



Association of Applied Geochemists

www.appliedgeochemists.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



In this message I expand on programs that the Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG) has developed to foster undergraduate and graduate student education in applied geochemistry. We now have three different financial mechanisms for helping students complete their research: the In-Kind Student Support, the ioStipend, and student support for travel to present research at scientific meetings.

The In-Kind Student Support is a new program that offers in-kind analytical support for bachelor's/master's/PhD students studying any aspect of the broad field of applied geochemistry. The students are vetted by the AAG Education Committee. Successful students are expected to contribute a short article to AAG's *EXPLORE* newsletter. Further information on this initiative is given in a companion article on this page and on AAG's website (www.appliedgeochemists.org).

The ioStipend is a grant in the form of analytical services and is available for bachelor's/master's/PhD students conducting exploration-related geochemical studies at a recognized educational institution. The grant is a partnership between ioGlobal (a geochemistry software and services company) and Acme Analytical Laboratories Ltd. Students or their teachers/advisors can apply for the grant by submitting an application to ioGlobal, who will vet the proposals. The grant is intended to promote the collection of high-quality baseline geochemical data for comparison with other data generated during the course of research, such as isotopic and partial-digestion analyses or data resulting from the analysis of nonstandard sample media. An additional goal is for students to gain broad training in fundamental geochemical principles across the geosciences. The ioStipend allows for approximately \$5000 (Australian dollars, Canadian dollars, or equivalent) of in-kind analytical work. Two awards are available each year, with application deadlines of 30 June and 31 December. Successful applicants are provided with three academic licenses for ioGAS, an exploratory data analysis software package available from ioGlobal, and they are expected to contribute a short article to *EXPLORE*. Further information and a link to the application form are provided on AAG's website.

Finally, AAG offers support in the form of travel money for a few students wishing to attend and present their research at our biennial International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS). The travel-award amount varies with venue and the number of student applicants. This program is funded by AAG's Distinguished Applied Geochemists Fund, and interested students should contact the AAG Symposium Committee chairman (David Cohen, d.cohen@unsw.edu.au). Now is the time for students to consider presenting at the upcoming 2013 IAGS in Rotorua, New Zealand (see announcement). As with the first two programs, selected students are expected to summarize their work in *EXPLORE* or AAG's journal, *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis (GEEA)*. Information and links are available on AAG's website.

AAG offers two additional incentives to students of applied geochemistry. First, AAG offers reduced membership rates to students. For a bargain price of \$10 per year, the student receives *GEEA*, *Elements* magazine, and *EXPLORE* newsletter. Second, AAG and SGS offer a biennial prize for the best student paper published in *GEEA*. The prize consists of CAN\$1000 (donated by SGS Minerals Services), a two-year AAG membership (including *GEEA*, *Elements*, and *EXPLORE*), and US\$500 towards expenses incurred attending the AAG-sponsored meeting where the award is presented, typically the IAGS venue.

With these financial incentives, AAG hopes to promote research in applied geochemistry, student participation at IAGS, and society membership among the young, upcoming geochemists who will be tomorrow's leaders in applied geochemistry. The companies involved are collectively thanked for their contributions to these efforts.

Bob Eppinger (eppinger@usgs.gov)
U.S. Geological Survey, AAG President

NEWS FROM AAG COMMITTEES

Education Committee

In 2011, the AAG began implementing a coordinated program with analytical laboratories to provide in-kind student support for applied geochemical research projects. We are off to an exciting start and expect to see a paper in AAG's newsletter, *EXPLORE*, in the near future regarding the results from the first student to participate in the program (Ms Xin Du from the University of Western Australia). We want to express our appreciation to Genalysis/Intertek Laboratory Services for supporting her research in this manner.

As an investment in the future, the AAG wishes to encourage and support students whose area of study is applied geochemistry. AAG believes that by identifying appropriate students, using a set of simple criteria, and coordinating with analytical laboratories willing to offer in-kind support in terms of geochemical analyses, high-quality research and training in fundamental geochemical principles can result.

AAG committee and Council members have contacted over 19 universities directly in an attempt to increase student participation. If you have contacts in the universities in your area, please ensure that they are aware of this student support and direct them to the AAG website for additional details and application materials.

