

THIS ISSUE

The year 2014 started with a bang in the asteroid world: on the night of January 1, Richard Kowalski—discoverer of asteroid 2008 TC₃, the first asteroid to have been observed before entering Earth's atmosphere (see page 31)—saw a small streak of light moving quickly against the background stars. Over the next hour or so, he imaged that streak a total of 7 times and reported the positions of the asteroid to the Minor Planet Center. This new asteroid (1–3 m across) was designated 2014 AA, the first asteroid discovered in 2014. It was a near-Earth object, and only the second asteroid to be detected before hitting the Earth (<http://minorplanetcenter.net/blog>).

Coincidentally, our first issue of 2014 deals with asteroids and highlights this very exciting field of space exploration. Much of the information related in this issue is mind boggling and reads almost like science fiction, but it is real frontier science. Take, for example, the Hayabusa spacecraft: it traveled 300 million kilometers to a target less than one kilometer across. It brought back the very first sample of an asteroid—estimated at 100 to several hundred micrograms. Many of these tiny particles have been scrutinized and analyzed—and with the wide range of data acquired, special issues of journals have been published and many papers written speculating on what these tiny samples tell us. You can read more about this engineering feat on the JAXA website (http://www.jaxa.jp/projects/sat/muses_c/index_e.html).

WELCOMING GORDON BROWN



With 2014, Gordon E. Brown Jr. starts his term of office as principal editor for 2014–2016. Gordon is the Dorrell William Kirby Professor of Earth Sciences and chair of the Department of Geological & Environmental Sciences at Stanford University. He received his BS (1965) in chemistry and geology from Millsaps College (Mississippi) and his MS (1968) and PhD (1970) in mineralogy and crystallography from Virginia Tech. He has served as president of the

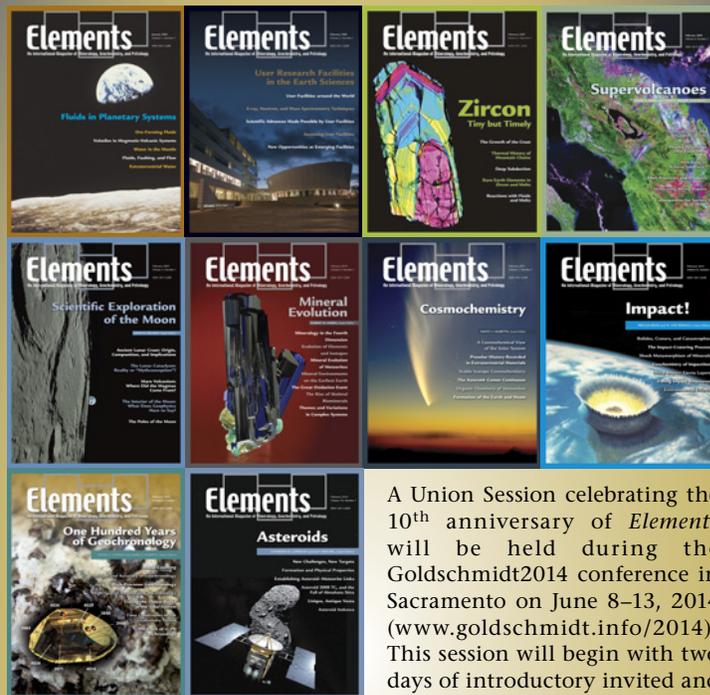
Mineralogical Society of America (1995–1996) and is a fellow of the MSA (1975), the Geological Society of America (1997), the Geochemical Society/European Association of Geochemistry (1999), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2000). He has also received the Mineralogical Association of Canada's Hawley Medal (2007), the Mineralogical Society of America's Roebling Medal (2007), the Geochemical Society's Patterson Medal (2007), and the American Geosciences Institute Medal in Memory of Ian Campbell (2012).

His research over the past several decades has focused on mineral-aqueous solution interface processes, the nanogeosciences, and related societal issues. He was one of the first Earth scientists to use synchrotron light sources to address a variety of problems in high- and low-temperature geochemistry and environmental mineralogy and has helped popularize their use since the mid-1970s. His public service is reflected by the positions he has held and the more than 30 committees in which he has participated at various levels, including the key positions he has occupied advising and providing research management for NSF- and DOE-supported centers. He is also known for the many students he has advised and the extensive effort he has made to get students involved in mineralogy.

THANKING GEORGES CALAS



With this issue, Georges Calas retires as principal editor of *Elements*. During his tenure, he was the principal editor in charge of the following issues: Tourmaline (v7n5), Fukushima Daiichi (v8n3), Rare Earth Elements (v8n5), Serpentinites (v9n2), and Garnet (v9n5). He has also agreed to be in charge of the December 2014 issue entitled Graphitic Carbon. The editors and readers of *Elements* have enjoyed Georges' dry French wit and his keen scientific knowledge. We appreciate his hard work and enthusiasm for maintaining *Elements* as the most readable and authoritative magazine in mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry.

GOLDSCHMIDT UNION SESSION
"ELEMENTS: 10 YEARS OLD"

A Union Session celebrating the 10th anniversary of *Elements* will be held during the Goldschmidt2014 conference in Sacramento on June 8–13, 2014 (www.goldschmidt.info/2014). This session will begin with two days of introductory invited and contributed talks on selected

topics covered by *Elements* over its 10 years of activity. These presentations, each 30 minutes long, will reflect the philosophy of the magazine; that is, they will combine cutting-edge research and a style of presentation attractive to a nonspecialist audience in the fields of geochemistry, mineralogy, petrology, and societal/cultural aspects. The session will provide examples of the great diversity of the topics treated over the years and will also emphasize the major progress made in some of the topics since the original *Elements* issues. Invited speakers include Liane Benning, Bernardo Cesare, Don Dingwell, Barb Dutrow, Karen Hudson-Edwards, Rod Ewing, Laurence Galois, Jane Gilotti, Mike Hochella, Ruben Kretzschmar, Anhuai Lu, Eric Oelkers, Herbert Palme, Carolyne Ruppel, Nita Sahai, Eva Valsami Jones, David Vaughan, Friedhelm Von Blanckenburg, Frances Wall, and Naohiro Yoshida. The current principal editors will also contribute talks.

An oral and poster session will follow this introductory session to broaden the scope of the topics presented. It will allow more people to participate in this very special event. This oral and poster session will be an occasion to discuss with the *Elements* editorial team your expectations concerning the magazine. We want to gather all friends of *Elements* at this very special event!

Georges Calas, John Valley, Trish Dove, Gordon Brown, and Pierrette Tremblay