

## SPECIAL SESSION IN HONOR OF DANA MEDALIST THOMAS ARMBRUSTER

The Dana Medal is awarded by the Mineralogical Society of America in recognition of contributions through original research by a mineralogist "in the midst of their career," that is, within 25 years of receiving the PhD degree. Thomas Armbruster was honored for his crystallographic studies in mineral groups as diverse as epidotes, zeolites, and triplite-wagnerite. The medal was formally presented to Thomas (SEE PHOTO) at an award ceremony on July 16, 2008, during the 18<sup>th</sup> V.M. Goldschmidt Conference in Vancouver, Canada. A fuller citation by Martin Kunz and an acceptance speech by Thomas were given on July 18 during the oral portion of the session "Crystallography of Petrologically Significant Minerals: Symposium in Honor of Thomas Armbruster," which we organized to accompany the award ceremony.

In reviewing Thomas Armbruster's accomplishments, Martin Kunz emphasized his scientific productivity as well as the diversity of minerals on which Thomas has become the leading authority. Thomas is the first mineralogist from outside the U.S. to receive the Dana Medal since it was first awarded in 2001. During his acceptance speech, Thomas entertained the audience with his excellent storytelling skills, while thanking those who made the occasion possible.

Thomas devoted his scientific presentation for the medal to the triplite-wagnerite group, which comprises phosphates with the general formula  $(\text{Mn,Fe,Mg})_2[\text{PO}_4](\text{F,OH})$ . Thomas was the first to recognize that there is more than one polytype of wagnerite, and his systematic studies with Christian Chopin, Edward Grew, and Alain Baronnet led to the realization that the triplite-wagnerite group constitutes a modulated series.

The session comprised 9 poster presentations on July 17 and 13 oral presentations on July 18, including Thomas's medal talk. Participants covered topics as broad as Thomas's own interests. Frank Hawthorne gave the keynote address, which considered the important role played by local charge balance in constraining variations in amphibole compositions. Joel Brugger began the session with an invited talk describing how he successfully reproduced replacement of pentlandite by



Presentation of the Dana Medal to Thomas Armbruster at the Goldschmidt Conference, July 16, 2008. MSA President Peter Heaney and Citationist Martin Kunz are on Thomas Armbruster's right and left, respectively. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF BARB DUTROW

violarite in the laboratory, a process involving dissolution and reprecipitation. Darrell Henry gave the second invited talk, which was on variations in metapelitic mineral composition with metamorphic grade. The subjects of volunteered talks on crystal chemistry ranged from beryllium silicates (Joel Grice) and the borosilicate holtite (Lee Groat) to the fillowite group of phosphates (Frédéric Hatert). Talks with petrological themes concerned the occurrence of the recently discovered phosphate chopinite in a meteorite (Edward Grew) and mushroom garnet from high-pressure rocks in the Alps (Bastien Darbellay). Experimental and theoretical themes (Guy Hovis, Nancy Ross, Anke Watenphul, Giuseppe Cruciani) rounded out the oral presentations. Poster presentations also covered crystal chemistry (tourmaline, by E. Tillmanns; Ba-mica, by Callum Hetherington; bournemanite, by F. Cámara; unnamed arsenate, by U. Kolitsch), as well as quartz deformation (Martin Kunz), crystal growth (Peter Heaney), and Te-Sb-W mineralization (Stuart Mills).

**Edward Grew** (University of Maine) and  
**Lee Groat** (University of British Columbia)

## GEOCHEMISTRY OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE 8

The Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface 8 (GES8) meeting was held at the Natural History Museum, London, from 18 to 22 August 2008. The meeting was funded by the Mineralogical Society, the International Association of Geochemistry and the Natural History Museum, with additional support from the European Association for Geochemistry, the Diamond Light Source and the following special interest groups of the Mineralogical Society: Environmental Mineralogy Group, Applied Mineralogy Group, Geochemistry Group and Mineral Physics Group.

About 150 mineralogists and geochemists attended the meeting, which featured 25 lectures from invited speakers as well as poster presentations. Sessions at the meeting were: Mineral Weathering; Synchrotrons in Environmental Science; Biomineralisation; Global Geochemical Cycles; and Contaminated Environments, Toxicology and Human Health. In addition Professor Julian Gale from Curtin University of Technology gave the Hallimond Lecture on controls on the mineralisation of barite and calcite. A feature of many of the lectures was the mention of the vital importance of the role of biological processes in natural geochemical and mineralogical phenomena.



The format of the meeting provided much time for animated discussion around the posters. This gave delegates a greater opportunity to discuss science than is often the case at larger meetings.

The conference dinner took the form of a cruise down the river Thames from central London to beyond the Thames barrier. During the dinner the Mineralogical Society's Max Hey Medal was awarded to Dr. Diego Gatta and the Schlumberger Medal to Professor David Rubie.

For those of you who missed the conference, extended, four-page abstracts of the majority of the presentations are available as a special issue of *Mineralogical Magazine*, which is freely available on the Internet at [www.ingentaconnect.com/content/minsoc/mag/2008/00000072/00000001](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/minsoc/mag/2008/00000072/00000001). Many of the invited presentations are available for viewing on the Mineralogical Society's website at [www.minersoc.org/GES8.htm](http://www.minersoc.org/GES8.htm).

