The Congress, which lasted three days and was organized into 16 sessions, focused on the origin and evolution of the Earth; volcanic events and related risks; the atmosphere and hydrosphere in relation to natural and human phenomena; resources and geomaterials (including gemology); and the impact development has on the whole Earth system. Each day featured three oral sessions running in parallel, a comprehensive poster session, and two plenary lectures. Invited speakers were William McDonough (U of Maryland), Mauro Rosi (U of Pisa), Chiara Cardaci (DPC, Roma), Antonio Navarra (INGV, Bologna), Roberta Rudnick (U of Maryland), and Daniela Rubatto (Australian National U, Canberra).

About 300 people – a record for national SIMP meetings – participated in the meeting, thus demonstrating a strong desire to collaborate among scientists in the various branches of Earth science. Global climate change and large geological disasters are constantly under the spotlight, and a deeper knowledge of the Earth system is more important than ever. The big challenge for the Earth science disciplines is to cooperate and share results, in order to minimize investments and provide effective solutions. The approach has to be synergistic and multidisciplinary. Another point stressed during the congress is the need for science to manifest itself in everyday life. Technological progress should be sustainable and, through science, the safety of the people living on this planet should be guaranteed. In this respect it is important to develop a common language and to cooperate with institutions, such as the Department of Civil Protection (DPC), that establish the rules and act for our safety and protection.

Particular attention was paid to young researchers: their participation was encouraged by a reduced registration fee and their oral presentations were favored whenever possible.

During the meeting an exhibition of meteorites was also set up, keeping in mind that two of the most famous chondritic meteorites, the Vigarano and Renazzo, fell on Ferrara in 1824 and 1910, respectively. The exhibition was made possible thanks to the contributions of the Museo di Storia Naturale di Ferrara, the Museo di Mineralogia di Bologna, the Museo di Storia Naturale e del Territorio dell’Università di Pisa, the Museo di Scienze Planetarie di Prato, the Museo del Cielo e della Terra di San Giovanni in Persiceto and the Museo Nazionale dell’Antartide.

The organizers wish to express their gratitude to all participants, who made the congress a very stimulating and lively event. Special thanks go to the University of Ferrara and the Department of Earth Sciences, which provided financial support and human resources.

Massimo Coltorti
(U of Ferrara)
Chair of Organizing Committee
My, how the times have changed! Many of our members have fond (perhaps becoming “fond” only after many years) memories of late evenings spent in the library, poring over articles in American Mineralogist. And we did this only after spending considerable time manually browsing and searching for references to the most important papers. In my younger days, I would often catch up on the most recent American Mineralogist at home in the evening while my wife read a novel, looking askance at me for my habit. As recently as 2000, more than 90% of our members received the print copy of our journal. Longtime members of MSA had bookshelves filled with copies of American Mineralogist, almost a badge of honor. As Alex Speer’s report below shows, personal subscriptions to the printed journal have dropped from about 90% of members to approximately 20% in only ten years. The fledgling electronic subscriptions have grown to 20–30% since 2002. Surprisingly, this number seems to have leveled off, perhaps because many of our home institutions purchase an electronic subscription. Thus, it is important to ensure that your libraries continue to subscribe to American Mineralogist, at least in electronic form.

Clearly, the nature of American Mineralogist access is evolving, and 80–90% of our new members subscribe to neither the hardcopy nor the electronic version. Indeed, the way in which we obtain information from our society is changing. GeoScienceWorld (GSW) has become an important purveyor of our scientific communications, and RIMG volumes and American Mineralogist preprints are now available online. It is possible to set up alerts from GSW, even if your institution does not subscribe. I encourage you to access American Mineralogist and our other publications through GSW, as this is the best way to ensure that MSA receives income every time our articles are downloaded.

We are currently discussing the production of electronic versions in e-book format of virtually everything we publish, including the RIMG volumes, and we anticipate that these will initially be in pdf format to allow presentation of high-resolution tables, graphs, and figures. All of these changes to our journal and our other publications have been driven by our readers and subscribers. But those of you who like to read a hard copy of the journal will also be accommodated. Modern technology allows us (at least for the near future) to produce a paper copy, one of the significant benefits of the option of print on demand. And, of course, all members receive hard copies of the popular journal Elements, with unique topical discussions in every issue.

Given the changes to our journal in the past decade, it is easy to imagine a world with virtually no hard copies of American Mineralogist. It is not difficult to imagine an entire generation of young graduate students and professionals curling up in bed or in front of their fireplaces with an e-book reader, studying the latest research published in our journal. These same young professionals will have few hard copies of books on their shelves, and certainly no bound journals. I am a bit nostalgic for the “good old days,” but I have to admit that searching and finding the best research in a field is so much easier today than it was even ten years ago. Enjoy this efficiency! Now, I just have to figure out what to do with all those hard copies of American Mineralogist filling my shelves!

As I write, I am completing my term as vice-president of MSA. One of the interesting tasks of the VP is chairing the Committee on Committees, which is charged with identifying volunteers to staff virtually all of our operations. This committee provides a glimpse into the wide array of things going on in MSA, and it gave me a great opportunity to witness the strength of our volunteer community around the world. There is room for anyone who wishes to have a more active role in MSA.

Upcoming MSA activities in 2011 include the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, to be held in Tucson, Arizona, on February 10–13. I had my first opportunity to attend the show in 2010 and I assure you that it is well worth a visit. If you go, be sure to check out the myriad of satellite venues before the “official” show; at these events you can often find the best deals on just about any mineral. The show is a great place to stock up on mineralogy lab specimens. Also, be sure to stop by the MSA booth at the convention center. Our summer meeting will be held on August 14–19, in conjunction with Goldschmidt 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic, where Ross Angel of Virginia Tech will receive the Dana Medal. Michael Carpenter, Alan Woodland, and Tiziana Boffa-Ballaran are busy organizing a special session entitled “Structure, Elasticity and Thermodynamics of Minerals” to accompany Ross’s award.

I am excited about the changes currently occurring with our publications, and our managing editor, Rachel Russell, has instituted modifications that should plant us firmly in the electronic publishing world. Most of the changes will be invisible to you. I look forward to hearing from many of you this year, and I encourage you to take advantage of everything MSA has to offer and to give MSA your active participation.

Dave Bish, President
bish@indiana.edu

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2012 AWARDS

Nominations must be received by June 1, 2011

The Roebling Medal is MSA’s highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The Dana Medal recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of his or her career.

The Mineralogical Society of America Award is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to the 35th birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

Society Fellowship recognizes a member’s significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member with two members acting as cosponsors. Form required; contact the committee chair or visit the MSA home page.

