

THIS ISSUE

In these pages, find out how one can learn about the evolution of Earth's magnetic field by studying tiny inclusions of magnetite in silicate crystals, or how the magnetic mineral content of soils can be used to deduce past climates, or how magnetic minerals are utilized by lifeforms ranging from bacteria to birds. Guest editors Joshua Feinberg and Richard Harrison have assembled a cast of international researchers who share their exciting results in this burgeoning area of investigation.

ELEMENTS AT GOLDSCHMIDT

On Saturday June 21, the editors met, along with the Chair of the Executive Committee, in Davos, Switzerland. Even though we exchange countless e-mails and have regular conference calls, this yearly face-to-face meeting is extremely valuable. The meeting was very productive, and so was the joint meeting of the editors and members of the Executive Committee at the end of the day. An informal lunch-time gathering of the editors with members of the Advisory Board, members of the Executive Committee, and presidents of societies was also held on June 24.

Exciting developments resulting from these meetings include decisions to sponsor a special session at Goldschmidt 2010 and a series of *Elements* plenary lectures at the IMA meeting in 2010 to celebrate *Elements'* 5th anniversary. More on that topic in upcoming issues of *Elements*.



Principal editor Susan Stipp gave a plenary lecture entitled "Nanogeoscience: Cleaner Water, More Oil and Taking out the Garbage."

High on our agenda was slating topics for the remainder of 2010 and the first half of 2011. We reviewed a series of excellent proposals and tentatively scheduled topics for the second half of 2010. Our line-up for 2010 is as follows:

- V6n1 – Mineral Evolution
- V6n2 – Sulfur
- V6n3 – Fluids and Metamorphism
- V6n4 – Atmospheric Particles
- V6n5 – Thermodynamics
- V6n6 – Sustainable Remediation

For 2011, we have given the green light to proposals on the following topics, but we have not yet slated them for a particular issue: Iron in Earth Surface Systems; Cosmochemistry; When the Continental Crust Melts; Water.

TIM DREVER, PRINCIPAL EDITOR
2010–2012

Tim Drever has accepted our invitation to join the editorial team starting officially in January 2010. He will replace Susan Stipp, whose term ends at the end of 2009. We will welcome Tim formally in the first issue of 2010.

ELEMENTS' IMPACT FACTOR
CLIMBS TO 3.069

We are pleased to report that *Elements'* impact factor is continuing the climb it started in 2006. *Elements* was launched in 2005 and received its first impact factor from the Institute of Scientific Information for 2006 (1.562). The following year, its impact factor climbed to 2.23, and was 3.069 for 2008.

The 10 most cited articles from the time of publication to mid-July 2009 are:

- Charlet L, Polya DA (2006) Arsenic in shallow, reducing groundwaters in southern Asia: An environmental health disaster. *Elements* 2: 91-96 (41 citations)
- Harley SL, Kelly NM, Moller A (2007) Zircon behaviour and the thermal histories of mountain chains. *Elements* 3: 25-30 (26)
- Geisler T, Schaltegger U, Tomaschek (2007) Re-equilibration of zircon in aqueous fluids and melts. *Elements* 3: 43-50 (25)
- Self S, Thordarson T, Widdowson M (2005) Gas fluxes from flood basalt eruptions. *Elements* 1: 283-287 (23)
- Ohtani E (2005) Water in the mantle. *Elements* 1: 25-30 (21)
- Vaughan DJ (2006) Arsenic. *Elements* 2: 71-75 (18)
- Morin G, Calas G (2006) Arsenic in soils, mine tailings, and former industrial sites. *Elements* 2: 97-101 (18)
- O'Day PA (2006) Chemistry and mineralogy of arsenic. *Elements* 2: 77-83 (16)
- Burns PC, Klingensmith AL (2006) Uranium mineralogy and neptunium mobility. *Elements* 2: 351-356 (15)
- Openhayn C (2006) Arsenic in drinking water: Impact on human health. *Elements* 2: 103-107 (15)

The issues that have garnered the most citations are: Arsenic (2006, v2n2, 115 citations); Zircon (2007, v3n1, 91); Large Igneous Provinces (2005, v1n5, 79); The Nuclear Fuel Cycle (2006, v2n6, 60), and Diamonds (2005, v1n2, 50).

Pierrette Tremblay

Let me express our gratitude to *Elements* for publishing the obituary for Hans Jürgen Rösler in the last issue. And at the same time, I would like to congratulate you very warmly for your most successful effort to put out this extraordinary magazine, of which I welcome every single issue. With warm greetings from Freiberg.

Prof. Dr. Jörg Matschullat
Technische Universität
Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany

About Gender Disparity

I read with great interest your recent article in *Elements* on gender and race disparity in receiving scientific awards by Sam Mukasa (*Elements* volume 5, number 2, pages), and I thought I would respond with my own observations. I received my PhD in geochemistry in 1982, and regularly went to GSA and Goldschmidt conferences through the late 90s. There were a few women coming up through the geochemistry disciplines in the early 90s, and a group of us decided we had to do something about improving the track record of women receiving medals. A member of the nominations committee at that time had observed that men had trouble nominating women for medals (at least at that time), but if women were nominated by someone else, the men had no trouble voting for the women. So we decided to systematically nominate women, and we did this for a few years. Each year at GSA we would have breakfast together and decide whom to nominate and whom to ask for letters of recommendation. During that time frame we made several nominations of deserving women for the Clarke and Goldschmidt medals. Some of our nominations met with success. Eventually we all got busy and moved on to other things, and it's probably too bad that we didn't try to continue feeding the nomination pipeline. So you have come to the same conclusion, that nomination is the big hurdle. I still think that's right, and I think the minority issues are directly parallel to the gender issues. Good luck trying to inspire more nominations!

Terri Bowers
Gradient Corporation
Cambridge, MA, USA

**BACK ISSUES
OF ELEMENTS ARE
NOW AVAILABLE**

**ORDER ONLINE AT
www.elementsmagazine.net**