



## Association of Applied Geochemists

[www.appliedgeochemists.org](http://www.appliedgeochemists.org)

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, STEPHEN COOK



Stephen Cook

As I write this message in late April, spring is in the air in the northern hemisphere, and geochemists and geologists are preparing once again for summer field work. I have several items to mention before our members depart for their exploration and research programs.

In my previous message, I touched on the importance of educating the next generation of applied geochemists in light of the aging demographics of our profession. As part of our ongoing commitment to geochemical education and continued learning, the Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG) is pleased to have been a sponsor of two recent scientific meetings and seminars in the southern hemisphere. First, the AAG was a co-sponsor of the Mineral Systems of the Pacific Rim (PACRIM) 2019 congress in Auckland (New Zealand), which was held 3–5 April 2019. More specifically, the AAG sponsored an exploration geochemistry session (April 3), as well as a day-long exploration geochemistry workshop at the PACRIM conference. The association supported the travel of three members – Juan Carlos Ordóñez-Calderón (Hudbay Minerals, Canada), Steve Piercey (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada) and Dennis Arne (Telemark Geosciences, Australia) – to Auckland to give keynote presentations on exploration geochemistry, chair sessions or run the geochemistry workshop. The workshop was entitled Exploration Geochemistry: Applying Fundamentals in the Field, and was presented by David Cohen (University of New South Wales, Australia), Dennis Arne and Steve Piercey. There was a mixture of presentations and exercises for the 20 delegates in attendance. After the main conference, Juan Carlos Ordóñez-Calderón contributed to a short course on machine learning and data analytics.

Second, the AAG sponsored the recent Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG) applied mineralogy in exploration seminar in Perth, Western Australia on April 9. This day-long seminar was part of a wider three-day exploration geochemistry workshop and seminar session and was the second seminar in the Exploration Geochemistry Series hosted by the Western Australia branch of the AIG. It was organized by Helen Waldron (Xenocryst Geoscience Consulting) and focused on the use of mineral methods in exploration, including spectral techniques, automated mineralogy, scanning electron microscopy, portable X-ray fluorescence and indicator mineral methods. A total of 72 people attended, representing a broad spectrum of the Australian exploration community.

Looking ahead, I encourage all applied geochemists to mark their 2020 calendars for next year's 29<sup>th</sup> International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS) in Viña del Mar (Chile) in November 2020, which we will co-sponsor with the Geological Society of Chile (SGCH). The IAGS is the flagship conference of our association and is the only scientific meeting devoted to the advancement of applied geochemistry in both mineral exploration and environmental studies. Meeting chair Brian Townley (University of Chile) is putting together a comprehensive program of talks, workshops and field trips for a geologically spectacular part of the world. The website should be up and the first circular available for distribution sometime in May. The 29<sup>th</sup> IAGS in Chile will be the latest in a long series of such applied geochemistry symposia, the abstracts for which are all now available in pdf form on the AAG website.

This is an appropriate point to say a few words about the work of our regional councilors. They play an important role in promoting the advancement of geochemistry throughout the world, as well as relaying news and the concerns of geochemists in those regions back

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## NEW CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANTS

The GS is launching a new program to support initiatives aimed at promoting networking, educational activities, analytical training or capacity building related to geochemistry in countries with low and lower-middle-income economies. Grants up to \$2,500 will be awarded later this year. Apply by 30 September 2019.

[tinyurl.com/geochemistry-grants](http://tinyurl.com/geochemistry-grants)

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to the attention of AAG Council. Their regional reports are available to all members on the AAG website. I am very pleased to announce that AAG Council has approved the appointment, for the first time, of a new regional councilor for Mexico: Tomás Israel Grijalva Rodríguez of the Mexican Geological Survey (SGM). We welcome Tomás to council and look forward to working with him in his efforts to promote the use of geochemistry in Mexico.

*EXPLORE* newsletter is always looking for interesting new features and ideas for the benefit and interest of AAG members and, as I have mentioned in earlier messages, the AAG is nearing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding next year (2020). In consultation with Editor Beth McClenaghan, I am putting out a call for historical photos of geochemists in action over the years, doing interesting things in interesting

places. The objective would be for such a photo to be a regular feature of *EXPLORE*. Please email your photos, suitably described, to Beth at: [beth.mcclenaghan@canada.ca](mailto:beth.mcclenaghan@canada.ca)

As a final note, last month we learned of the passing of Dr. Vic Levson, long-time surficial geologist at the British Columbia Geological Survey in western Canada, also Adjunct Professor at the University of Victoria (Canada) and, more recently, a consulting geologist. Vic's interests in glacial ice flow reconstructions, till geochemistry, and placer gold deposit sedimentology have been critical to surficial geochemical research and exploration in western Canada over the past few decades. He was an exceptional scientist and a truly decent man, and I had the privilege of working with him on many field projects. We will provide further discussion of his life and career in a later issue of *EXPLORE*.