Mineralogical Society of America

Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA’s home page: http://www.minsocam.org/

IN MEMORIAM

Peter G. Hill – Member, 1994
Kurt E. Lowe – Life Fellow, 1938

Dave Bish, President
bish@indiana.edu
NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- All 2009 and 2010 MSA members have been contacted by mail, electronically, or both about renewing their membership for 2011. If you have not renewed your MSA membership, please do so. If you have not received a notice by the time you read this, please contact the MSA business office. You can also renew online at anytime.

- In 2010, 41% of MSA members subscribed to the American Mineralogist in some form, with roughly half of those receiving print + electronic and half having electronic access only. Since the journal was decoupled from dues in 1995 and with the advent of electronic institutional subscriptions, increasing numbers of members no longer receive personal copies but depend on their institutions for access to the journal. This trend is not surprising. For some time the newest members of MSA had been giving us an indication of where member journal subscriptions were headed, with up to 80% of new members in some years being nonsubscribers. This makes it imperative that institutions be convinced to subscribe to the journal, to make the journal available to users and to ensure its financial health.

MSA AWARDS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, DENVER, COLORADO

Dr. Robert C. Newton, University of California, Los Angeles, has been awarded the 2010 Roebling Medal, given for a lifetime of outstanding original research in mineralogy. Dr. Newton is widely recognized for three achievements. The first was conceiving and applying the concept of a reversed mineral reaction in the experimental study of mineral stabilities. The second was obtaining the thermodynamic properties of minerals that are widely used today in calculations of the stabilities of minerals ± fluid or melt under various conditions. Third, Dr. Newton helped solve the riddle of the composition of the fluids present during the formation of the high-temperature, very dry granulite facies metamorphic rocks of the lower continental crust.

Dr. Benjamin Gilbert, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, California, is the 2010 recipient of the Mineralogical Society of America Award. This award is given for outstanding contributions by a scientist beginning his or her career. Dr. Gilbert is recognized for his work on nanoparticle–environment interactions. His work is of great significance to fields such as the remediation of natural resources using nanoparticles and the evaluation of biological responses to nanoparticles. His contributions include some of the first studies on the characterization and theory of mineral particle interactions. His publications provide important insights into the mechanisms of nanoparticle interactions in ZnS and similar mineral systems, such as the effect of strain and surface-water interactions. Dr. Gilbert is now studying aggregation in these systems and the consequences on structure and reactivity, a subfield where few quantitative results have been assembled thus far.

The Mineralogical Society of America

2012 Grants for
Research in Crystallography
from the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund with contributions from MSA members and friends

Student Research in Mineralogy and Petrology
from an endowment created by MSA members

Selection is based on the qualifications of the applicant; the quality, innovativeness, and scientific significance of the research as described in a written proposal; and the likelihood of success of the project. There are three US$5,000 grants with no restrictions on how the funds may be spent, as long as they are used in support of research. Application instructions and online submission are available on the MSA website, www.minsocam.org. Completed applications must be submitted by June 1, 2011.
I’m sitting in my office about to undertake the review of a manuscript that looks interesting because it delves into the exciting (at least to me) topic of clays and a biologically important element. The authors are from a well-respected Chinese university. According to our trusty chief editor, Joe Stucki, *Clays and Clay Minerals* is experiencing an increase in submissions from clay scientists around the world. It is wonderful to know that the global network of clay science is growing, not only in China but also on all continents.

The life-blood for promoting and sustaining high-quality publication runs through the veins of associate editors and their army of reviewers. Reviews take a great deal of time, and the peer-review system is currently under stress as we are asked to “do more with less.” The increase in submissions presents a challenge for which I’d like to propose a solution: it’s time to embrace more people into the reviewer pool. This includes clay scientists who are newly submitting manuscripts, like the ones whose manuscript I am about to review. Others include doctoral candidates, postdocs, and those outside the traditional domains of clay science (e.g. medical researchers if the topic covers public health). By being asked to review a manuscript, these emerging clay scientists gain experience and feel a greater sense of ownership and personal investment in the CMS. Let’s extend our tentacles, and the next time you are asked to review a manuscript please suggest a new name; if you have never reviewed a paper, send your own name to an associate editor or our chief editor. Now it’s time for me to start that review and add a name or two to the pool. Cheers.

Paul Schroeder, President

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**THE 2010 SEA-CSSJ-CMS TRILATERAL MEETING ON CLAYS**

The Clay Minerals Society (CMS) held its 47th annual meeting in conjunction with the Clay Science Society of Japan (CSSJ) and the Spanish Clay Society (SEA) in Spain on June 6–11, 2010. The Organizing Committee was chaired by Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky, Yoshiaki Fukushima and Ray Ferrell were cochairs. Pilar Aranda and Patricia Aparicio served as general secretary and general treasurer of the meeting, respectively. The trilateral meeting on clays (2010TMC) provided a unique atmosphere for the presentation and discussion of over 200 technical reports on innovations in the study of clays and clay minerals. The 2010TMC began with a one-day workshop on clays and materials in Madrid, followed by a symposium on sepiolite. The symposium included a field trip to Mg-clay deposits close to Madrid and one half-day technical session in Seville with papers describing the origin and technical applications of sepiolite. The general meeting, also in Seville, was followed by a field trip to the Rio Tinto Mines area.

The workshop focused on the development and use of advanced materials based on clays and clay minerals. It was held at the Materials Science Institute of Madrid (National Research Council of Spain, ICMM-CSIC, www.icmm.csic.es), located on the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) campus. The chairs, Pilar Aranda, Makoto Ogawa, and Lawrence Drummy, were assisted by Margarita Darder, M. Angeles Martin-Luengo, Carolina Belver, Francisco M. Fernandes, and Bernd Wicklein. Ten speakers reviewed conventional and innovative aspects of industrial and medical applications of clay and related materials. The proceedings will be published online by the CMS as a monograph in their Workshop Lectures Series.

The visit to the sepiolite quarries and the symposium provided unique insights into the origin and applications of this important industrial mineral. Field trip participants also had ample sampling opportunities at the Vicalvaro (Madrid) and Cabañas (Toledo) mines operated by TOLSA. Sepiolite activities were organized by Santiago Leguey and Jaime Cuevas (UAM) and by Emilia García-Romero, José Fernández-Barrenechea, and Javier Luque (Complutense University Madrid), with help from Javier Berrio and Antonio Álvarez (TOLSA) and Daniel Tejela (Sud Chemie).

