



Association of Applied Geochemists

www.appliedgeochemists.org

AAG PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2009 is shaping up as an interesting year for those in applied geochemistry, as economies dive into another trough. Expenditure on commodities exploration is already contracting sharply for greenfields exploration, but experience gained in the last trough suggests that there will be increased attention given to brownfields exploration. Brownfields geochemical exploration presents a number of technical challenges due to changes in metal distributions at surface induced by mining activities, but there is opportunity to revisit old data with new ideas. On the environmental geochemistry front, things are less predictable. Expenditure by industry and government on geochemical R & D is likely to decrease, although the geochemical aspects of environmental monitoring and site investigations have a degree of preservation due to government policies and legal requirements in various countries. One area that is likely to grow is the application of geochemistry to the design and testing of large-scale CO₂ sequestration projects for which massive funding has been set aside by industry and governments.

While mineral explorers batten down the hatches, many in the university sector are looking forward to the return of numerous prodigal students, who were lured away from commencing graduate studies by generous industry salary packages. We must, however, also reflect upon the effects of the last resource industry downturn, which was a major factor in the further depletion of Earth science programs and the loss of departments in universities. The subsequent upturn was met by a severe lack of new graduates. Ongoing support of universities by industry in the next few years, through funding of research projects and graduate scholarships, will certainly help to preserve what remains of the geological and geochemical ends of the Earth sciences.

The 24th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium in Fredericton, New Brunswick, is rapidly approaching, and you are encouraged to consult the conference website (<http://www.unb.ca/conferences/IAGS2009/>).

David Cohen, President, AAG

ANNOUNCING IAGS KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



PROF. KURT KYSER
(Queen's University, Canada) • **AAG Distinguished Lecturer** – USING DENDROCHEMISTRY TO MONITOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FIND UNDERCOVER ORE DEPOSITS



DR. MATT LEYBOURNE (GNS Science, New Zealand) • **IAGS 2009 Distinguished Lecturer** – GROUNDWATER GEOCHEMISTRY IN MINERAL EXPLORATION: TAPPING THE THIRD DIMENSION



PROF. ROSS LARGE (Professor of Economic Geology and the Director of CODES, an ARC Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposits, University of Tasmania, Australia) • **Plenary Session Keynote Lecture** –

SEDIMENT-HOSTED GOLD DEPOSITS: A REEXAMINATION OF THE FACTS AND SEE WHAT FIGURES



D. KIRK NORDSTROM (U.S. Geological Survey, Boulder, USA) • **Toxic Elements in the Environment Session Keynote**

Lecturer – HYDROGEOCHEMICAL PROCESSES GOVERNING THE ORIGIN, TRANSPORT, AND FATE OF MAJOR AND TRACE ELEMENTS FROM MINE WASTES AND MINERALIZED ROCK



DAVID BLOWES (University of Waterloo, Canada) • **Mine Waste Session Keynote Lecturer** – THE DIAVIK WASTE ROCK PROJECT: DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

CONSTRUCTION, AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS



Mineralogical Society of Poland

www.ptmin.agh.edu.pl

RYSZARD KRYZA – NEW PRESIDENT OF THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF POLAND



Ryszard Kryza, newly elected president of the Society

The General Assembly of the Polish Mineralogical Society was held in Kraków on December 11, 2008. After a report presented by Marek Michalik, the former president of the Society, the current affairs of the Society and new trends were hotly discussed.

Officers of the Society were elected for the next two-year term: President Ryszard Kryza (University of Wrocław), Vice-Presidents Ewa Słaby (University of Warsaw) and Marek Michalik (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), Secretaries Marek Awdankiewicz (University of Wrocław) and Tadeusz Szydlak (AGH-University of Science and Technology, Kraków), Treasurer Beata Zych-Habel (AGH-University of Science and Technology, Kraków), Librarian Katarzyna Górniak (AGH-University of Science and Technology, Kraków).

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF POLAND AWARD FOR THE BEST MSc THESIS IN MINERALOGY, PETROLOGY, AND GEOCHEMISTRY IN 2008

The diploma for the best MSc thesis in mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry in 2008 went to Mr. Norbert Szczepara from the Institute of Geological Sciences of the University of Wrocław, who defended his thesis "Geology and Petrology of Volcanogenic Formations in the Grotta dei Pisani Area on Vulcano (the Aeolian Islands)," supervised by Dr. Marek Awdankiewicz.



Norbert Szczepara (LEFT) receiving the diploma for the best MSc thesis from Barbara Kwiecińska and Marek Michalik