

Dear Colleagues,

Here is the December issue of the Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology Section newsletter with a variety of information on the imminent Fall Meeting. Further information on VGP activities can be found at <http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP/>. Feedback and/or items for future newsletters can be sent to Sarah Fagents at fagents@hawaii.edu.

In this issue:

- * Message from the VGP President
 - AGU Fall Meeting
 - New VGP Officer terms
 - VGP activities in 2011
- * VGP student survey
- * Education sessions at the AGU Fall Meeting
- * AOGS-AGU WPGM Meeting, Singapore, 13-17 August 2012
- * Request for expert science reviews for climate and energy educational resources

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE VGP PRESIDENT

- AGU Fall Meeting

I am looking forward to meeting VGP members at the AGU Fall Meeting and especially the VGP reception on Tuesday evening (San Francisco Marriott Salon 9 starting 6.30 pm). The Reception includes a brief report from me, and the VGP Awards ceremony, which this year honors Jamie Connolly and Marc Hirschmann for the Bowen Award and Katie Kelly for the Kuno Award. Many congratulations to Jim, Marc and Katie on their achievements. In addition, Becky Lange will give a retrospective on the life and times of Ian Carmichael who sadly passed away this year. Ian was a giant of our field and I invite you to attend the reception to celebrate his life and achievements. As well as a very full menu of exciting sessions, VGP highlights include the Bowen Award lectures by Jim and Marc (Moscone West Rooms 2022/2024 at 4-6 pm on Tuesday) and the Daly Lecture by Colin Wilson (Moscone West Rooms 2022/2024 at 10.20 to 11.20 pm on Thursday).

I would like to highlight the hard work and dedication of the VGP Secretaries (Matt Kohn and Anita Grunder). The superb organization of sessions is very much down to their hard work. It's a big job so if you see Matt and Anita, be sure to let them know that their efforts are greatly appreciated. We should also not forget the dedication of the AGU staff. Putting on such a huge meeting so effectively and efficiently is a herculean task. If you meet AGU staff, an acknowledgement of their outstanding work and professionalism will also be much appreciated.

- New VGP Officer terms

A major decision has been made by the AGU Board and Council to change the start date of the officers to terms from July to 1st January. This new regime will start in 2013 and thus some officers are continuing their terms for an additional 6 months. For VGP this includes the President, President-elect and Geochemistry Secretary. Members may recall that VGP is also hoping to stagger the Secretaries' terms. As a consequence, VGP will be appointing a new VP Secretary to replace Anita Grunder. This is allowed by VGP bylaws in the situation where there is a need for a new Officer outside the election cycle. I am very pleased to announce that Julia Hammer (University of Hawaii) has agreed to become the new VP Secretary for 2012. I should add that the VGP Executive Committee is considering some options for re-assessing the duties of the Secretary and the way that the Section organizes meetings. The current approach, with two elected Secretaries, has worked well up to now but there may be alternatives that are even better.

- VGP activities in 2011

It is worth reflecting on what VGP has done this year. AGU asked all sections to respond to a survey, which will become part of an annual report. I report below what President-elect Catherine McCammon and I wrote, noting that I have added for this newsletter some acknowledgements in parentheses:

What's the best thing that happened in your section/focus group this year?

- We initiated new activities to align VGP with the strategic plan (E&O committee, international cooperation, new web site, student representative) while successfully keeping up with the usual slate of VGP affairs.

How has your section/focus group aligned to or advanced the strategic plan?

- VGP re-organized its Education and Outreach (E&O) committee to form two new committees, one on Student Awards and the other on E&O, which enables VGP to be much better placed to meet AGU strategic goals in E&O.

(Thanks to Chuck Connor and Howard Day for agreeing to chair the new Education and Outreach Committee and Student Award Committee respectively)

- VGP has developed an agreement with the equivalent Division in EGU to hold joint sessions and an award ceremony at the Spring 2012 EGU Meeting in Vienna, Austria.

(Thanks to Nick Arndt, President of GMPV for his positive response and enthusiasm)

- VGP overhauled its web site to be better organised with new features such as breaking news and links to VGP-related blogs (moving to a dynamic rather than a static web site).

(Thanks extended to Diana Roman of course and all who led on developing and maintaining the new web site going)

- VGP has appointed a student representative on its Executive Committee who is providing interesting blogs on the new and improved web site.

(Thanks to Jessica Ball for agreeing to become the student representative and for her interesting blogs)

What key outcomes from your group would you like to share with the AGU Council and Board?

- VGP is excited about the prospects of the new E&O Committee. Previously a committee with the same name worked only on Student Awards at the Fall Meeting, with essentially no education or outreach work being done. Student Awards are now handled by a dedicated separate committee, leaving the new committee with the opportunity to develop new initiatives and activities (including development of a dynamic web site). Planning is actively underway, with close communication with the main AGU E&O committee to facilitate development of new resources and to ensure the effective use of existing resources.

