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Association of Applied Geochemists

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2008, which led off with the PDAC in Toronto in March, is shaping up as another busy year for AAG, and applied geochemists in general. The next biennial International Applied Geochemistry Symposium and associated field excursions and short courses will be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick (Canada) on June 1–4, 2009. The organization of this meeting is in full swing. The last time the symposium was held in

North America was when Vancouver hosted it in 1999. Whereas the general areas of mineral exploration and environmental issues associated with mining will be the focus of a number of the sessions, the scope of the 2009 symposium will be broadened through hosting it jointly with other key geochemistry societies (International Association of GeoChemistry and International Association of Geoanalysts). Further details will be provided in the next issue of *Elements* and can also be obtained at www.unb.ca/conferences/IAGS2009/.

The large number of people attending short courses on various aspects of geochemical exploration at Exploration '07 in Toronto last September, coupled with the high levels of activity in mineral exploration and environmental assessments in many regions, points to the need for societies such as AAG to provide continual professional training for workers in the geosciences and related disciplines. This need has been exacerbated by the continuing shrinking of the Earth sciences in the university system in many parts of the world.

Students and supervisors are reminded that the AAG prize for the best student paper for the

two-year period 2007–2008 will be selected from papers that have been published (or accepted for publication) in the Association's principal scientific journal, *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis (GEEA)*. The next call for paper nominations will be made later in the year. Previous winners have been drawn from areas of research ranging from the geochemical aspects of weathering and landscape evolution to applied mineral exploration techniques.

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OUTREACH ACTIVITY



Theo Davies (AAG Regional Councillor for southern Africa) and Rob Bowell (AAG Past President) met at Heathrow airport in London, UK, to arrange shipment of 230 kg (in 28 boxes) of rocks, fossils, minerals, textbooks and journals to universities in Nigeria. Four boxes contained complete sets of the *Journal of Geochemical Exploration* and the journal *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis*, up to 2005, along with *EXPLORE* newsletters. These four boxes of material were donated by Robert van Tassel, a retired AAG member who offered the journals to AAG in

2005. Rob and Theo completed the paperwork and organized and arranged transfer of the material. Additional items in the shipment included several textbooks that Rob had collected in the last year and 15 years' worth of the *Journal of the Geological Society* and the *Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology*. Also in the shipment were some donated XRF standards from Cardiff University. This is just one of several outreach activities carried out by AAG in developing countries as part of UNESCO's International Year of Planet Earth—trying to think outside the sphere.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS



The Gold Medal is awarded for outstanding scientific achievement in exploration geochemistry. The Past Presidents' (Silver) Medal is awarded to a member of the Association of Exploration Geochemists for dedicated service to the Association. Please visit the AAG website for further details regarding the nomination process.



THE 24th INTERNATIONAL APPLIED GEOCHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM (IAGS 2009) will be held at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton Campus (New Brunswick, eastern Canada), from June 1 to 4, 2009. This is the biennial meeting of the Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG). It will be held jointly with the International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC) and the International Association of Geoanalysts (IAG).

www.unb.ca/conferences/IAGS2009