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European Association for Geochemistry

EAG NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chemical Geology is the official journal of the European Association for Geochemistry. Members of the EAG can subscribe to *Chemical Geology* at discount member rates. *Chemical Geology* publishes both top-rate submitted manuscripts in all areas of geochemistry and regular special issues on emerging and hot topics in our field. The two most recent special issues of *Chemical Geology* are:

Geochemical Aspects of CO₂ Sequestering, edited by E.H. Oelkers and J. Schott (volume 217, issues 3–4, pages 183–408, 25 April 2005), is dedicated to the successful solution to the growing problems of increased atmospheric CO₂ concentration and global climate change. The volume was motivated by two events. The first was a thematic session at the 2002 Geological Society of America meeting in Denver, Colorado, USA, co-organized by Curt White, Chen Zhu, and Eric Oelkers. This session, entitled “Experimental, Field, and Modeling Studies of Geological Carbon Sequestration,” attracted a large number of abstracts and great interest from the geological community. The second was the creation of the French research program PICOR (Piégeage du CO₂ dans les Réservoirs), supported by the Fond de Soutien aux Hydrocarbures.

This special issue presents an overview of current geochemical research aimed at understanding the fate and consequences of injecting CO₂ into the subsurface during its geologic sequestration. The 13 original papers included in this volume present a survey of the current knowledge in CO₂ sequestration and emphasize how experimental, modeling, field studies, and geochemistry can increase greatly our understanding of the fate and consequences of CO₂ injection into the subsurface.

In Search of Isotope Biosignatures, edited by Juske Horita and Alan Matthews (volume 218, issues 1–2, pages 1–188, 16 May 2005), originated following the session “In Search of Isotope Biosignatures,” held during the 13th Goldschmidt Conference, Kurashiki, Japan, September 7–12, 2003. The timing of this meeting marked the golden anniversary of Harmon Craig’s landmark paper on the geochemistry of carbon isotopes. This interdisciplinary symposium called for innovative studies and applications of both conventional and metal stable isotopes toward this ever-elusive goal for the past half century—isotopic biosignatures. The symposium was well attended by isotope geochemists and other geoscientists from across the world and was marked by lively discussion on the topic of isotope biosignatures.

This special issue of *Chemical Geology* is a collection of 12 manuscripts that were presented either in this or other symposiums with closely related topics at the 2003 Goldschmidt Conference. Reflecting the depth and diversity of the papers presented at the symposium, articles in this special issue cover topics ranging from atmospheric to terrestrial to marine environments and from modern to ancient settings. They highlight the use of both light (C, N, Si, and S) and heavy (Fe) stable and radioactive (¹⁴C) isotopes.

EUROPEAN GEOCHEMICAL NEWS BRIEFS

European Research Council Update

One of the major constraints of scientific funding at the European level in the past has been the requirement that funded research be consistent with one of more of the stated European priorities or activity areas, set forth within each framework, typically running for five years. These priorities have generally been aimed at strengthening European economic competitiveness rather than the advancement of science. For example, priorities of the current sixth framework include seven thematic areas including “food quality and safety” and “sustainable development.” Scientists working in areas not performing research in the stated priority areas have had little chance of obtaining funding through the European Union.

There is promise that this will soon change through the creation of the European Research Council. A total of 11.86 billion Euros have been earmarked in the preliminary seventh framework budget set to run from 2007 to 2013. This preliminary budget is nearly 50 percent greater than that suggested for Marie Curie Training during the seventh framework. The European Research Council is to operate as a scientific funding agency for investigator-led research, not unlike the National Science Foundation of the United States. We suggest that all interested scientists follow the progress of the creation of the European Research Council through the Cordis website: www.cordis.lu. Calls for proposals for the new European Research Council are due at the start of the seventh framework in early 2007.

New Institute of Earth Sciences Launched at the University of Iceland



The Institute of Earth Sciences was established last summer by merging the Nordic Volcanological Institute with the geology and geophysics departments of the Science Institute of the University of Iceland. The new institute is dedicated to academic research and graduate studies within the Earth sciences, with a focus on the unique geological features of the Iceland region. The institute is located in a new research facility, which currently houses 50 permanent staff members and 25 graduate students.