What issues are you facing? How could other Council members help?

- In order for VGP to be more effective we need to expand the volunteer base and re-consider the traditional role of Section Secretaries. Some of the ideas we are considering conflict with existing bylaws and the current mechanism by which AGU supports Fall Meeting Program Committee members. Also we need more continuity through Section Officers' terms (corporate memory). In a nutshell the level of support needs to be updated. Council needs to develop a strategy for meetings outside the Fall Meeting and also provide some guidance about how to involve student and early career representatives in Section activities.

Of course members of VGP may have other ideas, perspectives and suggestions. Thus I very much hope that VGP members will let the Officers and Committee members know your views and ideas at the Fall Meeting. A full list of officers and Executive Committee members can be found on the web site (<http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP/>).

Steve Sparks
VGP President

(2) VGP STUDENT SURVEY

As the new (and first) student representative for the Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology Section of AGU, I am in the unique situation of needing to define the role and responsibilities of my position.

I want to hear from VGP students what you want your representative to do. What are the important issues you want the Executive Committee to know about, what changes you would like to see made, how the Section can help you with research and conferences, etc. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K85L55T> and let me know what you want me to do for you! The deadline is November 30.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at jlball@buffalo.edu.

Jessica Ball
VGP Student representative

(3) EDUCATION SESSIONS AT THE AGU FALL MEETING

We wanted to bring to your attention several oral and poster presentations in the Education Session of this year's AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco. The sessions are intended for a general scientific audience, with a goal to share opportunities, tips and techniques for scientist involvement in Education and Public Outreach. The conveners of these sessions enthusiastically encourage you to hear these great talks and visit the many posters.

Here is a sampling of sessions that may be of interest:

Monday

ED12A – Communicating Research, Outreach Activities, and Their Impacts (oral) 10:20 AM – 12:20 PM; Moscone South Room 302

ED13A – Communicating Research, Outreach Activities, and Their Impacts (posters) 1:40 PM – 6:00 PM; Moscone South Halls A-C

Wednesday

ED31C – Scientist and Expert Participation in Education and Public Outreach (oral) 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM; Moscone South Room 301

ED32A – Scientist Participation in Science Communication (oral) 10:20 AM – 12:20 PM; Moscone South Room 301

ED33A – Scientist and Expert Participation in Education and Public Outreach (posters) 1:40 PM to 6:00 PM; Moscone South Rooms A-C

ED33B – Scientist Participation in Science Communication (posters) 1:40 PM to 6:00 PM; Moscone South Rooms A-C

Thursday

ED43A – Engaging the Next Generation of Scientists in Effective Professional Development Experiences (posters) 1:40 PM – 6:00 PM; Moscone South Halls A-C

ED43D – Engaging the Next Generation of Scientists in Effective Professional Development Experiences (oral) 1:40 PM – 3:40 PM; Moscone South Room 301

Anita Grunder and Matt Kohn
VGP Secretaries

(4) AOGS-AGU (WPGM) MEETING, SINGAPORE, 13-17 AUGUST 2012

We would like to invite you to submit session proposals in the 'Solid Earth' and 'Volcanology, Geochemistry, Petrology' sections of the next AOGS-AGU (WPGM) meeting that will take place in Singapore, 13-17 August 2012. The deadline for session proposal is 5 December 2011. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to meet colleagues working in the Asia Oceania region, discuss new findings, and think of future projects and collaborations! For more details please see:

<http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2012/public.asp?page=home.htm>

Please also note the reception event during AGU Fall meeting that will be a warm up for the AOGS-AGU (WPGM) meeting in 2012. Venue: Sierra K on Level 5 at the Marriott Marquis (55 Fourth Street), 5-minute walk from Moscone Center. Time: Wed 7 Dec from 6 to 7.30 pm.

Fidel Costa
VGP Western Pacific Meeting representative

(5) REQUEST FOR EXPERT SCIENCE REVIEWS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Please help out – Come to the NOAA Booth (#1337) at the 2011 AGU Fall Meeting

Please provide your expertise to assure that the resources we are making available to educators and students are scientifically accurate. The Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network (CLEAN) (<http://cleanet.org>) is stewarding a collection of educational resources focusing on climate and energy topics for grades 6-16. The CLEAN review process, described in detail at <http://cleanet.org/clean/about/review.html>, involves two separate reviews and a review panel by scientists and educators. Because of the broad scientific scope of climate and energy related educational resources, we need an expert science review for each resource that passes the review panel.

We will be at the NOAA booth (#1337) in the Exhibit Hall at the AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco. The process is entirely online using Survey Monkey – you can provide your review there, or take the information and provide it at your convenience. If you are interested in helping and will not be at the AGU meeting, you can still help. All relevant information can be found at <http://cleanet.org/clean/community/sciencereview>. If you have questions please contact me.

Tamara Ledley (tamara_ledley@terc.edu).