A high standard of excellence for technical presentations at the general meeting was established during the plenary lectures. These were delivered by J. M. Serratosa (CMS Bailey Award recipient), R. T. Cygan (CMS Brindley Lecturer), T. Kogure (CMS Jackson Award recipient), S. Takagi and E. Narita (recipients of CSSJ special awards for contributions to clay science), and distinguished scientists E. Ruiz-Hitzky, J. Cornejo, and A. Inoue. Keynote speakers provided special insights for the general sessions, namely, Structural Features and Crystal Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology, Soil and Sediments, Environment and Energy, Biological Aspects and Health, Industrial and Other applications, and Clays in Education Programs. Abstracts of all oral and poster presentations during the general meeting are available online at www.sea-arcillas.es/2010TMC/Book_of_abstracts-2.pdf. A tour of the Real Alcázar followed by cocktails and a gala closing banquet with flamenco-style entertainment at the Triana Abades Restaurant provided spectacular opportunities for social interaction among the participants. The general meeting was chaired by M. Carmen Hermosa, seconded by cochairs P. Schroeder and H. Yamada. They were assisted by J. Cornejo, C. Maqueda, E. Morillo, L. Cox, R. Celis, T. Undabeitia, F. Bruna, I. Gonzalez, and P. Aparicio. Members of the local scientific advisory committee included J. Cornejo, E. Galán, S. Leguey, F. Nieto, J. L. Pérez-Rodríguez, J. M. Serratosa, M. Suárez, and V. Rives. International members included A. Thomas, D. Bain, J. Stucki, W. Hufn, K. Okada, T. Sakamoto, R. Kitagawa, E. Narita, M. Shishime, and A. Inoue. The high quality of the technical presentations is due in part to their efforts.
A highlight of 2010TMC was the presentation of the best paper award and travel grants to student participants. Francisco M. Fernandes (Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid) was recognized with the best oral presentation award for his communication, coauthored by E. Ruiz-Hitzky, entitled “On the Synergy between Sepiolite and Carbon Nanotubes in Bionanocomposites.” Sara Moron (University of Minnesota) received the best Earth science poster award for her communication entitled “Middle Miocene in Panama, Wet or Dry?” It was coauthored by C. Montes, A. Cardona, C. Jamarillo, and D. Fox. Yohei Ishida was given the best poster presentation award in clay technology for the paper (coauthored by S. Takagi, D. Masui, T. Shimada, H. Tachibana, and H. Inoue) “Efficient Excited Energy Transfer Reaction between Porphyrins on Clay Surfaces: The Effects of Adsorption Conditions.” Eight students received travel awards from CMS: Marek Szczepański (Institute of Geological Sciences, Poland), Tom Naumann (Georgia State University), Ali Kuligiewicz (Institute of Geological Sciences, Poland), Ali Hooshiar (University of Alberta), Ines Mulder (Georgia State University), Autur Kuligiewicz (Institute of Geological Sciences, Poland), T. Naumann, and Dr. Irina Galuskina.

The meeting ended with a trip to the Rio Tinto pyrite mines in the province of Huelva, about 80 km northwest of Seville. The mining operations (since prehistoric times), which produce gold, copper, silver, zinc, lead, and other metals, have created a world of reddish hues and a wide range of other colors. Waters draining the region are extremely acidic. The history of the region was told through exhibits at a government-supported tourist facility. The trip was organized by Isabel González and Antonio Romero (University of Seville).

Financial support for 2010TMC was provided by the Spanish Ministry of Science & Innovation, the Government of Andalucía, the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the Universidad de Sevilla, Bruker, Bel Japan Inc., IESMAT, SHAYONANO Ltd., Chevron Energy, Wyo-Be Inc., Oil-Dri, and Thiele Kaolin Company. Thanks to our sponsors for their generous contributions.

Ray Ferrell, Louisiana State University
INVITATION TO 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

The 74th meeting of the Meteoritical Society will be held in London, United Kingdom, August 8–12, 2011. The organizers invite you to attend the meeting and visit marvelous London. We expect to have a wide variety of interesting sessions. In addition to an exciting program of science, the early results of the Dawn mission in orbit around asteroid 4 Vesta will just be coming back. We are pleased to announce that Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal (and current president of the Royal Society), will deliver the Barringer Lecture. Wednesday afternoon will also be available for sight-seeing or an organized outing. There may also be a field trip before the meeting in the highlands of Scotland.

The meeting will be held at the University of Greenwich, located in southeast London. Accommodation will be provided by local hotels and on-campus housing. Greenwich is easily accessible from the center of London and the five airports that serve the greater London area. Full details given in the first announcement are available on the meeting website (www.metsoc2011.org).

For information not available on the websites, please contact the organizers, Gretchen Benedix (g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk), Phil Bland, Sara Russell, or Caroline Smith.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please consider nominating a colleague for one of the Society’s awards. Nominations for Meteoritical Society awards should be sent by January 15 (January 31 for the Pellas-Ryder Award), preferably by e-mail with electronic attachments, to the incoming secretary, Greg Herzog (herzogsec@rutchem.rutgers.edu); Dept. Chemistry, Rutgers Univ., 610 Taylor Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA. For more information and details on how to submit a nomination for any of these awards, please see the latest newsletter on the Society website or e-mail the secretary.

The Leonard Medal honors outstanding contributions to the science of meteoritics and closely allied fields.

The Barringer Medal and Award recognize outstanding work in the field of impact cratering and/or work that has led to a better understanding of impact phenomena.

The Nier Prize recognizes outstanding research in meteoritics and closely allied fields by young scientists (under 35).

The Service Award honors members who have advanced the goals of the Meteoritical Society to promote research and education in meteoritics and planetary science in ways other than by conducting scientific research.

The Paul Pellas – Graham Ryder Award is given for best student paper in planetary science and is awarded jointly by the Meteoritical Society and the Planetary Geology Division of the Geological Society of America.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

If you do not renew by March 31, 2011, a $15 late fee will be assessed. Renew online at http://metsoc.meteoriticalsociety.net

2010 WINNERS OF SOCIETY AWARDS

NIER PRIZE: This year’s winner is Danny Glavin. Danny received the award for his excellent work identifying and analyzing amino acids in planetary, including primary amines in the Stardust samples, and the enantiomeric excess (D/L ≠ 1) of isovaline in Murchison.

SERVICE AWARD: Joel Schiff is the winner of this year’s Service Award. Joel received this award for his creation and continued publication of Meteorite magazine, which successfully bridges the divide between researchers, dealers, amateurs, and collectors of meteorites.

GORDON MCKAY AWARD: This year’s award, given for the best oral presentation by a student at the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society, is awarded to Rachel Smith of UCLA for her talk entitled “New 13CO/12CO Observations in Young Stellar Objects and Molecular Clouds: Implications for 12C/13C in the Early Solar Nebula.”

PAUL PELLAS – GRAHAM RYDER AWARD: This year’s winner is Vishnu Reddy of the University of North Dakota for his paper entitled “Composition of 298 Baptistina: Implications for the K/T Impactor Link,” published in 2009 in Meteoritics and Planetary Science (44: 1917-1927).