Four laboratories have generously signed on to provide in-kind student support, committing over US\$35,000-worth of analyses:

- Becquerel Laboratories Inc, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
- ALS Laboratory, North Vancouver, BC, Canada
- Genalysis/Intertek, Gosnells, Western Australia
- Ultratrac/Bureau Veritas, Canning Vale, Western Australia

If your laboratory or student is interested in being a part of this program, please contact me and I will provide you with details. Student applications and instructions may also be found on the AAG website's student page under the In-Kind Student Support link.

Erick Weiland (Erick_Weiland@fmi.com)
AAG Education Committee Chair

RECENT ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN *EXPLORE*

EMILY C. WILD (2012) ONLINE ACCESS TO GEOSCIENCE BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATIONS. *EXPLORE* 155 (JUNE 2012)

Online geoscience bibliographic citations and access points to citations are increasing exponentially as commercial, nonprofit, and government agencies worldwide publish materials electronically. Online bibliographic tools capture cited works, and open access content allows for freely obtained citations and documents. Several subscription databases, including GeoScienceWorld, GeoRef, and ScienceDirect, offer limited access to their citations, with subscriptions required to obtain the full-text content from numerous geoscience journals. As more geospatial data become available online, publications are being georeferenced to provide the ability to seek geographically based citations from sources such as Geofacets. Cost-free options for finding geoscience citations are also increasing. The Directory of Geoscience Organizations of the



World is a website that lists each country's geoscience agency website, where bibliographic databases are commonly available for searching. Other freely available search options include the online GoogleScholar and the free downloadable Publish or Perish. The latter provides additional citation metrics, such as usage statistics on authors and journals, and automatically links the user to GoogleScholar indexes. Open access materials (free full-text documents) are available from several sources worldwide, including Geoscience e-Journals and the Open-Access Journals/Series. Finally, bibliographic software such as EndNote and RefWorks is available for many who are affiliated with commercial, academic, or government research libraries, while free bibliographic software packages include Zotero and Mendeley.

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AAG – SGS

2012 Student Paper Prize

The AAG will be selecting the best paper published in *GEEA* over the period 2011-2012, in which a student is the lead author. The winner will receive \$1000 from SGS Mineral Services and two years of membership in the AAG.

Competition rules are on the AAG website under the Students tab.

START OF THE NTH GRADUATE SCHOOL GEOFLUXES



The graduate school GEOFluxes of the Niedersachsen Institutes of Technology (NTH) officially started on 10 April 2012 with an opening ceremony in Hannover, Germany, in the presence of Prof. J. Wanka, secretary of science and culture of the German state of Lower Saxony. Keynote addresses were given by Prof. F. von Blanckenburg (German Research Center for Geosciences, GFZ, Potsdam) and Prof. H.-J. Kümpel (president of the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, BGR, Hannover). NTH is an association of three universities located in northern Germany: Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technische Universität Clausthal, and Leibniz Universität Hannover.

The graduate school GEOFluxes explores the role of fluid exchange in Earth and environmental systems, with particular attention to the formation and evolution of soils and metals as georesources, and is devoted to promoting NTH research in the geosciences. GEOFluxes benefits from expertise at NTH and the BGR Hannover. The research and teaching will focus on the formation and evolution of georesources, and the approach is best suited to complement well-established applied research in the geosciences and to develop a transformative research direction, from fundamental to applied geosciences. GEOFluxes merges traditional disciplines in the Earth sciences and associates abiotic processes occurring at depth (metal deposits, active faults) with biogeochemical and physical processes occurring in the critical zones of the Earth (for example, organic material and metal transfer in soils). The graduate school focuses on the critical zones located close to the Earth's surface, where anthropogenic and global changes will have particular socioeconomic consequences in the future.

The graduate school includes a well-structured credit points system, which focuses on the education of the students by integrating approaches from different scientific fields. Several scientific workshops, lectures, and field trips covering a wide range of disciplines, such as soil biogeochemistry, the formation of metal deposits, and the use of geochemical and microspectroscopic methods, are offered to the graduate students. In addition to the teaching and research programs focusing on georesources, particular attention is given to the acquisition of "soft" skills that favor contacts with industrial partners and/or scientific partners for academic careers.

The interdisciplinary teaching of graduate students in the field of resource-oriented fluid flow and transport processes is of high priority for Lower Saxony. Currently, sixteen doctoral students are participating in the graduate school and half the projects are supported financially by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony. Other doctoral students are either employed at the BGR or supported by German Science Foundation (DFG) projects at NTH.

Adrian Fiege and **André Stechern**

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Visit our homepage for news and details: www.nth-geofluxes.de