## OBITUARY FOR THOMAS (TOM) EDWARD LANE

(12 July 1947–18 March 2019)

Thomas "Tom" Edward Lane (PhD, PGeo) died 18 March 2019. He was born in 1947 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (USA), and he received his early education in schools (and every hill and stream) in Delaware County in Pennsylvania. He was granted degrees in geology or earth sciences from Franklin and Marshall College (USA), Dalhousie University (Canada), and Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada).



He spent over 25 years employed by Teck Corporation's exploration division in Newfoundland and Toronto in various roles, including that of Senior Research Geologist, before becoming in 2003 the Director, Research Development, Exploration Division of the Canadian Mineral Industry Research Organization (CAMIRO), an organization created to initiate, manage and disseminate scientific research by university researchers on real world problems and topics confronting and, therefore, funded by the mining industry. He developed and directed over 25 CAMIRO projects, many of which championed the development and understanding of innovative technology in exploration and the training of geoscientists and applying geoscience, including geophysical and geochemical techniques, in mineral exploration and metallurgical processing.

As an adjunct professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Laurentian University (Sudbury, Canada) since 1996, Tom provided lectures, supervised graduate students, and organized workshops while serving on the advisory board of the Mineral Exploration Research Centre (MERC), most recently as chair. Tom co-authored a seminal paper on the state of Canada's mineral exploration industry in 2010 that was instrumental in the subsequent creation of the Canadian Mining Innovation Council (CMIC) Exploration Innovation Consortium (EIC) Footprints Project, an industry-led initiative to formulate and guide the mineral exploration strategy for different deposit types across multiple disciplines. This was funded by NSERC, Canada's national scientific research body.

The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) awarded him the A. O. Dufresne Exploration Achievement Award in 2015 in recognition of "exceptional achievements or distinguished contributions to mining exploration in Canada", which included his important contributions to understanding the genesis of, and therefore methods to explore for, Zn deposits at Teck Corporation's mine near Daniels Harbour in western Newfoundland. Tom was invited to contribute to the EU funded 2018–2020 project Innovative Non-Invasive & Fully Acceptable Exploration Technology

(INFAC). He provided consulting services to several mining exploration companies during his time with CAMIRO. He served as a councillor for the Geological Association of Canada amongst numerous other volunteer tasks in local and national geologic organizations. He is described by one colleague at Laurentian as "one of the most dedicated people that I have ever worked with". A session at the recent meeting of the Geological Association of Canada in Quebec City in May 2019 was named in his honour to celebrate Tom's contributions

to the Canadian geological community.

Geology and the natural world were Tom's vocation and avocation. He was driven by his curiosity. Tom had a passion for knowledge of all things natural, especially, but not limited to, birding. He had little interest in the material world: his family, friends, work, nature and art fulfilled him. He was a gifted teacher who patiently passed along his encyclopedic knowledge to colleagues and students, indeed, to anyone who expressed an interest. In addition to spirited discussions on geological field trips and chance and planned encounters at conventions, conferences and symposia, special memories that his wide circle of friends will treasure include passing time together patiently at birding vigils; attending basketball, baseball and hockey games in Toronto; enjoying live performances of jazz, folk, rock and blues music in St. John's and elsewhere; exploring art exhibitions and attending movies during the Toronto International Film Festival. A friend recalls a recent conversation with Tom where they mused about him being the naturalist on an Antarctic cruise ship when he retired – this would have been a perfect fit, both for him and the lucky fellow passengers.

Tom was a faithful friend to those whose lives he entered, and he never lost an opportunity to overcome distance to maintain a friendship. His gentle nature and unpretentious ways endeared him to an unusually broad spectrum of society, and in turn, he was equally at home in the boardroom, a university setting, or a fisherman's kitchen in rural Newfoundland. In addition to his vast knowledge across many disciplines, few will forget his smile, giggle and sense of humour.

Donations in his honour may be directed to charitable organizations that promote science and our understanding of the natural world. Or simply go birding (or generate any other reason to take a hike)!

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