IN MEMORIAM

Ardis Nier (1921–2009)

Ardis Nier was a great friend of the Meteoritical Society. Ardis, who worked in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota, was married to Alfred O. Nier, a major player in the development of mass spectrometry and a meteoriticist. After her husband’s death in 1994, Ardis established the Nier Prize for young scientists in the area of meteoritics, which was first awarded at the Berlin meeting in 1996. Ardis was “by nature curious, intelligent, and good spirited.” She traveled to many of the Meteoritical Society meetings to meet the winners of this award, which has become a significant achievement for young meteoriticists. Ardis will be much missed by the members of the Meteoritical Society.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the DMG,

In September a very successful and enjoyable annual DMG meeting was held at the Prince-Bishops’s residence of the University of Münster. The scientific program was composed of a number of well-received sessions on “hot” mineralogical topics, as well as three plenary lectures on crystal growth, mantle processes, and mineral evolution. It was particularly encouraging to see that many student members of our society contributed to the scientific sessions. On behalf of the DMG, I would like to congratulate and thank the local organizers in Münster, Claudia Meyer, Timm John, and Andrew Putnis, for the organization of this marvelous meeting. The following three DMG awards for 2010 were presented during the meeting.

Abraham-Gottlob-Werner Medal in Silver to Hans-Rudolf Wenk

The recipient of the Werner Medal in Silver was Hans-Rudolf Wenk from the University of California, Berkeley. Rudy was honored for his outstanding scientific achievements in the field of characterizing and interpreting the textures of rocks that result from deformation, both under laboratory conditions and in geological environments. One of his major achievements was to establish the link between crystallographic preferred orientation and underlying deformation mechanisms in crystals. His books, *Electron Microscopy in Mineralogy* and *Minerals – Their Constitution and Origin*, are examples of his seminal contributions to the mineral sciences.

Victor-Moritz-Goldschmidt Prize to Sandro Jahn

The Victor-Moritz-Goldschmidt Prize was given to Sandro Jahn from the Geoforschungszentrum Potsdam. Sandro was honored for his fundamental contributions to the atomistic modeling of the structures and properties of minerals, melts, and fluids. His electronic structure calculations, classical molecular dynamics work, and metadynamics simulations have substantially improved our understanding of the atomic structure, thermodynamics, and transport properties of silicate melts, as well as of the polymorphism of mantle minerals.

Paul-Ramdohr Award to Bastian Joachim

The Paul-Ramdohr Award is an honor bestowed on young graduate and postgraduate students who have given outstanding presentations at annual DMG meetings. Bastian Joachim from the Geoforschungszentrum Potsdam was honored for his talk entitled “Diffusion-controlled growth of monomineralic akermanite reaction rims in the ternary system CaO-MgO-SiO2,” which he presented at the 2009 DMG meeting in Halle.

At the general assembly of the DMG it was agreed to add two student members to the DMG board. Further, it was reported that the electronic membership catalogue is now available to DMG members (visit www.dmg-home.de/mitgliedschaft.html) and that the DMG intends to establish a new endowment fund for young female researchers in honor of Beate Mocek. The planning for future meetings is already underway. In 2011, we will meet at the University of Salzburg, together with the German Society of Crystallography (DGK) and the Austrian Mineralogical Society (ÖMG), and in 2012, we look forward to the European Mineralogical Conference at the University of Frankfurt (http://emc2012.uni-frankfurt.de). I hope to meet you at these meetings and wish you all the best for the new year.

Sincerely yours,
Falko Langenhorst, President

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2011 DMG AWARDS

The *Abraham-Gottlob-Werner Medal* is the highest honor of the German Mineralogical Society (DMG). It is given in recognition of outstanding mineralogical research (in Silver) or for merit in the promotion of the mineralogical sciences (in Gold).

The *Georg-Agricola Medal in Bronze* recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of technical and applied mineralogy.

The *Victor-Moritz-Goldschmidt Prize* is given to honor outstanding young researchers. Candidates should normally be members of the DMG and be younger than 39 years of age.

Nominations for the DMG awards should include the curriculum vitae and publications list of the candidate as well as a cover letter outlining the candidate’s qualifications. Further information on the nomination requirements are on the DMG home page: www.dmg-home.de. Please submit your nominations by February 18, 2011, to Rainer Altherr, Institute of Geosciences, University of Heidelberg, Im Neuenheimer Feld 234-236, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany; e-mail: Rainer.Altherr@geow.uni-heidelberg.de.
LONDON NEWS

And so we arrive at the end of another ‘Elements’ year. The Elements calendar is a bit different from the regular Gregorian calendar. The end of the year happens when this text is written in late September/early October.

The Mineralogical Society has had a busy and successful year.

- Three books in the EMU Notes in Mineralogy series, now co-published by the Society, will have been released.
- Our membership numbers are up noticeably, and our student numbers are very healthy (this is partly related to our free student membership offering for year 1 and partly due to the good work put in by departmental representatives who encourage their students to become members).
- Our Annual Meeting was a good success – see the report below.
- Our third Nature’s Treasures event is building up to be the most successful so far.
- Our journals have performed well, both scientifically and financially.

And all of this has taken place against the background of a gloomy international recession. Many thanks to all who make it possible: editors, Council members, those who serve on the committees of our special interest groups, departmental representatives, all who volunteer their time in service of the Society (e.g. this year two volunteers helped with the proofreading of the journals, giving their time and expertise to raise the bar still further) and, of course, the staff!

To what do we look forward next year?

Richard Harrison’s project to establish a list of the ‘100 most important questions in the mineral sciences’ will be one of the most interesting topics of discussion at the coffee table/water cooler in 2011, in my view. More information about this soon. Support from the IMA and from Elements will make this a truly international venture.

The Society hopes to become involved in the provision of educational material suitable for use in second-level schools in the UK and elsewhere. We will work with appropriate teaching professionals to make this possible, and the results will be available on the Society’s website for all to use.

There will be another EMU volume. Our online bookshop and new-look website will be functional. We expect to publish one if not two more books in our Landmark Papers series. Our Annual Meeting promises to be an exciting one: it will have an environmental theme and will be located in Aberystwyth, Wales, a stone’s throw from a perfect location to study some classic environmental geochemistry problems in the field.

The Society is applying to become a licensed body of the Science Council, entitled to award chartered status to its Fellows. CSoc is recognized not only in Britain but also throughout Europe. For some with long careers in academia behind them, this will not be a necessary title, but for those looking to join the ranks of professional mineralogists, academic or commercial, then we believe the right to confer chartered status will be an attractive feature in the Society’s arsenal.

