



Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland

www.minersoc.org

THE FUTURE OF LEARNED SOCIETIES



Richard Patrick

So, British academia knows its financial fate – a 30% cut in the teaching budget and 9% in research over the next four years. An increase in the UK (England and Wales) undergraduate student fee to £9000 is intended to fill part of the loss, but the effect on admissions in 2012, especially in areas like geoscience, is unpredictable. As academic managers look even more closely at their income streams and the activities of their staff, what consequences await learned societies? We rely heavily on dedicated volunteers, and it is essential that universities (and other employers)

give us equally enthusiastic support by giving credit to those working for societies as officers and editors. It is essential that university libraries and online outlets continue to take our journals, as these are our lifeblood. The temptation for administratively facile, metric-driven staff-performance systems is to downgrade activity in learned societies such that it ends up in a section labelled 'other'. Of course this would be self-defeating – where would these metrics be without the highly rated journals, the conferences, the medals and the resulting cherished international esteem. Let's hope that those on whom learned societies rely so heavily receive true recognition for their invaluable support to our science and are not instructed to drop their society activities in favour of applying for one more research grant. Let's hope, in these difficult times, that the universities can see beyond the first slide of performance presentations, which invariably shows what grants have been won, and appreciate the slides which show what is actually being achieved. Let's hope.

Richard Patrick, President

FRONTIERS IN DIAGENESIS: CLAY AND CARBONATE FACIES AND THEIR DIAGENETIC PATHWAYS IN RESERVOIR ROCK – A MEETING OF THE CLAY MINERALS GROUP

Call for papers

Physical and chemical processes influence the mineralogy of sediments during deposition, lithification and burial, and these processes are critical to understanding the timing and pattern of porefluid movement in rocks. This knowledge is important to geoscientists seeking economic accumulations of hydrocarbons, trying to recognize palaeoclimatic signals, and investigating the co-evolution of the Earth and life. The 7th International Cambridge Diagenesis Conference will bring together scientists from industry and academia to discuss and describe new advances in the diagenesis of clay and carbonate rocks. Topical sessions will include Proterozoic sediments and Upper Cretaceous chalk.

MEETING DATES: 15–16 September 2011

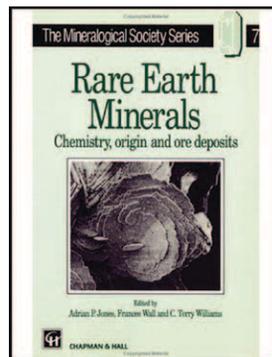
LOCATION: Department of Earth Sciences
University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Please e-mail an indication of interest to attend to Chris Jeans (cj302@cam.ac.uk) or Nick Tosca (njt41@cam.ac.uk) as soon as possible. The deadline for registration and abstract submission is 15 July 2011.

EUROCLAY 2011

Visit www.euroclay2011.org to read details of this meeting, which will be held in Antalya, Turkey, from 26 June to 1 July 2011.

RARE EARTH ELEMENTS



Given the large amount of coverage in the scientific and general press recently about the shortage of rare earth elements, please note that the Mineralogical Society Series volume *Rare Earth Minerals: Chemistry, Origin and Ore Deposits*, by A. P. Jones, F. Wall and C. T. Williams, is still available for purchase from Springer. MinSoc members pay a reduced price of £60.99 by logging in at the Mineralogical Society website home page and selecting 'Mineralogical Society Books from Springer'.

MINSOC BURSARIES 2010

Kathryn Goodenough, winner of a Senior Bursary for 2010, reports as follows:

I attended the Colloquium of African Geology in Johannesburg on 8–14 January 2011. A two-day pre-conference field trip to the Pilanesberg Igneous Complex was led by Grant Cawthorn. This trip combined excellent outcrops of alkaline igneous rocks with opportunities to view game, such as elephant, rhino, giraffe and zebra, and provided a great introduction to South African geology. The Pilanesberg is interesting for its alkaline mineralogy, and it contains mineralised zones that have been investigated for their contents of uranium, niobium and rare earth elements. I also joined a one-day mid-conference field trip to the classic meteorite impact structure of the Vredefort Dome.



In the Pilanesberg National Park, we were accompanied by a game ranger so that we could leave our vehicles to look at the outcrops!