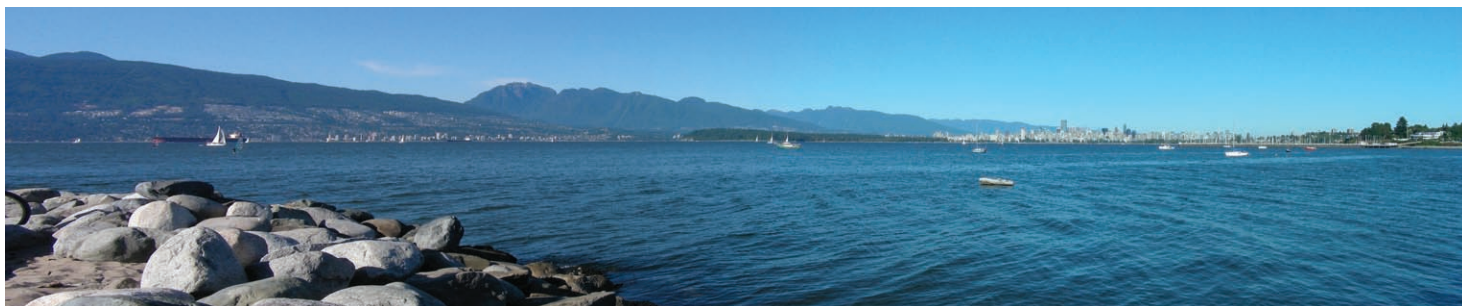
I would like to thank the sponsors of the meeting and the staff of the MinSoc (Kevin Murphy, Russell Rajendra, Martin Hughes and David Mole) for helping to make the meeting such a great success.

**Mark Hodson**  
(University of Reading)



## GOLDSCHMIDT 2008

Goldschmidt2008

from SEA  
to SKY

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual V.M. Goldschmidt Conference** took place at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada, on July 13–18, 2008. It was the first Goldschmidt Conference held in Canada and the largest ever in North America. More than 2000 participants from 47 countries made the trip to Vancouver. Student participation was impressive: 488 students represented nearly one-quarter of the total number of participants.

The International Program Committee (chairs: R. Carlson, B. Sherwood-Lollar, D. Weis) crafted a stimulating scientific program covering a breadth of research interests from “Sea to Sky.” The meeting comprised 120 symposia, 1211 oral presentations in 15 concurrent sessions, and 991 posters.

Award ceremonies were distributed over three days, just after the plenary lectures, and included the presentation of the Goldschmidt Medal to Francis Albarède, the Dana Medal to Thomas Armbruster, and the Shackleton Medal to Larry Edwards.



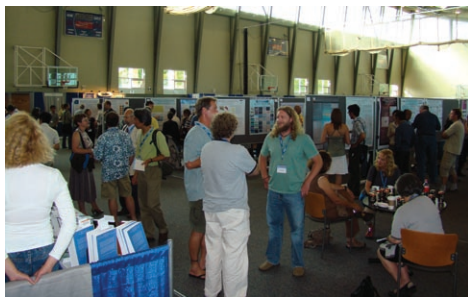
Goldschmidt Medal winner Francis Albarède (center) with Marty Goldhaber (left) and Marc Chaussidon

The conference began with a well-attended welcoming party under the tent and on the surrounding lawn of MacInnes Field. Discussions were lively as participants were happy to see their friends and colleagues.

On Wednesday evening, the conference barbecue was held behind the Museum of Anthropology. In this magical setting, a capacity crowd of 1200 people, including many students, enjoyed barbecued salmon. The Paperboys, a local folk music group, per-



The Museum of Anthropology provided a stunning backdrop for the conference BBQ.



Beer attracted good attendance to the Students Recreation Center during the poster sessions



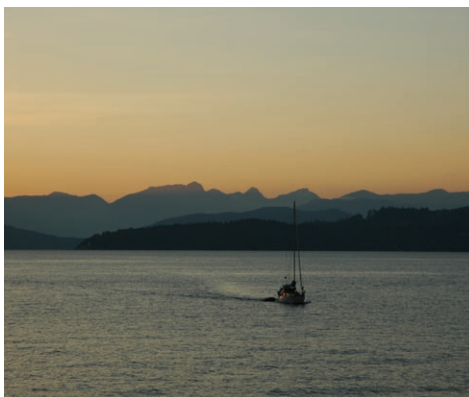
Participants enjoying the refreshments at the opening reception



Student helpers gearing up for on-site registration

formed in the later part of the evening and closed the night on a cheerful note. Friday evening featured a well-attended dinner cruise (Harbour Cruises) in the beautiful Vancouver Harbour and surrounding waters.

The organizers of Goldschmidt2008 wanted to encourage student involvement. The student travel-support program had a total of about CDN\$80,000 generously contributed by the National Science Foundation, the Geochemical Society, the conference itself, the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the European Association for Geochemistry, the European Science Foundation, and the Geochemical Society of Japan. The program was very effective and provided a great incentive for students. Out of about 130 applications, 70 students and 10 low-income-country researchers from 20 nations were selected.