There will be much focus on our journals in the coming year. They are the scientific and financial mainstay of the Society and our primary raison d’être. At the time of writing, interviews are about to be held for one or two new Principal Editors for Mineralogical Magazine. Mark Welch steps down in the middle of 2011.

Best wishes for the New Year!

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Experimental Aspects

Two novel aspects of this meeting, at least as far as the Mineralogical Society was concerned, were:

- Preview presentations of posters. Each presenter of a poster was invited to show one slide and speak for two minutes about the content of their poster. This was successful in so far as it allowed delegates the opportunity to decide which posters to study in detail in the poster session held immediately afterwards. It also gave more profile to the poster session, often the poor relation at conferences.

- At the end of the meeting, there was a two-hour panel discussion about research requirements, training needs, and possible career options for students and others in the audience. The panel included Sarah Vines from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Ian Barracough from the Environment Agency, Fiona Rayment from the National Nuclear Laboratory, and the meeting convenors. There was much useful input from the audience, including industry people, consultants and academics.

Quality

There was an excellent selection of talks, and the poster presentations, including a batch of 17 given by ‘EMPower’ students, were of very high quality. The EMPower award for the best poster was given to Kate Norman.

Success?

Often the measure of success of a conference is whether those present considered that it would be an exercise worth repeating. There was a general feeling that this meeting could be repeated in a couple of years’ time. Britain needs a revitalized nuclear industry; clearly, research is required in many areas, which should lead to careers in a couple of years’ time. Britain needs a revitalized nuclear industry; at the end of the meeting, there was a two-hour panel discussion about research requirements, training needs, and possible career options for students and others in the audience. The panel included Sarah Vines from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Ian Barracough from the Environment Agency, Fiona Rayment from the National Nuclear Laboratory, and the meeting convenors. There was much useful input from the audience, including industry people, consultants and academics.

Kate Norman, EMPower poster prize winner

Two new volumes in the EMU series are now available: go to www.minersoc.org/pages/EMU-notes/EMU-notes.html for information and to order.

BURSARY REPORT

I thank the Mineralogical Society for the travel bursary that enabled me to travel to Seville, Spain, and attend the 20th Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Europe Annual Meeting. This large conference was attended by delegates from academia, business and government, and a wide range of presentations were made on the theme of the environmental chemistry of organic and inorganic toxins in sediment, soil water and the atmosphere. It was an ideal setting to meet and network with professionals from all over the world, to the benefit of both my current research project and the advancement of my career.

I gave a presentation on the first day of the conference entitled ‘Metals in earthworm casts are more mobile but earthworm mucus reduces mobility.’ It attracted a lot of attention, perhaps due to the bold statement made in the title. The presentation went well, and several delegates approached me to discuss aspects of my current research that may link with or complement their own or to tell me about similar work that they have in the pipeline.

I spent the rest of the week in a more relaxed frame of mind (!) as I skipped from room to room watching presentations on subjects that interested me. I also spent time during the poster sessions to find out what other students from various European countries were doing. Of particular help to me was speaking to students who use techniques unknown to me; these methods might be useful in my research, and collaborations might happen in the future as a result of these conversations.

Tom Sizmur
University of Reading, UK

OCTOBER ISSUE OF MINERALOGICAL MAGAZINE

A. N. ZAITSEV, C. T. WILLIAMS, S. N. BRITVIN, I. V. KUZNETSOVA, J. SPRATT, S. V. PETROV and J. KELLER: Kerimaisite, Ca,Zr4(Fe3+2Si)O12, a new garnet from carbonatites of Kerimasi volcano and surrounding explosion craters, northern Tanzania

S. V. KRIVOVICEV, V. N. YAKOVENCHUK, E. S. ZHIOTOVA, A. A. ZOLOTAREV, Y. A. PAKHOMOVSKY and G. YU. IVANYUK: Crystal chemistry of natural layered double hydroxides. 1. Quintinite-2H-3c from the Kovdor alkaline massif, Kola peninsula, Russia

S. V. KRIVOVICEV, V. N. YAKOVENCHUK, E. S. ZHIOTOVA, A. A. ZOLOTAREV, Y. A. PAKHOMOVSKY and G. YU. IVANYUK: Crystal chemistry of natural layered double hydroxides. 2. Quintinite-1M: first evidence of a monoclinic polytype in M3+M4+ layered double hydroxides

E. S. ZHIOTOVA, V. N. YAKOVENCHUK, S. V. KRIVOVICEV, A. A. ZOLOTAREV, Y. A. PAKHOMOVSKY and G. YU. IVANYUK: Crystal chemistry of natural layered double hydroxides. 3. The crystal structure of Mg,Al-disordered quintinite-2H

LIDONG DAI, HEPING LI, CHUNHAI LI, HAIYING HU and SHUANGMING SHAN: The electrical conductivity of dry polycrystalline olivine compacts at high temperatures and pressures

CNMNC Newsletter: S. P. A. WILLIAMS, F. HATERT, M. PASERO and S. J. MILLS: New minerals and nomenclature modifications approved in 2010

S. J. MILLS, A. R. KAMPF, P. A. WILLIAMS, P. LEVERETT, G. POIRIER, M. RAUDSEPP and C. A. FRANCIS: Hydroniumpharmacosiderite, a new member of the pharmacosiderite supergroup from Cornwall, UK: structure and description

M. NAGASHIMA, T. ARMBRUSTER and T. HAINSCHWANG: A temperature-dependent structure study of gem-quality hibonite from Myanmar

L. MELLUSO, S. CONTICELLI and R. DE’ GENNARO: Kirschsteinite in the Capo di Bove melilitte leucitite lava (cecilite), Alban Hills, Italy


P. BAYLISS, U. KOLITSCHE, E. H. NICKEL and A. PRING: Alunit supergroup: recommended nomenclature

M. S. RUMSEY, S. J. MILLS and J. SPRATT: Natropharmacosiderite, NaAl[(OH)4(AsO4)4]·4H2O, a new mineral of the pharmacosiderite supergroup and the renaming of aluminopharmacosiderite to pharmacosiderite

As suggested by these titles, a wide range of material was covered. There were no parallel sessions: all delegates were encouraged to attend presentations and discussions on all aspects of the conference. A recurring comment was that people were learning a lot by going to talks outside of their usual area. A longer report, more photographs, and copies of some of the presentations are available on the Society’s website. A thematic set of papers arising from presentations made at the meeting will be published in Mineralogical Magazine in early—mid 2011.
**PRESIDENT’S LETTER**

**Impending Revolution in Science Publishing and Its Predicted Effect on the Geochemical Society’s Bottom-line**

The escalating cost of producing professional journals and the changing landscape in publishing have brought the dissemination of scientific information to the precipice of a new paradigm. We are reminded of other previous transformative milestones, such as going from typewriters to computers or from journals on shelves in the library to electronic access in the comfort of one’s office. Escalating journal prices have all but wiped out personal subscriptions, and entire journal genres are disappearing from institutional libraries as hard budgetary choices are made.

