



PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL



Samuel Mukasa

Two short years ago, when I assumed the responsibilities of president of the Geochemical Society, I set an ambitious agenda—counting on help from fellow members—designed to tackle a few old, persistent problems and also establish new initiatives. In my first message to Society members in the pages of this magazine, I set the following goals:

- Negotiate a favorable contract with Elsevier to continue 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 the participation of women 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 our conferences
- Nurture our associations with the American Geophysical Union (AGU), European Association of Geochemistry (EAG), and Geological Society of America (GSA) 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.

The report card is now due as I step aside and hand over the responsibilities to Rick Carlson, our next president. After eighteen months of negotiations, we succeeded in reaching agreement with Elsevier for continued publication of *GCA* jointly with the Meteoritical Society. These were not easy negotiations—and we did not get as lucrative a deal as we had enjoyed during the previous 19 years—but we will manage with the current 5-year contract as we watch the field of journal publishing evolve. I should like to acknowledge my fellow Joint Publications Committee members, and especially Frank Podosek for the heavy lifting he did during the negotiations.

In efforts to further internationalize and gender balance our Society governance and committee service, our soon-to-be president continued the efforts of other recent vice presidents to be inclusive and search far and wide for colleagues to appoint to award committees and committees responsible for nominations, conference programs, and so on. Today, the various committees of the Society are more diverse than they have ever been.

To grow geochemistry and highlight its importance in the developing world, I started an outreach committee with members from four continents (Africa, Asia, North America, and South America). The committee was charged with developing a lecture series and other programs, to be deployed by distinguished members of our Society during visits of several days to weeks at regional hubs that ideally have a large catchment area of national and private universities. In this effort, we subsequently joined forces with the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG) to create an expanded program with a joint financial support of twenty thousand euros per year. We have plans to seek additional funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation and private

foundations, and have also started discussions with the American Geophysical Union (AGU) about collaborative initiatives in the area of outreach. To help lead our fund-raising activities in a sustainable manner, I asked the Board of Directors to approve the formation of a Development Committee, now comprised of members from three continents and chaired by Sam Savin, current Geochemical Society treasurer. Our working relationships with sister organizations, such as AGU, EAG, and GSA, have been much improved to our mutual benefit.

The goal to establish a volunteer corps of mentors for PhD students and postdocs, focused especially on young, underrepresented minorities, did not gain much momentum because of the continued meager number of Society members falling in that category. Attracting more underrepresented minorities to our Society and increasing the number of women nominated for awards because of their contributions to geochemistry are worthy goals that we need to keep alive, and I pledge to help the next group of leaders, united in the common recognition that this is the right thing to do.

I take great pride in what we have accomplished together, and owe a debt of gratitude to the large cadre of colleagues who have sacrificed time and effort to serve the Society and to ensure success for most of the objectives outlined above. I hope that my involvement has helped to move the Society forward and that some of my initiatives will be long lasting and have a significant impact. In closing, it has been a privilege and an honor to serve the Geochemical Society as president and to work with an outstanding Board of Directors, profoundly dedicated and selfless committee volunteers, the general membership, and our incomparable business office manager, Seth Davis, at Washington University in St. Louis. For that I thank you all very much.

Samuel Mukasa (sam.mukasa@unh.edu)
University of New Hampshire

OBITUARIES

Michael J. Drake (1946–2011)

The Geochemical Society lost a great scientist and leader in Michael J. Drake, who passed away in Tucson on September 21, 2011. Michael engaged in research of great breadth, extending across disciplines that included meteoritics, geochemistry, and planetary sciences, and reaching across the inner Solar System (Earth, Moon, Mars, Venus, asteroid 4 Vesta, and other asteroid parent bodies).

He considered himself first and foremost a geochemist. He was president of the Geochemical Society (1998–1999) and the Meteoritical Society (1999–2000), and his service to these societies and the greater geochemical community was enormous. Read the full obituary at www.geochemsoc.org.

