

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2012

Jon Davidson becomes the Society President on January 1, 2012. Be sure to welcome him to his new role.

Medals

As usual, we will be looking for nominations for our medals and awards. Go to www.minersoc.org/pages/awards/awards.html to read about how to make nominations for the Schlumberger, Max Hey and Collins medals. It is now possible to use a nomination form, which should help to cut down on the paperwork required.

Geochemistry Group Meeting

Building a Habitable Planet: The Geochemistry of Earth, Oceans and Atmospheres, 15–16 March 2012, The Open University. Topics will include all aspects of geo- and cosmochemistry relevant to the formation and evolution of the Earth as a habitat for life. Registration fee: £30 (2 days); £20 (1 day). For further information, please go to the Geochemistry Group's web page: www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/groups/specialist/geochemistry/page10650.html.

Joint Meeting in Frankfurt

Go to <http://emc2012.uni-frankfurt.de/> to read more about our joint European Mineralogical Conference being held in September 2012. Early indications suggest that this meeting will be brimming with good science. Plan to attend now.

Field trip of the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group**MAGMATIC PROCESSES IN THE SHALLOW CRUST, ADAMELLO MASSIF, ITALY**

26 August–1 September 2012



A chance to explore the magmatic processes and products of the sub-volcanic feeder system and shallow level intrusions of Northern Italy. Cost: £350 – Students; £450 – Non-students, flights not included. Deposits of £100 payable by 31 April 2012. Leader: Jon Blundy. More information at www.vmsg.org.uk

BURSARY REPORT

Lucy Greenwood

The Mineralogical Society kindly awarded me a bursary to travel to Canmore (Alberta, Canada), for the 26th Himalaya-Karakoram-Tibet Workshop in July 2011. At this international conference I presented a talk on the significant new structural findings I have made in Bhutan, my field area in the Eastern Himalaya. Along with the experience of presenting my work to an international audience

in my field, I learned a huge amount from invaluable discussions with experts in this area. These included Prof. Djordje Grujic of Dalhousie University, Prof. Lincoln Hollister of Princeton University and Prof. Aaron Martin of the University of Maryland, who are world authorities on Himalayan tectonics. I was able to forge links that may be helpful when applying for positions after I have submitted my thesis.

The two-day conference was followed by a three-day field trip across the Rocky Mountains to the Coast Mountains, finishing in Vancouver. Experiencing this impressive region under the guidance of those who have worked in the area for decades was a great opportunity and allowed me to compare it to the Himalaya and broaden my understanding of large mountain chains.

I would like to thank the Mineralogical Society for their financial support. It allowed me to gain valuable knowledge and experience which I can take forward into the final year of my PhD and beyond.

Lucy Greenwood

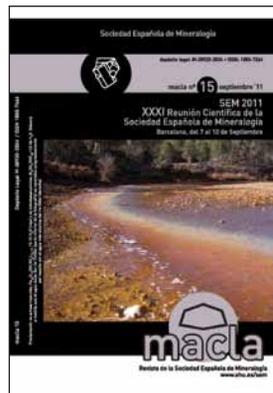
**Sociedad Española de Mineralogía**

www.ehu.es/sem

The 31st annual meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society (SEM) took place from September 7 to 10 in Barcelona. It was organized by the SEM in collaboration with the University of Barcelona, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, and the Spanish Research Council.

As in previous editions, the scientific sessions were multidisciplinary, covering hydrochemistry, fluid–rock interactions, atmospheric geochemistry, crystal growth, and mineral deposits. The increasing importance of the environmental and geochemical disciplines, already noted in previous meetings, was confirmed. There was a significant increase in contributions on fluid–mineral interactions, from atomic to field scale. New topics, such as geological CO₂ sequestration and the mineralogy and geochemistry of atmospheric particulates, were offered for the first time. A total of 96 contributions were presented, including 4 keynotes, 42 talks, and 54 posters. The keynotes were: “Geochemical Processes in a Subsoil of the Iberian Pyrite Belt,” by Ricardo Amils (Centre of Astrobiology, CSIC-INTA); “Global Tectonics and Chromite–Platinum Mineralization Monitoring

Genesis and Evolution of Ural–Alaskan Type Complexes,” by Giorgio Garuti (University of Leoben); “Road Dust – Sources, Properties and Abatement Strategies,” by Mats Gustafsson (Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute); and “Morphology of Gypsum Crystals,” by Juan-Manuel García Ruiz (Laboratory of Crystallographic Studies, CSIC–University of Granada). Extended abstracts of all contributions can be found in the 15th volume of *MACLA*, the journal of the SEM (www.ehu.es/sem/revista/REVISTA.HTM).



Prior to the scientific sessions, a seminar entitled “Nanoparticles in the Environment” was held. Six lectures were given: “Nanoparticles in the Environment: Where Are They?,” by Laurent Charlet (University of Grenoble); “Characterization of Inorganic Nanoparticles: Traditional Methods and New Tendencies,” by Victor Puntes (Catalonia Institute of Nanotechnology, Barcelona); “Large Facilities and the Structure of Nano-Sized Minerals,” by Gabriel Cuello (Institute Laue-Langevin, Grenoble); “Nanotoxicity: The Impact of Nanoparticles on Health,” by Antonietta Gatti (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia); “Nanoparticles in the Atmosphere,” by Xavier Querol (IDAEA-CSIC, Barcelona); and “Fate and Effects of Engineered Nanoparticles in Aquatic Systems,” by Renata Behra (Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology Dübendorf).

During the banquet, prizes for young researchers were awarded to Marta Navarro Rojas for her work “Zeolite Synthesis by the Laser Ablation Method” and Montgarri Castillo Oliver for her study “Use of Indicator Minerals in Diamond Exploration: A Comparison between Barren and Fertile Kimberlites in Angola.” Their studies were selected from among 32 proposals, indicating a high participation by young researchers, confirming the trend of recent SEM meetings.

A field trip to the Catalonia salt-mining district took place on September 10. Drs. Albert Soler, Neus Otero, and Fidel Ribera led the visit to a salt mine and the astonishing Cardona diapir outcrop. They gave details on the impacts of salt mining on the watersheds and buildings and provided information on remediation work.

Next year, the annual meeting of the Society will be held in Bilbao, in conjunction with the Spanish Society of Clays meeting.