Moreover, there is a growing movement in the US Congress against double charging for science information: first, in the form of taxes, which underwrite government funding agencies and most of the research done in academic institutions, and second, through journal subscriptions, which provide access to research already paid for by taxes. Hence, the open-access-to-journals mantra now has enough forward momentum to sweep away the traditional concept of subscription-based access at the institutional and personal levels. A news article by Jocelyn Kaiser in the August 20, 2010, issue of *Science* reported that between 7% and 11% of all peer-reviewed scientific journals now offer an open-access publishing model, and this percentage is likely to increase dramatically over the next few years. Already some 20% of peer-reviewed articles across all disciplines are now available free of charge through various open-access portals, and this percentage is increasing steadily.

Against that backdrop, the Geochemical Society, in partnership with the Meteoritical Society, is currently engaged in contract negotiations with Elsevier for continued publication of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta (GCA)*, the flagship journal in the field of geochemistry. These negotiations were triggered by Elsevier terminating the previous GCA contract, last negotiated in 1991 with provisions for roll over every five years under the same terms. While these negotiations have continued to be cordial, they have not been without tensions, largely stemming from recognition by both sides that the global journal-publication enterprise is in transition, engulfed by uncertainties, and not likely to survive in its current form much longer.

A sizeable component of the Geochemical Society’s operating budget comes from the royalties we receive for publishing *GCA*. With those royalties shrinking, at least in the near term, as stipulated by the draft contract now in discussion, we need to craft a new business model and help our organization expand its activities and influence. Obvious possible changes in our operations include running meetings like the Goldschmidt Conference with a modest but significant profit margin and growing an endowment through membership and corporate donations. Our membership renewal web page solicits donations to cover Society expenses, such as running our business office at Washington University in St. Louis, student travel grants, publications, award medals and honorariums, legal and professional counsel, the meeting assistance program and outreach activities. Please consider donating to the Geochemical Society as you renew your membership for 2011. Let me take this opportunity to thank those of you who have already made a generous contribution with your membership renewals and those who are perennial donors to our Society.

Professional societies, like ours, and publishers, like Elsevier, can reap mutual benefits if they join forces and work collaboratively in defining the future of research information dissemination before it is defined for us by lawmakers. Toward this goal, we should embrace the micro-economic concept of the economy of scale. With few exceptions, the geochemistry community remains centered in North America and Europe. To scale up the community, expand journal markets, and involve populations which have not always been represented in our science, robust outreach programs need to be created and nurtured, particularly in developing nations where hunger for scientific knowledge is high. We seek active partners to work with us to fulfill this vision of the future.

Samuel Mukasa
GS President 2010–2011

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**NOTES FROM ST. LOUIS**

**GS at GSA-Denver Meeting**

The 2010 F. Earl Ingerson Lecturer, Patricia Dove, with GS President Samuel Mukasa at the Geochemical Society exhibit booth.

**2011 Membership Drive**

The 2011 membership drive, launched in October, has had an overwhelming number of responses. 2009 was our largest year ever with 3087 members in our Society, and with your help 2011 is poised to exceed this. If you have not yet renewed for 2011, please take a moment to do so now (www.geochemsoc.org). Membership in 2011 costs only US$30 for professionals and US$10 for students. If you have already renewed, thank you for your continuing support!

**Knoxville Goldschmidt Membership**

Delegates who attended the 2010 Goldschmidt Conference at the nonmember rate received a two-year Geochemical Society membership as part of their registration. Welcome to the Geochemical Society! A full list of member benefits can be found on our website at www.geochemsoc.org/society/benefitsofmembership.htm.

All the best,

**Seth Davis**
GS Business Manager
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Web: www.geochemsoc.org
Prague, City of a Hundred Spires and capital of the Czech Republic, hosts the 21st annual V.M. Goldschmidt Conference, August 14 - 19, 2011. One thousand years ago Prague was the third-largest European city. Today it is Europe’s fourth-largest tourist destination, after Paris, London and Rome.

The Scientific Program has over 130 sessions covering every aspect of geochemistry, including high- and low-temperature geochemistry, biogeochemistry and environmental topics. The last European Goldschmidt conference attracted almost 3000 delegates, and we expect a similar number in Prague.

The Prague Congress Center overlooks the historical town quarters and the 1100-year-old Royal Castle. Once you enter the Congress Center you can reach any of the 20 lecture halls, the poster sessions and the exhibition in less than a minute. The Congress Center is conveniently located near an underground station, and Prague’s public transport system will take you there in less than 30 minutes from anywhere in the city. Budget accommodation has been negotiated at student dormitories for over 1600 conference participants.

Social highlights include the conference banquet, half-day city sightseeing tours and two-day pre- and post-conference field trips. Enjoy a visit to some of the nation’s 12 protected UNESCO World Heritage castles and country houses, as well as cities like Cesky Krumlov and Telc, and nature reserves.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Prague in 2011.

Bernard Marty
Martin Novak
Bernard Bourdon

Abstract Submission opens: 1 February 2011
Abstract Submission closes: 15 April 2011
Early Registration closes: 15 June 2011
www.goldschmidt2011.org
The conference began with a welcoming reception and poster session, where 13 graduate and undergraduate posters were on display. Over the following two days, 31 oral presentations were given by students, who discussed their latest research findings covering a variety of geoscience topics. Each session began with a lecture by a prominent keynote speaker; these were Drs. Jeffrey Hedenquist, Bill Arnott, Alexandre Poulain, Liam Keiser, and Ian Clark. The MAC was the official cosponsor of two coffee breaks. Saturday-night attendees enjoyed a conference dinner hosted by Jazzy Restaurant at the University of Ottawa. During the closing ceremony, several awards were announced. The AESRC 2010–CSEG best undergraduate poster award was given to Jamie Cutts (Carleton University). The first and second runners-up were Allison Enright and Nicole Williamson (both from the University of Ottawa). The AESRC 2010–CSEG award for best graduate poster went to Leena Davis (University of Ottawa). The first and second runners-up were Viktor Terlaky and Jamil Sader (both from the University of Ottawa). The AESRC 2010–Imperial Oil award for best MSc talk honored Mélanie Mercier (Carleton University). The first runner-up was Kristen Feige (University of Ottawa) and the second runner-up was Joanna Northover (Carleton University). Finally, the AESRC 2010–CSPG award for best PhD oral presentation was given to Deanne van Rooyen (Carleton University). The first and second runners-up were Erika Revesz and John Jamieson (both from the University of Ottawa). This conference benefited greatly from MAC’s generous contribution.

