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European Association for Geochemistry

COLOGNE GOLDSCHMIDT MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS!

The 17th annual V.M. Goldschmidt meeting in Cologne, Germany, was held from August 19 to 24, 2007. Over 2300 abstracts were scheduled into 1270 oral presentations and 1090 posters over five action-packed days. Many thanks to the conference organizers!



At the meeting the EAG presented its annual Houtermans and Urey awards. Alex Halliday, EAG president, presents the Houtermans Medal to Stephen Parman (left).

Conference symposia covered a broad spectrum of geochemical fields of research. A special session addressed both scientists and the general public on recent scientific and political advances in CO₂ sequestration. A particularly large number of contributions dealt with isotopic variations of stable and radioactive elements, taking advantage of the latest advances in mass spectroscopy. Five plenary lectures described the making of the Earth from its dusty beginnings to the origin of life.

ERE GROUP LAUNCHES MEETING ON THE TOPIC "CARBON-CONSTRAINED FUTURE"

ERE is a division of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) devoted to the promotion of geosciences at the interface of energy, resources and environmental research. For the past four years, ERE has increasingly succeeded in developing discussions and cooperation among scientists. However, our meetings lack input from petroleum geologists and oil industry representatives. ERE needs your competence to fill this gap and would like to invite you to make things happen at the next EGU General Assembly, EGU 2008, which will be held on 13–18 April 2008 in Vienna, Austria. The Hydrocarbon Platform is a subgroup of ERE and is responsible for the promotion of this new event. The meeting will cover many topics, from petroleum exploration to CO₂ capture and storage (new energy and oil spills included). For more information about this meeting, please go to www.lmtg.obs-mip.fr/user/eag/Images/egu_ere_flyer_1.jp.

EAG SEEKS NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Following revision of the EAG by-laws, several new committees have been formed, including the EAG Communications Committee, the EAG Program Committee and the EAG Publication Committee. Several places are still available on these committees. We invite motivated geochemists to volunteer to serve on these committees to help promote geochemistry through the EAG. To volunteer to serve please e-mail us at eag@lmtg.obs-mip.fr.

GOLDSCHMIDT 2008

July 13-18, 2008
Vancouver, Canada
www.goldschmidt2008.org

NEW MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN EXPERIMENTAL GEOSCIENCES AT BAYERISCHES GEONSTITUT



Bayerisches Geoinstitut (BGI) at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, introduces a new MSc degree in experimental geosciences. The two-year program includes training and research in the experimental simulation of processes occurring in the interior and on the surface of the Earth. This includes the characterization of physical and chemical properties of Earth materials under high pressure and temperature. The expertise obtained in these fields can be applied to many problems in industry. Through the approach based on Earth materials, the program encompasses a number of traditional scientific fields, including mineralogy, crystallography, solid-state physics, inorganic chemistry, materials science, geochemistry, cosmochemistry, and geophysics. Integrating these diverse subfields into one study program permits a deeper understanding of the solid Earth.

The program is built on the scientific and experimental expertise of BGI, which combines analytical methods to characterize sample, synthesis methods at high pressure and temperature, in situ methods for measuring physical properties, and theory and models to simulate material properties. The MSc students will be trained in many of these techniques. The laboratory-based work is supplemented by literature and research seminars that prepare the students to critically evaluate scientific literature and research.

The MSc program starts in both the winter (October) and summer terms (April), with application deadlines of July 15 and January 15, respectively. Information about application material and more details on the MSc program can be found on the website: www.bgi.uni-bayreuth.de/master



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and uninteresting? It did to me at first. But now I see it as the best step toward unifying our disparate thoughts into a coherent voice. The difficult process of organizing our data into a useful resource on the web will require collaboration among the professional societies, the funding agencies, and the publishing houses.

Once multiple large datasets are accessible to all, we will have more geochemical minds considering the patterns that are manifest across scales of space and time. Importantly, we will not understand some of those patterns, so we will rush to create models explaining them. As models explain the online data, we will notice that some data are missing. That will force us to develop better networks of Earth and environmental observing systems. The data synthesis will highlight inconsistencies in measurements and will force us to grit our teeth and agree how to make standard measurements. We will argue about how long a publicly financed scientist can keep public data private. All of these processes could be, and should be, promoted by the GS.

To state my thesis succinctly by paraphrasing a famous line from a recent U.S. presidential election, "It's all about the data, stupid!"

Susan L. Brantley

President of the Geochemical Society

Postscript: I appreciate insights gleaned from Peter Heaney, Andy Nyblade, Jim Kubicki, Kerstin Lehnert, and Vincent Salters with respect to geochemical data and this piece. I also appreciate the fine work of Seth Davis who has made my tenure as president enjoyable. Of course, I also appreciate the many fine officers and directors of the Geochemical Society with whom I have worked over the last several years. In this regard, I salute Tim Drever (Past President), Jeremy Fein (Secretary), Youxue Zhang (Treasurer), Malcolm McCulloch (International Secretary), Mark McCaffrey (OGD Chairman), Laurie Reisberg (Director), Vincent Salters (Director), and Andreas Lutge (Director), all whom have rotated off this year. The Society thanks you for your work.