

Dear Colleagues,

Here is the March 1 issue of the AGU Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology section newsletter. This, together with other VGP news, can be found at the VGP website <http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP/>. Please send any future news items to Sarah Fagents (fagents@higp.hawaii.edu).

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(1) MESSAGE FROM THE VGP PRESIDENT

* VGP Awards

The memories of the AGU Fall Meeting are now fading but developments within AGU and VGP continue. I repeat congratulations to our Awards winners for 2011, namely Jamie Connolly and Marc Hirschmann for the Bowen Award and Katie Kelley for the Kuno Award. Citation and response speeches are given at <http://vgp.agu.org/connolly.shtml>, <http://vgp.agu.org/hirschmann.shtml>, and <http://vgp.agu.org/kelley.shtml>. Of course, nomination deadlines for the 2012 awards are coming up quite soon (see item 2 below) so I ask all VGP members to consider helping to recognize the achievements of their colleagues by putting forward nominations.

* Ethics within AGU

Many VGP members will be aware of the difficulties scientists are now facing with concerted and sometimes antagonistic efforts to discredit and circumvent findings of science with which they are uncomfortable. This is most prominent in the arena of climate change but, with Italian seismologists now being tried in Italy in relation to risk assessment of earthquakes, no AGU scientist can be sure that the winds of irrationality and anti-science sentiment will not affect them. In these troubling times the importance of ethical behaviour has never been higher. The most recent incident, relating to papers obtained from the Heartland Institute, involved subterfuge and led to the resignation of the Chair of the AGU Ethics Committee. In the light of this painful incident, within the family as it were, AGU will be considering and perhaps strengthening its guidelines for standards of ethical behaviour. Science will only prosper as a force for good to address the great challenges of the future if it maintains the highest standards of integrity.

* VGP leadership cycles

I remind VGP members of the change of the cycles for election and terms of Officers in AGU Sections. Officers (President, President-elect and Secretaries) will start their terms

of office on 1st January from 2013 onwards. The term of office will remain 2 years long. This means that I will remain as President and Catherine McCammon will remain as President-Elect for an extra 6 months. So I am afraid you will see us yet again at the 2012 AGU Fall Meeting. Rest assured that this is not some hidden agenda towards Presidency for life! The elections for the new Officers will take place this summer. The VGP Nominations Committee has been working hard to identify a slate of excellent candidates so please use your vote when the time comes.

We are using these changes as an opportunity to make some organizational changes within VGP. Although two new Secretaries will be elected for Volcanology/Petrology this summer, their terms will be staggered to give more continuity for the Secretarial work. In order to allow this to happen, Matt Kohn has kindly agreed to stay on as Geochemistry secretary for one extra year. Anita Grunder has stepped down and I would like to thank Anita on behalf of VGP members for her outstanding service. Dr. Julia Hammer has also kindly agreed to replace Anita as VP secretary for 2 years, and this will allow the staggering. Finally, once the election results are known the plan is to form a VGP Meetings Committee which will include the Secretaries and other volunteers to help VGP to be more proactive with respect to other meetings outside the Fall meeting.

* Co-operation with Mineralogical Society of America (MSA).

I am very pleased to announce that VGP will co-operate with the MSA who have signed a general MOU with AGU. More specifically there have been discussions between MSA and VGP officers, and approval of the co-operation by the VGP Executive Committee. Six areas of co-operation have been agreed as follows:

1. Agreement to have the Dana Lecture and Medal Ceremony of MSA scheduled at the next Fall AGU as part of the VGP program.
2. Agreement to invite MSA to be involved in the VGP reception, which would include the awards ceremony for the Dana Medal. MSA have indicated that they will contribute to the bar bill. Thus the reception will be bigger and better.
3. Having joint sessions at AGU. A mechanism has to worked out but VGP members who are contemplating putting forward sessions might think of MSA colleagues with which to discuss themes of mutual interest.
4. MSA are planning to offer VGP members a subscription to Elements and reduced rates for attending MSA short courses. MSA members will also get concessionary rates for AGU meetings through the MOU.
5. Involvement of VGP in proposing some joint MSA short courses. VGP (see above) is forming a new Meetings Committee, which can be tasked to link up with MSA to develop this idea.
6. Co-operation in Education and outreach.

(2) CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 AGU AND VGP AWARDS AND MEDALS

Do you know someone worthy of recognition by AGU or VGP? Now is your chance to nominate deserving colleagues. Such awards are an important recognition of scientific accomplishment, and a strong slate of VGP-affiliated candidates helps to showcase our research field to AGU and the outside world.