**MAC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Mélanie Cousineau (University of Ottawa) and Luke Hilchie (Dalhousie University) are the recipients of the 2010 MAC Foundation Scholarships. Congratulations to these deserving students!

Mélanie Cousineau completed her BSc (honors) in environmental science at the University of Ottawa in 2001, graduating with the highest standing in the program. During these studies, she worked as a research assistant in soil science research at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa and as an environmental officer at the Thurso Pulp Mill. In 2001 she enrolled in the MSc (environmental science) program at Memorial University of Newfoundland under the supervision of Drs. Moire Wadleigh and David Schneider. Her research there focused on the use of sulfur isotopes in lichens to trace atmospheric sulfur sources. After graduating in 2003, Mélanie moved to Québec City, where she worked for Environment Canada’s Canadian Wildlife Service and was responsible for the national coordination of a program on the impact of wind turbines on migratory birds and a research project on the use of radar to track bird migrations. In 2008, she returned to the University of Ottawa to begin a PhD in Earth sciences under the supervision of Drs. Danielle Fortin and Boswell Wing (McGill University). In her research, she uses pure cultures of acid-tolerant strains of sulfate-reducing bacteria to determine the role of pH in sulfur fractionation during bacterial sulfate reduction (BSR). This has implications for understanding geochemical conditions prevailing in ancient ocean and freshwater environments. Archean oceans, which are believed to have been acidic, supported the beginning of life on Earth and the appearance of BSR metabolism. Additionally, because sulfate-reducing bacteria have the potential to remediate acid mine drainage, understanding the metabolism of these organisms at low pH conditions may benefit research into large-scale bioreactor applications for remediation purposes.

Luke Hilchie received his BSc with first class honors in Earth sciences from Dalhousie University in 2009, earning him the University Medal in Earth Sciences. He studied experimentally generated surface textures of diamond oxidized in chloride-bearing fluids under the supervision of Dr. Yana Fedortchouk. He then began his MSc at Dalhousie under the supervision of Drs. Yana Fedortchouk and Sergei Matveev (University of Alberta). Luke is comparing the hydrogen-related infrared spectra of olivine in xenoliths and diamond surface morphologies produced in fluid-bearing and fluid-free experiments to determine the linkage between hydrogen in olivine, diamond quality, and the presence or absence of aqueous fluid. This investigation will establish whether the hydrogen-related infrared spectra of xenocrystic or xenocrystic olivine in kimberlites can be reliably used as proxies for diamond quality and magmatic water oversaturation. This study may also elucidate the causes of variations in diamond quality among kimberlites.

**MAC UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS**

The MAC Undergraduate Awards are given annually to undergraduate students for excellence in one of the fields covered by MAC (mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, geochemistry, and economic geology). The award consists of a gift certificate for MAC publications and one-year subscriptions to Elements and the online version of The Canadian Mineralogist. We congratulate the 2009–2010 awardees:

- **MICHAEL A. ANTONELLI**, University of Alberta
- **JESSICA BALDWIN**, Memorial University
- **ANNE-MARIE BEAUCHAMP**, Université Laval
- **ANNE C. BÉLANGER**, Dalhousie University
- **MATTHEW BRZOZOWSKI**, University of Windsor
- **KEVIN M. CANNON**, Queen’s University
- **MARTINE CHABOT**, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
- **BRADY KEVIN CLIFT**, UBC Okanagan
- **ADAM CLOUGH**, Carleton University
- **KENDALL L. CULLIGAN**, University of British Columbia
- **MATEA DRILJEPAN**, Brock University
- **ASHLEY MARIE EMMSS**, Mount Royal University
- **STEPHANIE FRIEDRICH**, Acadia University
- **EVAN R. GLADNEY**, St. Mary’s University
- **AMY M. KENWELL**, University of Waterloo
- **ELLEN LEASK**, McGill University
- **JASON LÉVESQUE**, McGill University
- **RYAN BREAUX LIBBEY**, University of New Brunswick
- **TRAVIS J. A. MCCRORRY**, St. François Xavier University
- **JALISSA C. McMULLEN**, University of Regina
- **GREG F. PAJU**, Lakehead University
- **DANICA FRANCINE PASCUA**, University of Toronto
- **MEGHAN C. TOMLIN**, University of Victoria
- **PETER A. TSCHIRHART**, McMaster University

**ADVANCES IN EARTH SCIENCES RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2010**

This year’s AESRC conference, “Geosciences: A World beyond Textbooks,” was held at the University of Ottawa, Ontario, on March 26–28, 2010. It had a record attendance of 83 people, including 61 students, 12 faculty, 5 industry sponsors, and 5 keynote speakers. This bilingual, graduate student–run conference is the only one of its kind in central Canada and attracted students from eight universities across Ontario and Quebec. Participating universities included the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Queen’s University, the University of Toronto, the University of Montreal, the Université du Québec à Montréal, the University of Waterloo, and McMaster University.

The conference began with a welcoming reception and poster session, where 13 graduate and undergraduate posters were on display. Over the following two days, 31 oral presentations were given by students, who discussed their latest research findings covering a variety of geoscience topics. Each session began with a lecture by a prominent keynote speaker; these were Drs. Jeffrey Hedenquist, Bill Arnott, Alexandre Poulain, Liam Keiser, and Ian Clark. The MAC was the official cosponsor of two coffee breaks. Saturday-night attendees enjoyed a conference dinner hosted by Jazzy Restaurant at the University of Ottawa. During the closing ceremony, several awards were announced. The AESRC 2010–CSEG best undergraduate poster award was given to Jamie Cutts (Carleton University). The first and second runners-up were Allison Enright and Nicole Williamson (both from the University of Ottawa). The AESRC 2010–CSEG award for best graduate poster went to Leena Davis (University of Ottawa). The first and second runners-up were Viktor Terlaky and Jamil Sader (both from the University of Ottawa). The AESRC 2010–Imperial Oil award for best MSc talk honored Mélanie Mercier (Carleton University). The first runner-up was Kristen Feige (University of Ottawa) and the second runner-up was Joanna Northover (Carleton University). Finally, the AESRC 2010–CSPG award for best PhD oral presentation was given to Deanne van Rooyen (Carleton University). The first and second runners-up were Erika Revesz and John Jamieson (both from the University of Ottawa). This conference benefited greatly from MAC’s generous contribution.

**Leena Davis** and **Matt Herod** (University of Ottawa)
ANNUAL SEM MEETING IN MADRID

The 30th meeting of the Spanish Mineralogical Society was held in Madrid from September 13 to 16. The meeting was organized jointly by scientists from the Complutense University (UCM) and the Polytechnical University of Madrid, the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), and the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME). Financial support was provided by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, the Spanish National Research Council, and industrial sponsors.

