



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A Final Corner



Rick Carlson

This will be my last President's Corner because the presidency of the Geochemical Society (GS) will soon pass into the capable hands of Barbara Sherwood Lollar. My goal as GS president was to carry on the positive path set by my recent predecessors, Sam Mukasa and Marty Goldhaber, to enhance the ability of the GS to advance and support the field of geochemistry internationally. F. Earl Ingerson founded the GS in 1955 to represent the international geochemistry community. He went on to help establish the International Association of

Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry in 1966, in part because of his opinion that the GS was too US-centric, a complaint that unfortunately still has some truth to it. At least for the leadership of the GS, however, changes instituted under my watch will require the membership of the GS Board to better reflect the regional membership of the Society and will put a stop to the perpetual election of presidents from only North America. In 2012, the GS introduced its International Participation Program, one component of which provides free two-year memberships to students from countries underrepresented in the GS. This program was enabled by donations from members, for which we are very grateful, along with a contribution from the GS. With the continued support of the membership, we hope to be able to provide at least 100 such memberships each year. The GS also partnered with the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG) to sponsor an African lecture tour by Bernhard Wehrli (ETH Zürich), who did a marvelous job presenting talks on both practical and curiosity-based geochemistry in five African countries (see his report on the EAG page).

In early 2012, the GS Development Committee conducted a survey that asked the membership what they most wanted from the GS. Two answers stood out: publications and conferences. On the conference front, the GS worked closely with EAG to professionalize the organization of the Goldschmidt Conference in order to decrease costs to attendees, streamline the abstract submission and registration process, increase the range of geochemistry topics covered, and take the burden of organizing a conference with more than 3000 attendees from local organizing committees. The remarkable yearly growth in Goldschmidt attendance suggests the effort is working.

On the publication front, a good deal of effort was expended by Ed Scott, president of the Meteoritical Society, the Joint Publication Committee, and myself in smoothing a difficult transition in the position of executive editor of *GCA* and helping the new editor, Marc Norman, to refresh the Associate Editor Board. *GCA* is now once again functioning with the efficiency and review quality that characterized it under previous executive editors and led it to be among the top-cited journals in the field. In other publication-related actions, the Publication Advisory Committee was established to evaluate the state of current GS publications and recommend possible paths forward when the *GCA* contract comes up for renewal in 2015. *Geochemical News* was transformed from a quarterly web-only publication to an open-access e-mail newsletter currently sent weekly to over 7000 recipients. *Geochemical News* provides the community with a means for rapid publication of the latest news, such as society announcements; advertisements for recent publications, meetings, and job openings; and stories of geochemistry in the news.

One last goal was to establish smoother working relationships with other societies that support geochemistry. This is a tricky task. All recognize that some activities, such as running conferences the size of the Goldschmidt and putting together an economically viable journal, benefit from increasing the number of participants. On the other hand, no society can give away activities that create the income necessary for the society to function. Led by current EAG President Chris Ballentine, the GS and EAG are working towards an agreement that will establish a clear working relationship for Goldschmidt Conference organization. A similar agreement involving the GS, the EAG, and the Geochemical Society of Japan, where all will work in support of geochemistry, likely will have been signed by the time you read this. The GS has strengthened its interaction with the Geological Society of America and the American Geophysical Union, with the goal of expanding the presence of geochemistry in the meetings and publications of these geoscience organizations. Although I did not make as much progress on this goal as I would have liked, I look forward to realizing a design outlined by Sam Mukasa whereby all geochemically oriented professional organizations will work together in a way that will simultaneously strengthen activities that require a critical mass and activities that require the local focus of a small group.

Writing about these developments as though I had much to do with them clearly ignores the fact that the GS functions through the contributions of many. The 16 members of the GS Board, 79 members of 14 GS committees, and 91 members of the *GCA* Associate Editor Board are all volunteers. Well, ok, some had to have their arms twisted a bit to take on these roles, but they all put in an amazing level of service for no other reason than to work for the good of the Society. Without question, the GS would cease to function without the efforts of its chief operating officer, Seth Davis. By the time I complete the GS presidency, my e-mail inbox will contain about 2000 e-mails from Seth, and I'm only one of the 4000-plus GS members who rely on Seth for information. Seth is housed in the Department of Earth and Planetary Science of Washington University, St. Louis, which was given many reasons for wishing the Geochemical Society offices would move elsewhere. Instead, the department chair at the time, Doug Wiens, chose to continue to support our Society by donating the office space needed to run the organization. I feel very privileged and honored to have been able to work with this group of people who were willing to invest large amounts of their time purely for the benefit of the geochemical community.

Rick Carlson (rcarlson@ciw.edu)
GS President

INTRODUCTORY STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

The Geochemical Society has a member-funded program to provide a limited number of free two-year membership to students residing in countries that are under-represented. Please help us spread the word to qualifying students that this program is available. For more information visit:

www.geochemsoc.org/ism

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

What we do at GS day after day to deliver on our mission to impact the direction of geochemistry at a global level is only possible through the Herculean efforts of our volunteers. Thank you! The following volunteers completed terms at the end of December 2013; an asterisk denotes a committee chair. Visit www.geochemsoc.org/society/committeesandpersonnel/ for full committee rosters.

2013 Board of Directors

Past-President, Sam Mukasa (University of New Hampshire, USA)
 Secretary, Edwin Schauble (University of California–Los Angeles, USA)
 OGD Chair, Stuart Wakeham
 (Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, USA)
 Director, Catherine Chauvel (University of Grenoble, France)
 Director, Derek Vance (ETH Zürich, Switzerland)

2013 Joint Publication Committee

Munir Humayun* (Florida State University, USA)
 Miryam Bar-Matthews (Geological Survey of Israel, Israel)
 Jeffrey Grossman (NASA, USA)

2013 Nominations Committee

Karen Hudson-Edwards* (University of London, UK)
 Takeshi Kakegawa (Tohoku University, Japan)

2013 OGD Executive Committee Members

Past-President, Elizabeth Canuel
 (Virginia Institute of Marine Science, USA)
 Member-at-Large, Silvio Pantoja
 (Universidad de Concepción–Chile, Chile)

2013 Geochemical News Editors

Shuhei Ono (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA)
 Martin Elsner (Helmholtz Zentrum München, Germany)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

If you have not done so already, please take a moment to renew your membership in the Geochemical Society. Members joining by 31 January 2014 will benefit from a US\$5 discount (member rates with the discount are \$30 professional, \$10 student, and \$15 senior). You may renew online or download a membership form from our website, www.geochemsoc.org/join. Please consider making a donation with your membership payment. 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.

GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS OFFICE

Seth Davis, Chief Operating Officer
 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
 Facebook: www.facebook.org/geochemsoc
 Geochemical News: www.multibriefs.com/briefs/gs/



goldschmidt
 California 2014

Sacramento, California

8 – 13 June 2014

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Abstract Deadline
1 February 2014