



## MY GOALS AS PRESIDENT OF THE GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY



Samuel Mukasa

In 1978 as I prepared to graduate from college, my friends Alicia, Dana, Julie, Pam, Peter, Steve, Tom—and Claudia, to whom I have been married for the past 26 years—threw a farewell party for me that resonates to this day. On account of my then well-known fascination with geochemistry, they gave me a one-year subscription to *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* as a going-away present, thereby making me a member of the Geochemical Society. Some 32 years later, I have become the first-ever elected president of the Geochemical Society.

This is a worthy legacy of my predecessor, Marty Goldhaber, on whose watch the way we choose Society leaders has evolved. In years past, the position has been held by various luminaries in our field who were appointed by a self-renewing board of “society elders.” Then and now, the president commenced his or her duties following a two-year apprenticeship as vice president. I have benefited immensely from the tutelage of Marty Goldhaber, in whose hands the Geochemical Society held its first-ever election of officers and thrived in spite of the global economic downturn. We owe Marty much gratitude for his tireless efforts and many accomplishments while he held the reins over the past two years.

Much has changed during the last few years in how science is pursued and promoted, requiring a quantum leap forward in governance and outreach, or risking the tag of irrelevance and extinction. Chief among my priorities as president, therefore, will be the following objectives:

- Help to negotiate a favorable contract with Elsevier in continued publication of our journal *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*
- Continue the internationalization of the Geochemical Society in its governance, conference participation, conference organization, and venue choices
- Increase women’s participation at all levels in the Society, and ensure gender equity in award nominations, particularly Fellowships
- Start a concerted effort in the area of outreach to developing countries, where participation at present is virtually nonexistent
- Start fund-raising efforts with private foundations to underwrite outreach activities, especially streaming conference presentations to developing countries and sponsoring presenters from those countries to attend Society conferences
- Nurture our associations with the American Geophysical Union, the European Association of Geochemistry, and the Geological Society of America for the purpose of promoting geochemistry worldwide
- Establish a volunteer corps of mentors for PhD students and postdocs focused especially on young, underrepresented minorities in our Society

These ambitious goals cannot be fulfilled by a single person. Rather my duty should be to inspire wide participation in any one of these areas, mindful of the fact that our Society will survive only if it reaches out to the rest of the world in a progressive and committed fashion. I look forward to working with you in advancing the Geochemical Society into a bright future.

**Samuel Mukasa**, University of Michigan  
GS President, 2010–2011



## GOLDSCHMIDT 2010

Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts by the February 21 deadline. If your budget is tight, remember that members receive a substantial discount on registration fees. Additionally there is an early registration discount for those who register before **April 16, 2010**.

## GOLDSCHMIDT2010™ TRAVEL GRANT PROGRAM

The Geochemical Society, the European Association of Geochemistry, the Geochemical Society of Japan, and the Goldschmidt Conference Organizers will be providing support for the Goldschmidt2010 Travel Grant Program. This program provides financial support to students who are presenting the results of their own research in a talk or poster format at the 2010 V.M. Goldschmidt Conference in Knoxville, TN, USA. Additional funding for this program is also being sought from NSF, DOE and other organizations.

All students presenting at the conference may apply for funding. Please visit the Geochemical Society website at [www.geochemsoc.org/programs](http://www.geochemsoc.org/programs) for details on submission requirements and deadlines.

## 2010 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

This year marked the second-ever online election of the Geochemical Society’s directorate. Seth Davis in the Geochemical Society’s business office managed the online ballots. SurveyMonkey.com was utilized to notify members and verify results. The voting began on October 30, 2009, and concluded on November 15, 2009. The Board of Directors ratified the results on November 19, 2009. Three e-mail notices were sent to 3087 current members of the Geochemical Society and 954 ballots were received.

ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT  
**Richard Carlson**

ELECTED DIRECTORS  
**Catherine Chauvel, Richard Walker, Derek Vance**

We want to thank everyone who voted and helped to keep the process of choosing the leaders of the Geochemical Society open. Special thanks go out to all the excellent and willing candidates in the 2010 slate of officers.