AGU Union Medals, Awards, and Prizes are among the most respected in the Earth and space science communities worldwide, and recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions. We very much hope that some VGP members will be among the 2012 cohort. The deadline of 16th March is fast approaching. Please refer to the AGU website (<http://sites.agu.org/honors/>) for details on previous winners and how to make a nomination.

The Bowen Award is given by the VGP Section for outstanding contributions to volcanology, geochemistry or petrology. The contribution may be: (1) a single outstanding paper published in any journal; (2) a series of papers which, taken together, constitute an outstanding contribution; or (3) any other contribution that the Selection Committee considers worthy. Special consideration is given to nominees who have not previously received a medal. The VGP web site (<http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP/bowen.shtml>) lists previous winners and provides instructions on how to nominate. The deadline this year is 25th May 2012.

The Kuno Award is given by the VGP Section for outstanding contributions to the fields of Volcanology, Geochemistry or Petrology. The Award is based on the quality of publications arising from work performed up to seven years past the receipt of the Ph.D. Awardees must be members of AGU at the time of nomination, and within seven years of the award of the Ph.D. on Jan 1st of the year of the Award. The VGP website (<http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP/kuno.shtml>) lists previous winners and provides instructions on how to nominate. Deadline is 1st May 2012.

In December 2011, the AGU Council voted to align the nomination cycles for all Union honors, which means that the next election cycle for Fellows (who will be honored at the 2013 Fall Meeting) will take place at the beginning of 2013.

(3) NEW AGU FELLOWS

Once again AGU has announced a very impressive set of scientists who will be honored as Fellows at the Fall meeting in December 2012 (a full list is given here: <http://sites.agu.org/honors/class-of-2012>). We extend our warmest congratulations, especially to the following who are affiliated with VGP:

VGP Primary Affiliation:

Janne Blichert-Toft, Laboratoire de Géologie de Lyon, Ecole Normale Supérieure, France

John M. Ferry, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Johns Hopkins University, USA

Yuji Sano, Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Japan

Stephen Self, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, USA

Jane Selverstone, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of New Mexico, USA

VGP Secondary Affiliation:

Edward T. Baker, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, NOAA , USA

Andrew J. W. Gleadow, School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia

Bernard Marty and his colleagues on the VGP Fellows Committee are to be commended for their hard work and attention to excellence.

(4) AOGS-AGU (WPGM) JOINT ASSEMBLY, SINGAPORE

We would like to invite you to submit abstracts to the AOGS-AGU (WPGM) conference, which will take place in Singapore (13-17 August 2012). Please refer to the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society website for further details:

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

There are 48 sessions within the Solid Earth section that might be of interest to VGP members: <http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2012/public.asp?page=mars2/confSessionList.asp>

Abstract submission ends on March 12th.

(5) AGU FALL MEETING 2012, DECEMBER 6-10, SAN FRANCISCO

Now is the time to submit proposals for special sessions for the Fall 2012 Meeting.

Special sessions help you promote interdisciplinary research, bring together workers in emerging areas of VGP, debate controversial topics, or establish the state-of-the art in VGP research areas. We particularly encourage new faces to chair sessions, and session proposals that link VGP to other sections or focus groups, e.g. biogeochemistry, cosmochemistry, deep interior processes, mineral physics, etc. The session proposal deadline is April 20. Information about how to submit a session proposal can be found on the AGU website: <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2012/>

Questions or ideas? Contact VGP Secretaries Julia Hammer (jhammer@hawaii.edu) or Matt Kohn (mattkohn@boisestate.edu)

(6) GSA FIELD FORUM: FORMATION OF THE SIERRA NEVADA BATHOLITH

The Geological Society of America is sponsoring a 7-day field forum investigating the magmatic and tectonic processes of formation of the Sierra Nevada Batholith, CA, on 1-8 September 2012. The evolution of continental margin orogens and magmatic arcs involve non-steady-state processes of subduction, orogeny, magmatism, exhumation, and erosion/redeposition. Recent studies have begun to examine the tempo of cyclic volumetric addition rates to arcs of plutonic and volcanic materials, driven by feedbacks between these processes both at the scale of arcs and single magmatic or volcanic systems. A full evaluation of these arc tempos requires the development and syntheses of large databases with high-precision temporal control. One arc, where a number of research groups have been actively developing and synthesizing high-precision databases, is the Sierra Nevada, California. This Field Forum will bring researchers together to share and discuss various data sets while examining components of the Mesozoic arc. Our goal is to foster cross-disciplinary discussions, leading to a better understanding of the components of batholith formation; the tectonic controls on the tempo of arc development; and the significance of important new field, geochronologic, and geochemical databases.

Further details regarding itinerary, costs and registration can be found at <http://www.geosociety.org/fieldForums/12sierraNevada.htm>. Questions may be directed to Scott Paterson, University of Southern California (paterson@usc.edu).