

Geochemical Society

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Community Building: Highlights of Goldschmidt 2014



Barbara Sherwood Lollar

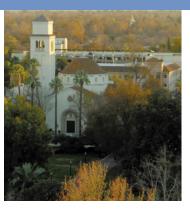
Earlier this summer, we celebrated the 24th Goldschmidt Conference in Sacramento, California. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Geochemical Society and the European Association of Geochemistry, while the Geochemical Society of Japan was a principal cosponsor. We extend thanks and congratulations to Science Cochairs Adina Paytan and Dominique Weis; to the Local Organizing Committee composed of Paul Renne (chair), Charles Alpers, Lisa Hammersley, and Isabel Montanez: and to Paul Beattie, Jacquie Storey, and the whole team at Cambridge Publications.

A special focus of the California Goldschmidt was community building, with a particular emphasis on the group that is the foundation and future of geochemistry: students and early-career scientists. A total of \$61,000 was committed to subsidizing the registration and/or travel for students and international attendees from low-income countries. In addition to the traditional field trips and workshops, the local organizing and science program committees developed an unparalleled program of free events for students and early-career scientists (where "free" means paid for by 16 sponsors, including platinum sponsor Nu Instruments). The free-event program focused on themes as diverse as innovations in teaching; publishing and reviewing manuscripts; fellowship and grant writing; employment and career options (including academic and nonacademic careers, and the dual-career challenge); and research workshops on emerging themes in integrative topics, such as microbiology, geochemistry, geochronology, and Critical Zone Observatories. A very special thank-you goes out to those who volunteered their time, expertise, and insights to develop and run these workshops.

A student lounge and career center, as well as social events such as the student wine tasting, not only provided opportunities for informal and formal networking for our youngest attendees but highlighted the unique California location. The inaugural Goldschmidt Mentoring Program was a huge success, reaching almost 200 student attendees thanks to the dedication of 115 volunteer mentors. Sincere thanks are extended to the academic partners and organizations who donated their time, energy, and funding to support these initiatives. They are too numerous to list here, but I draw your attention to the conference website and program volume and ask you to extend your personal thanks. An initiative of this magnitude and diversity could not be carried off without these partners. The success of these events is a credit to the creativity and enthusiasm of the entire Goldschmidt community.

In addition to the world-class science and discovery that was the hall-mark of the California Goldschmidt, this nurturing of the next generation of young scientists was a major achievement of the meeting, which we hope will set the standard for future Goldschmidt conferences. The remarkable young scientists we welcomed to Sacramento will no doubt be among the organizers, theme chairs, and attendees who will lead the Goldschmidt community for the next 25 years of its history.

Barbara Sherwood Lollar (bslollar@chem.utoronto.ca)
President, Geochemical Society



The historical Westminster Presbyterian Church, near the Sacramento Convention Center. Photo: D. Weis

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 complete their term at the end of June 2014; an asterisk denotes committee chair. For full committee rosters visit www. geochemsoc.org/society/committeesandpersonnel/.

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CALL FOR 2015 DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

The Geochemical Society Nominations Committee is seeking potential nominees for two director positions. These are three-year terms beginning January 1, 2015, and concluding December 31, 2017. The new board members will succeed Directors Richard Walker (University of Maryland) and Edward Young (UCLA) who are completing their terms this December. The potential nominees should have established reputations of leadership in geochemistry and be willing to devote considerable time and effort to the work of the Society. Suggestions may be communicated, by **August 15**, **2014**, to **bodnominations@eochemsoc.org**. More information regarding the duties and responsibilities of a director can be found on the Geochemical Society website: http://www.geochemsoc.org/society/governance/.

2015 AWARD NOMINATIONS

Geochemists want and need recognition for their work. Awards help to inspire individuals to do their best. Awards set the bar for others to match or exceed. Your participation in the awards program by being a nominator or writing a supporting letter of recommendation not only benefits the nominee, it benefits the geochemical community. Please take the time to highlight the accomplishments of your valued colleagues by nominating them. With your help, we can ensure that the award committees have a diverse and deserving pool of candidates.



The V. M. Goldschmidt Medal is awarded for major achievements in geochemistry or cosmochemistry, consisting of either a single outstanding contribution or a series of publications that have had great influence in these fields.



The F. W. Clarke Medal is awarded to an early-career scientist for a single outstanding contribution in geochemistry or cosmochemistry, published either as a single paper or a series of papers on a single topic.



The C. C. Patterson Medal is awarded for a recent innovative breakthrough of fundamental significance in environmental geochemistry, published in a peer-reviewed journal.



The Alfred Treibs Medal is awarded by the Organic Geochemistry Division for major achievements in organic geochemistry over a period of years.



The GS/EAG Geochemical Fellows Award is bestowed upon outstanding scientists who have, over some years, made a major contribution in the field of geochemistry.

Make a nomination at

www.geochemsoc.org/awards/makeanomination.htm.

Nomination Deadline: October 15, 2014

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NEW TITLE

Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry

Mineralogical Society of America and The Geochemical Society



Volume 78: Spectroscopic Methods in Mineralogy and Materials Sciences, Grant S. Henderson, Daniel R. Neuville, and Robert T. Downs, editors. i-xvii + 763 pages. ISBN 978-0-939950-93-5

Spectroscopy is the study of the interaction between matter and radiation, and spectroscopic methods measure this interaction by measuring the radiative energy of the interaction in terms of frequency or wavelength or their changes. In

1988 a Reviews in Mineralogy volume (volume 18), *Spectroscopic Methods in Mineralogy*, was published by Frank Hawthorne (ed). Since then, there have been many significant advances in both the technological aspects of these techniques and their application to problems in Earth sciences in general, while the range and breadth of the techniques currently employed have greatly expanded since those formative years. The current volume compliments the original volume and updates many of the techniques. In addition, new methods such as X-ray Raman and Brillouin spectroscopy have been added, as well as nonspectroscopic chapters such as transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and atomic force microscopy (AFM) for completeness.

For a description of the book and ordering online, go to www.minsocam. org or contact the Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy, Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1110, USA; phone: +1 (703) 9950; fax: +1 (703) 652-9951; e-mail: business@minsocam.org. The cost is \$50 (\$37.50 for members of the MSA, GS, and CMS).