### Stepping down from the board this year are:

PAST PRESIDENT: Susan Brantley, Pennsylvania State University

ORGANIC GEOCHEMISTRY DIVISION (OGD) CHAIRMAN: H. Rodger Harvey, University of Maryland

DIRECTOR: Yaoling Niu, University of Durham

DIRECTOR: Seth Krishnaswami, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, India

DIRECTOR: Marilyn Fogel, Carnegie Institute of Washington

## Presenting our new officers

**Vice President Richard Carlson**

Richard Carlson is a staff scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism. His research focuses on the use of the elemental and isotopic composition of rocks and minerals to investigate the origin and evolution of the solar system, terrestrial planets, Moon, and Earth.

**Director Catherine Chauvel**

Catherine Chauvel is a professor at the University of Grenoble, France. Her research interests include high-temperature geochemistry using trace elements and isotope systems, studies of volcanic rocks and sediments as tracers of differentiation, and the evolution of the Earth.

**Director Derek Vance**

Derek Vance is a professor of isotope geochemistry in the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol. His current research centers on marine geochemical budgets on the modern Earth and in the past, with implications for the interactions between chemical weathering, ocean chemistry, the carbon cycle, and life. He is currently an associate editor of *GCA*.

**Director Richard Walker**

Richard J. Walker is a professor in the Department of Geology, University of Maryland. His research interests include the geochemical evolution of the terrestrial planets, early solar system processes including planetary accretion and core formation, and the chemical evolution of the oceans and other major bodies of water.

## 2010 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: Samuel Mukasa

VICE PRESIDENT: Richard Carlson

PAST PRESIDENT: Martin Goldhaber

TREASURER: Louise Criscenti

SECRETARY: Neil Sturchio

OGD CHAIR: Elizabeth Canuel

OGD SECRETARY: Josef Werne

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Scott Wood

GCA EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Frank Podosek

GEOCHEMICAL NEWS EDITOR: Stephen Komor

DIRECTORS: Vickie Bennett, Simon Turner, David Wesolowski, Catherine Chauvel, Richard Walker, Derek Vance

## THE GEOCHEMICAL NEWS PRESENTS:

**Geochemical Research in China**

A Special Issue of the *Geochemical News*, mid-March, 2010. Check [www.geochemsoc.org](http://www.geochemsoc.org) for updates and downloadable PDF files.

Authors and topics include:

1. Shan GAO (China University of Geosciences): The chemical composition of continental crust
2. Zhengtang GUO (Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences): Loess geochemistry and Cenozoic environments
3. Xianhua LI (Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences): Geochronology of high-temperature rocks and hydrothermal ore deposits
4. Fu-Yuan WU (Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences): Geochemical applications of in situ isotopic analyses by laser ablation
5. Eddy Y. ZENG (Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences): Geochemical processes of organic pollutants in subtropical watersheds
6. Yong-Fei ZHENG (University of Science and Technology of China): Chemical geodynamics in continental subduction zones

《地球化学新闻》专辑, 3月中旬, 2010年

检查 [www.geochemsoc.org](http://www.geochemsoc.org) 更新

作者和主题包括:

1. 高山(中国地质大学教授): 大陆地壳的化学成分
2. 郭正堂(中国科学院地质与地球物理研究所研究员): 黄土地球化学与新生代环境
3. 李献华(中国科学院地质与地球物理研究所研究员): 高温岩石和热液矿床的同位素年代学
4. 吴福元(中国科学院地质与地球物理研究所研究员): 激光剥蚀原位同位素分析的地球化学应用
5. 曾永平(中国科学院广州地球化学研究所研究员): 亚热带流域有机污染物的地球化学过程
6. 郑永飞(中国科学技术大学教授、中国科学院院士): 大陆俯冲带化学地球动力学

## HELP US REACH OUR 2010 MEMBERSHIP GOAL!

Last year, the Geochemical Society surpassed 3000 members, and we need your help to maintain the rhythm! If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2010, this will be your last issue of *Elements*. Renewing is very easy with the secure online membership form on our website, [www.geochemsoc.org](http://www.geochemsoc.org). Annual dues are only US\$30 for professionals and US\$10 for students. If you have already renewed, **thank you!** Please help us further by recommending a Geochemical Society membership to your colleagues and students. You would be surprised how many are not members and are missing out on all the advantages of membership.

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