Kevin Righter and colleagues

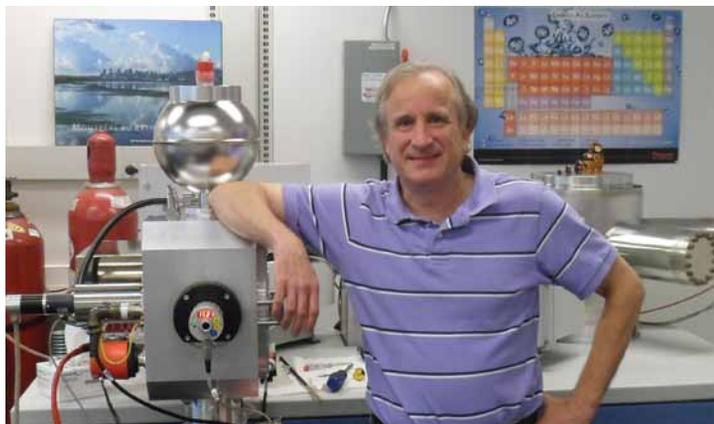
Ian S. E. Carmichael (1930–2011)

The indomitable Ian S. E. Carmichael, who made such a deep and lasting impression on so many of us with his highly imaginative research career and his legendary mentoring of graduate students, died in Berkeley on August 26, 2011. Ian applied thermodynamic theory, experiment, and the ground truth of fieldwork to the study of magmatic rocks. Throughout the arc of his career at the University of California at Berkeley, he played

a critical role in transforming igneous petrology from a discipline that was largely descriptive to one that is now rigorously quantitative, and in the process, he inspired multiple generations of students. Read the full obituary at www.geochemsoc.org.

Rebecca Lange

GOLDSCHMIDT 2012



I would like to invite geoscientists from around the world to the 22nd V. M. Goldschmidt Conference to be convened in Montréal, Canada, on June 24–29, 2012. Montréal is a beautiful and vibrant city. With numerous direct flights from American and overseas cities arriving daily at the newly renovated Trudeau International Airport, travel to Montréal has never been easier. Montréal is truly the gateway to Canada, with French and English influences joining in a melting pot of international culture, the hallmark of a great cosmopolitan city. Great shopping, delectable international cuisine, and a breathtaking variety of entertainment abound. The theme of the 22nd V. M. Goldschmidt Conference is “The Earth in Evolution.” Thus, the exciting science to be presented in the symposia and technical sessions will be complemented by thought-provoking plenary sessions related to the theme.

The Local Organizing Committee for the 22nd V. M. Goldschmidt Conference is making a special effort to provide an environmentally sustainable conference. In addition to using more recycled materials, we are also trying to produce less waste by planning new formats for conference programs and presentations. For example, for the first time, the conference program will be made available in a mobile (cell phone) application format, and a limited number of electronic poster formats will also be made available. See the 22nd V. M. Goldschmidt Conference website for details and deadlines (www.goldschmidt2012.org).

So bring your science, bring your family, bring your appetite, and bring your *joie de vivre* to Montréal in 2012!

Ross Stevenson, President, Local Organizing Committee
22nd V.M. Goldschmidt Conference

Geochemical Society Business Office

Seth Davis, Business Manager
Kathryn Hall, Administrative Assistant
Washington University in St. Louis
Earth and Planetary Sciences, CB 1169
One Brookings Drive
Saint Louis, MO 63130-4899, USA
E-mail: gsoffice@geochemsoc.org
Phone: 314-935-4131
Fax: 314-935-4121
Website: www.geochemsoc.org



The 22nd V.M. Goldschmidt Conference

Earth in Evolution

24-29 June 2012 | Montréal, Canada

Housing Reservation Opens: 15 August 2011

Call for Sessions: 12 September 2011

List of Sessions Finalized: 30 November 2011

Abstract Submission Opens: 1 December 2011

Abstract Submission Deadline: 1 February 2012

Online Registration Opens: 16 January 2012

Early-bird Registration Deadline: 20 April 2012

www.vmgoldschmidt.org

A conference of the **Geochemical Society** and
the **European Association of Geochemistry**,
hosted by **GEOTOP** and **UQAM**