The meeting was preceded by a biominerals and biomineralization workshop on Monday, September 13. The 46 participants listened to six lectures by Wolfgang Schmahl (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität of Munich), Erika Griesshaber (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität of Munich), Alberto Pérez-Huerta (University of Alabama), Paolo Montagna (Columbia University), Concepción Jiménez-López (University of Granada), and Alejandro Rodríguez-Navarro (University of Granada). These lectures are collected in the 7th volume of the Seminarios de la Sociedad Española de Mineralogía series.

The meeting opened on Monday evening with a welcoming ceremony in the Mining Engineering School Auditorium, followed by an icebreaker reception at the Gómez-Pardo Foundation. Tuesday and Wednesday (September 14 and 15) were devoted to the scientific sessions. The scientific program included four plenary lectures and nine special sessions (oral and poster) arranged around the following topics: general mineralogy and petrology, ore deposits mineralogy, biomineralization, environmental mineralogy, cultural heritage and applied mineralogy, crystal growth, and mineral–fluid interaction. The plenary lectures were given by Lia Addadi (Weizmann Institute of Science), David Millward (British Geological Survey), Santiago Leguey (Autonomous University of Madrid), and Mercedes Suárez (University of Salamanca). A total of 146 participants attended the meeting, which comprised 53 oral and 58 poster presentations. The oral sessions were held at the Auditorium of the Gómez-Pardo Foundation and in the Mining Engineering School (UPM), while the posters were on display at the IGME. Concurrently with the poster sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, guided visits to the impressive collections of minerals and fossils housed at the IGME and the Mining Engineering School were arranged for small groups. On Tuesday evening, participants had the chance to attend the projection of the film The Mystery of Giant Crystals, directed by Javier Trueba and written by Juan Manuel García-Ruiz.

The SEM Young Scientist Prizes for the best poster and oral communications were announced during the conference dinner on Wednesday evening. The award committee unanimously decided to give ex aequo prizes to Andreas Götz (LMU of Munich) and Idael Francisco Blanco-Quintero (University of Granada) for their outstanding oral presentations: “Sea urchin teeth – A mechanical, chemical and crystallographic characterization of a highly optimized biogenic composite material” and “Ba-sequestering phases in the subduction environment (Eastern Cuba Mélanges): Implications for arc magmas,” respectively. Gloria Venegas del Valle (Astrobiology Center, CSIC-INTA) was recognized for her interesting poster entitled “Caracterización mineralógica de la alteración supergénica de El Jaroso mediante espectroscopía Raman.”

A postmeeting field trip to La Cabrera (Guadarrama Range, Madrid) was held on Thursday, September 16. The field trip, led by Rafael Lozano and Ramón Jiménez, included visits to numerous mineralized sites associated with the granites and pegmatites of La Cabrera, as well as to the open-air Stone Museum (El Berrueco, Madrid). Further information about the meeting will be posted on the SEM website (www.ehu.es/sem).

A NEW SEM PRESIDENT

During the SEM general assembly in Madrid on September 15, Carles Ayora was elected as the new president of the SEM for a period of four years. He takes over from Manuel Prieto, who has generously served the Society since 2006. Carles Ayora holds a PhD in geological sciences (University of Barcelona, 1981) and is currently a research professor at the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA) of the Spanish Research Council. His main areas of interest are experimental water–rock interaction, modeling, and the coupling of hydrogeological and geochemical processes. Manuel Prieto’s presidency was marked by actions to make the SEM more modern and dynamic. Among the challenges for the new president will be to enlarge the SEM’s field of activities and to foster cooperative interactions within Spain’s geochemical community.
MAINLY INTENDED TO ENTERTAIN YOU WITH SOME COLORFUL PHOTOGRAPHIES, THIS PAGE IS ALSO A WAY FOR ME TO THANK MARIA TERESA AND JUAN CARLOS FOR A FANTASTIC VACATION. THINK ABOUT THE SONG BY CHRIS REA AND RELAX: WE TRAVEL TO SOUTHERN SPAIN AND THE STONES ON THE SHORE AT CARBONERAS. PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE MISLED BY THE PLACE NAME: YES, THERE'S A COAL-FIRED POWER STATION RIGHT OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY DOWNSIDE AGAINST A LONG LIST OF ASSETS THAT INCLUDES CLIMATE, CULTURE, CRYSTAL-CLEAR SEA (PHOTO 1), THE AMAZING CABO DE GATA – NIJAR NATIONAL PARK AND, WHY NOT, FOOD AND DRINK. THE GEOLOGY OF THIS AREA IS EQUALLY EXCITING, AND THE ROCK TYPES ARE SO DIVERSE THAT I DECIDED TO COLLECT SOME BEACH PEBBLES FOR A PHOTOMICROSCOPIC REPORTAGE.

PORPHYRITIC ANDESITE IS BY FAR THE MOST COMMON ROCK ON THE BEACH (2, 3) AND FORMS MOST OF THE 200 KM² MIocene VOLCANIC FIELD OF CABO DE GATA. THIS ROCK WAS EXTRUDED IN THE MIocene, FOLLOWED BY GARNET-CORDIERITE-BEARING DACITES (4). THE GRAVEL ALSO CONTAINS METAMORPHIC ROCKS FROM THE ALBORÁN DOMAIN: SUCH AS HIGH-GRADE METAPELITES (5), QUARTZITES (6), SCHISTS, AND MYLONITES (7). THE ABUNDANCE OF HIGHLY TECTONIZED ROCKS IS NOT SURPRISING: ALONG WITH THE DUCTILE IMPRINT OF SUBDUCTION AND EXHUMATION ON THE CRUSTAL BASEMENT, A WIDESPREAD CATACLASIS OCCURS NEAR THE CARBONERAS FAULT (8), A LITHOSPHERIC-SCALE, STILL-ACTIVE STRUCTURAL ELEMENT IN THE REGION. Thus, tectonic breccias add to those that occur primarily in the sedimentary strata of the neighbouring Neogene basins (9, 10). All the above rock types, and many others, are cemented together in beautiful beach conglomerates (11, 12), which formed all along the coast during the last rock-forming event in the Pliocene.

I HAD THIN SECTIONS MADE FROM THE PEBBLES AND TOOK PHOTOMICROGRAPHS: THE IMAGES IN THIS ARTICLE ARE A GLIMPSE INTO THE MARVELOUS, SMALL WORLD HIDDEN IN THESE ROCKS. THE PEBBLES ARE THE “ARTISTS”: I JUST HELP THEM SHOWCASE THEIR BEST COLOURS. AND THIS IS THE POWER OF POLARIZED LIGHT, NOT OF PHOTOSHOP!

BERNAARDO CESARE
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