The colloquium itself comprised four days of talks, with five sessions running in parallel. I presented two talks, one on Mesozoic to Cenozoic volcanic rocks in Madagascar in a session entitled "Cenozoic alkaline provinces of western and southern Africa", and a second on the post-collisional granitoids of the East African Orogen in the session "The nature and significance of the Pan-African Orogeny and the relationships of alkaline ring complexes to orogenies".

This conference provided a valuable opportunity for me to meet colleagues working in Africa, to make new contacts, and to learn about the incredible range of interesting geology currently being studied across the African continent. Financial assistance from the Mineralogical Society, which covered the cost of my registration, was instrumental in allowing me to attend the colloquium and was very much appreciated.



Geochemical Society

www.geochemsoc.org

2011 GS BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

By a vote of the Geochemical Society membership, Samuel Savin and Edwin Schauble have been elected as treasurer and secretary, respectively. The election was held by e-mail ballot from January 27, 2011, through February 2, 2011, and a total of 953 members voted. Thank you to everyone who voted and helped to keep the process of choosing the leaders of the Geochemical Society open. Special thanks go out to the excellent candidates willing to participate in the election process. Stepping down from the Board this year are Treasurer Louise Criscenti and Secretary Neil Sturchio.

BIOGRAPHIES OF NEW OFFICERS

Sam Savin, Treasurer



Sam Savin has applied stable isotope techniques to a wide range of problems related to the sedimentation, diagenesis, and low-grade metamorphism of siliciclastic sediments, and to weathering and soil formation. He has also worked on the reconstruction of paleoclimatic and paleoceanographic conditions of the past 100 million years, using carbon and oxygen isotope distributions in planktonic and benthic foraminifera. For a number of years, in collaboration with physi-

cian colleagues, he used stable carbon isotope tracers to study metabolic processes in human infants and mothers. In recent years he has also been active as an academic administrator, serving as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Case Western Reserve University and Provost at New College of Florida. Sam is now retired and consults on geochemical, environmental, and administrative matters. He is a Geochemical Fellow.

Edwin Schauble, Secretary



Edwin Schauble is an associate professor of geochemistry and astrobiology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his PhD in geology from the California Institute of Technology in 2002. He is a stable isotope geochemist, modeling natural isotope separation processes at atomic and molecular scales. He has studied several isotope systems, including magnesium, iron, mercury, and thallium.

GEOCHEMICAL CAREER CENTER

The Geochemical Society's Geochemical Career Center is a web-based service open to the entire geochemical community offering an easy-to-use and highly targeted resource for online employment connections. Employers can use the Geochemical Career Center to reach qualified candidates. For a nominal fee, employers can post job openings, search for qualified candidates based on specific job criteria, and create an online resume agent to e-mail qualified candidates. For job seekers, the Geochemical Career Center is a free service that provides access to employers and geochemistry jobs. In addition to posting resumes, job seekers can browse and view available jobs based on their criteria and save those jobs for later review if they choose. Job seekers can also create a search agent to provide e-mail notifications of jobs that match their criteria.

If you are looking for a job or have a job you want to post, come to the Geochemical Career Center at: www.geochemsoc.org.

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Title	Name	Institution
President	Samuel Mukasa	University of New Hampshire
Vice-President	Richard Carlson	Carnegie Institution of Washington
Past President	Martin Goldhaber	United States Geological Survey
Treasurer	Samuel Savin	New College of Florida (retired)
Secretary	Edwin Schauble	University of California, Los Angeles
Organic Geochemistry Division Chair	Elizabeth Canuel	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Organic Geochemistry Division Secretary	Josef Werne	University of Minnesota
Special Publications Editor	Scott Wood	University of Idaho
GCA Executive Editor	Frank Podosek	Washington University in St. Louis
<i>Geochemical News</i> Editor	To be determined	
Director	Victoria Bennett	Australian National University
Director	Simon Turner	Macquarie University
Director	David Wesolowski	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Director	Catherine Chauvel	University of Grenoble
Director	Derek Vance	University of Bristol
Director	Richard Walker	University of Maryland

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 OFFICERS

The Nominations Committee of the Geochemical Society is seeking potential nominees for the positions of vice-president and director (three) to begin on January 1, 2012. The potential nominees should have established reputations of leadership in geochemistry and be willing to devote considerable time and effort to the work of the Society. Suggestions may be communicated by **July 31, 2011**, to any member of the 2012 Nominations Committee or to the GS business office. More information regarding the duties and responsibilities of Board positions can be found on the Geochemical Society website.

Geochemical Society Business Office

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