



Geochemical Society

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Diversity



Richard Carlson

One of the goals of my predecessor, Sam Mukasa, was to increase the diversity of the Geochemical Society (GS), in topical coverage, in gender, and in regional distribution of the membership. As I support this goal 100%, I have tried in my nearly two years as president to make some changes to address this issue. I can report some notable successes, but also some glaring failures in my attempts to increase the diversity of the GS. Of the 59 members of the 10 volunteer committees serving various society tasks, 32 are

male, 27 female, 30 from North America, 17 from Europe, and 12 from countries outside North America and Europe. The regional distribution of committee membership thus reasonably well matches the regional distribution of the GS membership. Of the 91 members of the rebuilt Board of Associate Editors for the GS's journal, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 77 are male, 14 are female, 46 are employed in North America, 30 in Europe, and 15 are from outside North America and Europe. In this case, the regional distribution is appropriate for the GS, but there is a gender imbalance that Executive Editor Marc Norman and the Joint Publication Committee are aware of and are actively trying to correct. In both *GCA* and GS committees, the range of topical coverage is broad and covers a reasonable fraction of the many subjects that can be addressed by geochemical approaches. The leadership of the GS shows poor gender diversity (12 male, 4 female) and particularly poor regional diversity (11 from North America, 4 from Europe, and one from Australia). However, there is some good news to report on this front. First, the next president of the GS will be Barbara Sherwood Lollar, only the third woman in GS history to serve in this role. Bylaw changes have ensured that the upcoming election will elect a regionally diverse group of directors, including the requirement that the next vice president will not be from the same region as the current vice president. This will result in a non-North American GS president for only the second time in the history of the Society.

While more can and will be done to diversify the GS leadership, the area where our record is poorest is in Society awards. The Patterson Award has been won only by men from Europe or North America. The Treibs Award has been presented to only one woman, with the remainder of the awards given to males from Europe or North America. With only a marginally better record, the Goldschmidt Award has been won by only one woman and only 4 men from outside North America or Europe. The Clarke Award has a slightly better record, but still nothing to brag about: 35 males, 6 females, 33 North Americans, 6 Europeans, and 2 from outside North America and Europe. As bad as this record of diversity in GS awards is, comparison with other geoscience societies shows clearly that the GS is not the only one with this problem. See, for example, the data reported by Sam Mukasa in his Triple Point column in the April 2009 issue of *Elements*.

My attempt to correct the lack of diversity in awards includes formation of the Awards Nomination Committee, whose sole task is to reach out to the community to identify and solicit nominations for worthy award candidates. Increasing diversity in the awards is one of the committee's explicit charges, and through a lot of hard work, they are beginning to make a difference by increasing the diversity of the nominations considered by the various award committees. Ultimately, however, the task of correcting the lack of diversity in GS awards lies with the membership. The award committees cannot select award winners who are not nominated. Nominations are the responsibility, duty, and privilege

of the GS membership. If you consider diversity an important issue and you know of someone who you believe has been passed over for an award they deserve, make a difference: submit a nomination for that person. With your assistance, we hopefully will be able to reach a state where all aspects of the Geochemical Society well match the diversity of its membership.

Richard Carlson, GS President

2013 MEETING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SPONSORSHIPS



Participants to EnvironMetal Isotopes 2013

The Geochemical Society annually provides a limited number of sponsorships of up to US\$2000 each for geochemistry sessions/symposia at any scientific conference of geochemical relevance.

Three conferences were selected this year:

- Gordon Research Seminar and Conference on the Interior of the Earth
- EnvironMetal Isotopes 2013
- Isotopes 2013 – Isotope Effects across Disciplines

For meeting reports on these conferences as well as information about the Meeting Assistance Program please visit: www.geochemsoc.org/programs/meetingassistanceprogram.



GS AT GSA-DENVER



Dr. Rebecca Lange (University of Michigan) will deliver the **2013 F. Earl Ingerson Lecture**. Her talk, "The origin of highly evolved, voluminous rhyolites by progressive, multiple episodes of partial melting: The resolution of some paradoxes," will be presented on Sunday, 27 October 2013 at 9:20 am in CCC Room 205. The Geochemical Society will again be sponsoring a ticketed reception with

MSA and the GSA-MGPV Division, as well as welcoming attendees to our exhibit booth (Booth 1107).

GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY CONTRIBUTIONS

Many members contribute to the Geochemical Society each year, often by including a donation with their dues. Thank you for your contributions! Everything we do at the Geochemical Society is made possible through the generosity of our members, volunteers, and contributors.

If you would like to contribute to the Geochemical Society, please log in to your account on our website and select "donate," or contact the business office at gsoffice@geochemsoc.org.

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Please consider making a donation with your membership. Donations are tax deductible where applicable. Remember to indicate how you would like your donation to be used. And finally, word of mouth is a valuable part of our membership growth. If you know of a peer or student who isn't a member, please encourage them to join.