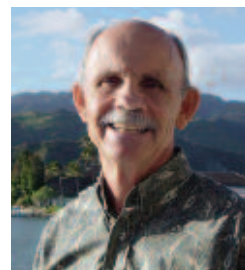
Prof. Dingwell is a specialist in the application of experiments to the Earth. His research is dedicated to deciphering the complex processes behind volcanism using physico-chemical principles. He has previously been the recipient of awards from international academic and research societies. With about 250 publications and 5000 citations (ISI), he is one of the world's most highly cited geoscientists. He has been a member of the Mineralogical Society of America for 25 years.

Professor Dingwell received his membership from the president of the academy in Toledo, Spain, in September, along with four other geoscientists, Irina M. Artemieva (Denmark), Philippe Gillet (France), Gilles Ramstein (France), and Yuliya I. Troitskaya (Russia).

**SCHIFFRIES TO HEAD GSA OFFICE IN WASHINGTON**

Dr. Craig M. Schiffries recently joined the Geological Society of America (GSA) as its new Director for Geoscience Policy. He will staff an office focused on public policy and the geosciences in Washington, D.C. The overarching goal of this brand-new office is to provide GSA and its membership with leadership in public policy as well as active involvement in public policy decision-making and implementation processes. The office will also further the Society's core mission to advance the geosciences, enhance the professional growth of its members, and promote the geosciences in the service of society.

Dr. Schiffries joins GSA after five years as Director of Science Policy for the National Council for Science and Environment in Washington. Previously he held positions at the National Academy of Sciences and the American Geological Institute, and served as a GSA Congressional Science Fellow and professional staff member of the United States Senate. Schiffries holds an Honors BA in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University, BS and MS degrees in geology and geophysics from Yale University, and a PhD in geology from Harvard University. He is a member of the Mineralogical Society of America.

VERNADSKY MEDAL TO MACKENZIE

Prof. Fred Mackenzie was awarded the inaugural Vernadsky Medal of the International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC) during the recent Goldschmidt Conference. The

medal was awarded to Prof. Mackenzie for a distinguished record of scientific accomplishment in geochemistry over the course of his career.

Fred Mackenzie is currently Professor of Oceanography and Geology & Geophysics in the School of Ocean and Earth Science at the University of Hawai'i. He received his BS in geology and physics at Upsala College (New Jersey, USA) and his MS and PhD in geology and geochemistry from Lehigh University (USA). He is a distinguished researcher whose current research projects include modeling of the Earth's surface system through geologic time; the biogeochemical cycling of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus and CO₂ exchange in the coastal zone; the effects of rising CO₂ and temperature on coral/carbonate ecosystems; the kinetics and thermodynamics of mineral-solution reactions; and the implications of global warming for concepts of sustainability for Pacific island nations and Hawai'i.

His research has been recognized through awards such as the Francis J. Pettijohn Medal for excellence in sedimentology from the Society for Sedimentary Geology in 2005 and the Claire C. Patterson Medal in environmental geochemistry from the Geochemical Society in 2006. He is a fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America, the Geological Society of America, the Geochemical Society and the European Association for Geochemistry, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and is a life trustee of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research.

TRIPLE POINT (cont'd from page 301)

What is puzzling about this leap from "geology" to anything else is that "geology" is *not* a neologism (1799) of the 19th century. The medieval Latin term "geologia," meaning "the science of Earthly things," goes back at least to a 14th century manuscript by Richard de Bury, a bishop of Durham and tutor to Edward III. Transliterations of the word were used in Italian, French, and German texts through the intervening centuries. Therefore, "geology" does not belong to the hundreds of "-ologies" produced by the hyper-Baconian assembly line of the 1800s. While a part of the scientific enterprise at that time was characterized by tiresome data collection, geology ruled as the philosophical mindbender of its day.

Geology has since evolved, as have all other sciences. How is it that the terms "physics," "chemistry," and "mathematics" are sufficiently elastic that they can accommodate the reinvention and expansion of their

fields, but "geology" cannot? The top physics programs in the country still call themselves "Departments of Physics." A "Department of Physical Sciences" conjures up a group of physicists, chemists, geologists, and/or environmental scientists under one roof at a small liberal arts college. And nobody is coining "Department of Physiosciences" to emphasize a mathematical rigor that is not shared by mere physicists. As Proctor has argued, these transitions in nomenclature seem insignificant, and yet they are telling us something profound about ourselves. But are we sure that it is something good?

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