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 presidency as vice president. I want to thank everyone who voted and helped to keep the process transparent, 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.

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
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.

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Geochemical Research in China


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

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. 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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