



Meteoritical Society

<http://meteoriticalsociety.org>



University of Greenwich, Maritime campus, from the Thames River. PHOTO: ROGER HEWINS

2011 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The 74th annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society was held in London, United Kingdom, on 8–12 August, 2011. The meeting took place on the campus of the University of Greenwich, on the grounds of the Old Royal Naval College. Over 520 abstracts were submitted by about 460 different authors, breaking the previous record set in New York for abstract submissions. In an effort to accommodate as many oral presentations as possible, a third parallel session was added for the entire meeting. There were 284 oral and 237 poster presentations assigned. The Tuesday poster session was cancelled due to social unrest in the surrounding areas, but the Thursday session was expanded to accommodate 90% of the posters from Tuesday.

There were 477 participants (members and nonmembers), of which 121 were students, and a further 71 registered guests for a total attendance of 548, making the London meeting the second-largest annual meeting in Society history. Thirty-eight students and seven professionals from low-income countries were awarded travel funds totaling about \$51,000.

The scientific program was rich and stimulating. It covered a wide range of topics, including the formation of the Solar System, space missions, asteroids (Itokawa and Vesta), impacts and shock processes, refractory inclusions, chondrules, carbonaceous chondrites, ordinary and enstatite chondrites, differentiated objects, isotopes, 3-D structures of meteorites, IDPs and micrometeorites, and organic matter. A session dedicated to the memory of Frank Stadermann covered all aspects of micro- to nanoanalysis techniques and results. There was also a session in memory of Betty Pierazzo on modeling and experiments related to impact processes.



The banquet was held in Painted Hall at the University of Greenwich. PHOTO: CARI CORRIGAN

The Barringer Invitational Lecture was held in the main hall of the Natural History Museum in South Kensington and was presented by Professor Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal and former president of the Royal Society. He spoke to a full crowd on the topic "From Big Bang to Biosphere."

The Wednesday afternoon excursion was a guided boat tour of London. The three-hour tour ran from the Thames Barrier to the east to St. Mary's church in Battersea to the west.

The abstract volume and program are available online at www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/metsoc2011/pdf/program.pdf.



Field Trip to the Scottish Highlands

Fifteen meteoriticists enjoyed a premeeting field trip to see the geology and scenery of the Scottish Highlands. The trip was led by Martin Lee (University of Glasgow) and John Cosgrove (Imperial College London), and included a spectacular visit to Fingal's Cave and the columnar basalts on the island of Staffa and stops on the islands of Iona, Mull, and Skye.

2011 SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The Society gives five major awards each year. For more information on individual awards see the the Society webpage. Nominations for the Leonard, Nier, and Barringer awards are due by January 15. The deadline for the Service Award and the Pellas-Ryder Award is January 31.



The LEONARD MEDAL, which is the Society's highest and oldest award, is given to individuals who have made outstanding original contributions to the science of meteoritics or closely allied fields. It is named for Frederick C. Leonard, who was a founder and first president of the Society. The 2010 winner is **François Robert**, of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, for his outstanding contributions to the study of meteorites, especially to our

understanding of the D/H ratios of interstellar organic molecules, lunar nitrogen isotope variations, and a host of other isotopic processes. The citation was given by Mark Thiemens.



The BARRINGER MEDAL AND AWARD, sponsored by the Barringer Crater Company and created in memory of D. Moreau Barringer Sr. and his son, D. Moreau Barringer Jr., is given for outstanding work in the field of impact cratering. This year, the Barringer Award is given to **Bruce Bohor** (now retired from the U.S. Geological Survey) for his fundamental contributions to impact crater studies, including his major role in the confirmation that the K-T

boundary layer had an impact origin. Through careful mineralogical and petrological work, Bruce and his colleagues were able to document that the K-T boundary layer is a global feature. The citation was given by Billy Glass.

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This year's winner of the **NIER PRIZE** for young scientists in the field of meteoritics is **Fred Ciesla** of the University of Chicago. Fred receives this award for his excellent work on the origin and evolution of solid material during the early stages of planetary-system development and star formation. His work uses constraints from cosmochemical investigations and considerations from the latest astrophysical observations. The citation was given by Dante Lauretta.