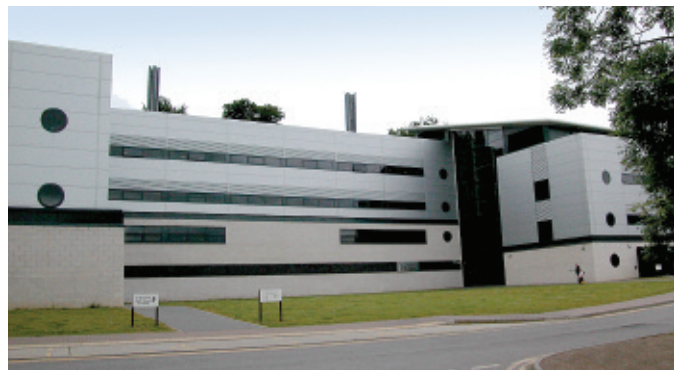
Research at the Institute of Earth Sciences focuses on the unique opportunities available in Iceland. Iceland is both the largest subaerial part of the mid-ocean rift system and a gateway to the arctic, making it an ideal natural setting for studying a variety of geochemical processes, including volcanism, hydrothermal alteration, and the effect of glaciation on global-scale processes (e.g. climate evolution). Further information on the Institute of Earth Sciences can be found at: www.earth-ice.hi.is/page/ies_information.

New Earth Sciences Building and Laboratories at Durham, UK

Staff at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Durham, are settling into a new purpose-built, ultramodern research and teaching building. The new building is the first new Earth sciences building in the UK for many years and reflects a significant investment by the University in Earth sciences. In addition to modern teaching facilities, the building hosts extensive laboratory space for geochemistry laboratories comprising the recently established Arthur Holmes Isotope Geology Laboratory, named after the founder of the Durham department. The geochemistry facility includes the Thermo Electron Mass Spectrometry Suite with multicollector plasma and TIMS instruments. Also installed are an Element 2 high-resolution ICP-MS, a quadrupole ICP-MS, and a MAT253 gas source mass spectrometer, together with extensive clean

laboratory space totalling 300 m². These new facilities provide the geochemistry group at Durham with exceptional analytical power, which will focus on a wide range of research including deep mantle processes, oil generation and geochemistry, and waste management.

The new building also hosts the new Centre for Research into Earth Energy Systems (CeREES). Other facilities housed in the building include the NERC UK Ocean Bottom Instrumentation Facility, and a Centre for Electron Microscopy is being developed. Drs. David Selby and Stephen Parman will be joining the geochemistry group this fall to work with existing staff, comprising Graham Pearson, Jon Davidson,



Yaoling Niu, Colin Macpherson, Fred Worrall, Chris Ottley and Geoff Nowell (www.dur.ac.uk/geolsci/).

Please send any potential items for inclusion in future "EUROPEAN GEOCHEMICAL NEWS BRIEFS" to Eric Oelkers (oelkers@lmtg.obs-mip.fr)

THE MOSCOW IDAHO GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE: A HUGE SUCCESS (continued from p. 239)



Many took short breaks to write home or catch up on the latest Yahoo news stories.



Native American dancers provided the entertainment during the Hell's Gate Park barbeque.

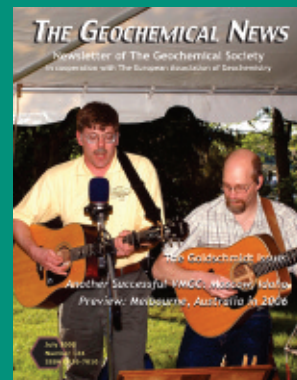
university staff to make the participants feel at home in Moscow. Even the Idaho governor, US senators, and US representatives sent their personal greetings on video tape (played during the meeting) in an effort to make Goldschmidt attendees feel welcome. Perhaps best remembered will be the jet-boat tour of Hell's Canyon, followed by a western-style barbeque at Hell's Gate State Park, on a post card-perfect day during the middle of the conference.

The Geochemical Society and the European Association for Geochemistry would like to thank the three conference organizers, Scott A. Wood, Mickey Gunter, and Peter Larson, for creating this hugely successful conference. We invite everyone to attend the next Goldschmidt meeting to be held in Melbourne, Australia, in August 2006 (www.goldschmidt2006.org).

Eric Oelkers



Jet boats sailed delegates on an unforgettable three-hour cruise up the Snake River past columnar basalts.



For extended coverage on the Goldschmidt Conference, read Geochemical News 124 at <http://gs.wustl.edu/archives/gn/gn124.pdf>

- A retrospective on the Moscow, ID Goldschmidt from the conference organizers
- A preview of the upcoming Melbourne, Australia Goldschmidt from the conference organizers
- Summaries of the following field trips:
Clarkia Field Trip, led by Hong Yang, Derek Briggs, and William Rember
Yellowstone National Park Field Trip, led by Scott Wood, Susan Childers, Thomas Williams, and Jacob Lowenstern
Yucca Mountain Field Trip, led by David Wesolowski
Columbia River Basalt Field Trip, led by Bart Martin, Heather Petcovic, and Steve Reidel
- Summary of the Teaching Geochemistry Workshop, led by David Mogk