Sunset over Georgia Strait



Forty-six student helpers from the universities of British Columbia, Simon Fraser, and Victoria, as well as from the University of Porto and ENS Lyon, did a fine job ensuring that all oral presentations ran smoothly. At the end of the conference, the 20 Mac computers purchased for the meeting were given away to these students in a draw.



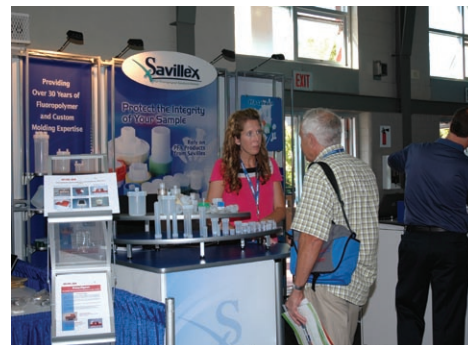
Rising excitement and noise during the computer draw

Participants benefitted from three professional-development workshops held on the free Wednesday afternoon and from a number of short courses. Five field trips to various interesting nearby geological locations were also held before and after the conference.



"Wrangellia Flood Basalt" field-trip participants at Myra Falls on Vancouver Island

Ecological, social, and economic factors entered strongly into the planning and execution of the conference. All conference and delegate items were made of recycled (notepads, pens, bags, lanyards, beverage cups, etc.), recyclable (program volume), or eco-friendly (USB drive) materials. They were designed to be reusable for other purposes, and as much as possible were locally produced.



Delegates interacting with exhibitors

The conference benefited from the sponsorship of four analytical companies (Nu Instruments, Thermo Fisher Scientific, IsotopX, and Savillex) and from the participation of 29 exhibitors (22 commercial and 7 scientific societies).

For a full report on Goldschmidt2008, check out *Geochemical News* online at [www.Geochemsoc.org](http://www.Geochemsoc.org)

**Dominique Weis** and **Diane Hanano**  
on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee  
and Cambridge Publications

**Thermo**  
SCIENTIFIC

*nu instruments*

**Savillex**  
Your Pharmaceutical Solutions Partner

**IsotopX**



## CARLETON UNIVERSITY

### DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Applications are invited for a **tenure-track appointment in the field of mineralogy** at the rank of Assistant Professor, commencing July 1, 2009. This position is subject to budgetary approval.

Candidates should have a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences, demonstrable expertise and experience in the field of mineralogy, and demonstrated excellence in teaching. We are especially interested in candidates with field-oriented research programs. The successful candidate will be expected to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses to a culturally diverse student body, to develop an externally funded research program, and to contribute effectively to academic life in the department. Proficiency in English is a requirement.

The Department's historical strength lies in offering a field-based comprehensive education. At the undergraduate level this includes B.Sc. programs (Honours, Major and General) in Earth Sciences and in Computational Geophysics (Honours), as well as a Concentration in Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoecology (Honours). Other programs include Combined Honours with Biology, Chemistry or Physical Geography. At the graduate level, we offer M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs, and, together with Earth Sciences at the University of Ottawa, we form the core of the Ottawa-Carleton Geoscience Centre (OCGC), a research and graduate institution. Available research facilities include stable and radiogenic isotope laboratories, XRF, XRD, a SEM – electron microprobe laboratory, and ICP-OES, as well as fluid inclusion, cathodoluminescence, and fluorescence microscopy. Further information on the Department can be obtained from the Web site, [www.earthsci.carleton.ca](http://www.earthsci.carleton.ca).

Carleton University is located on a beautiful campus in the central portion of Ottawa, bounded by the Rideau River on one side, and the Rideau Canal on the other. Its prime location -- minutes from downtown, an international airport, and the Gatineau Hills -- enhances quality of life, and allows for

recreational opportunities for individuals and families. The City of Ottawa is Canada's capital and reflects the country's bilingual and multicultural character. Carleton's location in the capital also provides many opportunities for research with groups and institutions that focus on earth sciences, notably the Geological Survey of Canada, part of Natural Resources Canada. The Department of Earth Sciences benefits from collaborative research opportunities with federal government agencies and scientists. More information on the University and the city of Ottawa can be obtained at the Faculty Recruitment and Support Web site [www.carleton.ca/facultyrecruitment](http://www.carleton.ca/facultyrecruitment).

Carleton University is strongly committed to fostering diversity within its community as a source of excellence, cultural enrichment and social strength. We welcome those who would contribute to the further diversification of our faculty and its scholarship, including but not limited to women, visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Applicants are to include a curriculum vitae, a cover letter, a teaching dossier, a statement of teaching and research interests, and the names and addresses (including e-mail addresses) of three referees. Applications should be sent to:

Dr. John Blenkinsop, Chair, Department of Earth Sciences  
Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa  
Ontario, K1S 5B6, Canada  
Fax: 1.613.520.5613  
Email: [chair@earthsci.carleton.ca](mailto:chair@earthsci.carleton.ca)

The closing date for receipt of applications is **January 12, 2009**.