Richard Pugh is the winner of this year's **METEORITICAL SOCIETY SERVICE AWARD**. Dick receives this award for his excellent service toward increasing the education and public awareness of meteorites and the fireballs that produce them. Dick was also instrumental in establishing the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory at Portland State University and functions as its outreach coordinator. The citation was given by Alex Ruzicka.



The GORDON MCKAY AWARD, given for the best oral presentation by a student at the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society, is awarded to **Dennis Harries** of the Universität Bayreuth, Germany, for his talk entitled "Nanocrystalline P-Bearing Pentlandite and Chromium Nitrides from CM2 Chondrites Y-791198 and Y-793321." The award comes with a prize of US\$1000 and a certificate.

METEORITICAL SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK

The Meteoritical Society now has a page on Facebook! Please visit to find job announcements, meeting information, and up-to-date Society news. We can be found at www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Meteoritical-Society/132324490172621. Our Facebook page is maintained by Cari Corrigan (corrigan@si.edu). Suggestions and contributions are welcome!

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

- 2012 – Cairns, Australia, August 12–17

- 2013 – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, July 29–August 2

- 2014 – Casablanca, Morocco, September 7–14

- 2015 – Berkeley, California, USA, July 27–31

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

Please renew by March 31, 2012; after that date, a \$15 late fee will be assessed. You can renew online at <http://metsoc.meteoriticalsociety.net>.

Société Française
de Minéralogie
et de Cristallographie
www.sfmc-fr.org

SFMC STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

Julie Cosmidis and Estelle Couradeau, PhD students at the Institut de Minéralogie et de Physique des Milieux Condensés, Paris, received a grant from the Society to help them attend the international school



Minerals and Biosphere. The school was held in Campiglia Marittima (Italy), on 27–30 September 2011 in a former mining site now covered by pines and olive trees. It gathered about 20 European PhD students and postdocs in microbiology, mineralogy and geochemistry. The aim

was to highlight the diversity of scientific questions concerning both minerals and living organisms/organic matter and how these questions can be addressed. The school featured lectures on techniques for investigating microbe–mineral interfaces and that allow the preservation of living structures and provide micrometre-scale resolution or better. Fundamental topics, such as the selection by organics of the orientation of mineral growth, as well as applied topics, like the remediation of polluted soils by plants and fungi and the impact of mineral dust on human were presented.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Atalante 2012: "Nuclear Chemistry for Sustainable Fuel Cycles" – September 2012

The Atalante 2012 conference will take place in Montpellier (Le Corum), France, on 3–7 September 2012. Previous Atalante conferences were



held in Avignon (2000), Nimes (2004) and Montpellier (2008). Organized by the French Alternative Energy and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), these conferences provide an international forum for discussing advances in fuel cycles and waste management.

Increasingly, nuclear energy has to demonstrate that it can contribute safely and sustainably to growing energy needs. Today, the acceptance of nuclear energy is still closely associated with increased reactor safety, with our capability to reduce the lifetime of nuclear wastes and to manage them safely, and with better use of the natural resources. These goals cannot be achieved only by optimizing industrial processes through engineering studies; we must also increase our basic knowledge in actinide science. In this way, we will be able to build the future of nuclear energy using reliable and scientifically based results.

For its fourth edition, the organizers will focus the Atalante conference on the nuclear chemistry of fuel cycles and waste management. More than 150 oral contributions will be presented by the international nuclear chemistry community. A poster session will also be provided. Information can be obtained at www.atalante2012.org. Abstracts must be submitted before the end of February 2012. Registration is open and early booking rates will be available until the end of June 2012.

Serpentine Days – September 2012

After the success of Serpentine Days in Grenoble in 2007, a new edition, sponsored by the SFMC, will be held in September 2012. The conference will take place in Porquerolles, in the south of France. More details will be given in the next issue of *Elements*. You can also consult the SFMC website, www.sfmc-fr.org/.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: **M. Andreani, A. L. Auzende, A. Delacour**