

## May, 2010

### VGP Section Newsletter #40

Dear colleagues,

The latest issue of the Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology section newsletter rings in the changes in the VGP Executive Committee, solicits nominations for VGP AGU Fellows, and provides information on upcoming AGU meetings. Archives of the newsletter, as well as a host of useful VGP-related information, can be found at <http://vgp.agu.org>. Please provide any feedback or items for future newsletters to Sarah Fagents at <mailto:fagents@hawaii.edu>.

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#### *(1) MESSAGE FROM THE VGP PRESIDENT*

Dear colleagues,

This Newsletter is my last as President of VGP. The time has flown by and it has been hugely rewarding to be involved in such a dynamic organisation. Of course the biggest developments have been to do with AGU itself, which has been transformed in important ways over the past two years. The changes are being enacted with the handover to the new Council and Board of AGU this summer. Members voted overwhelmingly in support of this; 97% approved the bylaws; 97% approved the articles of incorporation. The participation level exceeded the response level of the previous two AGU elections. We are grateful to you for your involvement in this process. The most exciting development on this front is the announcement that the new Executive Director is Christine McEntee (<http://www.agu.org/about/ed/>). We are looking forward to great times ahead under her leadership.

I will be handing over to my successor *Steve Sparks* (<http://www.gly.bris.ac.uk/people/rsjs.html>) this June. This is of course entirely appropriate. Given the recent airline disruption, volcanology has clearly eclipsed geochemistry as the subject for the future, in the UK at least. Steve has already become fully immersed in the running of things within VGP and at the AGU Council level. As is normal he will be making some changes to the VGP Exec Committee so I would like to use most of my space to thank a few of the many who have helped VGP over the past two years. I can't include everybody and please accept my apologies if you are not mentioned.

As I have said before, I do not think you can be really enthusiastic about science and not care about the quality of the mechanisms by which it is honestly and openly discussed, published, honored and communicated to the wider world. This is what VGP and AGU are all about. I wanted to mention a few of the individuals who have given a particularly significant amount of time and effort to making sure our very high standards have been maintained over the past two years.

One of the key functions in the VGP Exec is that provided by *Sarah Fagents* (<http://www.higp.hawaii.edu/cgi-bin/higp/directory.cgi?func=disp&searchname=SarahA.Fagents>) who regularly and reliably produces this Newsletter. Without question she fulfils one of the most important roles in helping keep VGP together. She has done a really fantastic job and deserves a big vote of thanks from us all.

*Jon Davidson* has just completed his two year term as the first Chair of the Kuno Awards

Committee. He has ensured that our first awards went to two outstanding individuals raising the bar to the highest level. He is being replaced by **Bruce Houghton** (<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/asp/GG/people/people.asp?ID=2431>).

**Chris Nye** has been regularly servicing our web site and kindly agreed to stay on when I took over as President. We have been looking for someone to take the burden off him. After asking for volunteers to help with the running of VGP I was contacted by **Diana Roman** from the University of Southern Florida (<http://geology.usf.edu/faculty/droman/>) who has just taken on this important task. Many thanks for your help Chris and Diana. And just to warn anybody else who volunteers – we take it seriously!

**Catherine McCammon** has been running the Fellows Committee for the past two years. We have done extremely well in getting a large number of VGP affiliated scientists elected under Catherine's guidance. I am also very grateful to **Roberta Rudnick** for her work on the Union Fellows Committee; her position too comes to an end this year. Catherine is being replaced by **Bernard Marty** (<http://www.cprg.cnrs-nancy.fr/Equipes/FR/bmarty.html>). Catherine herself (<http://www.bgi.uni-bayreuth.de/organization/bgistaff/staffinfo.php?id=36>) is of course taking over as the new President-elect.

The new President-elect and Secretaries are chosen by all of us in an election, but the tricky job of finding individuals who are willing to stand falls on the Nominations Committee, who did a really fantastic job this last year under the Chairship of **Bill McDonough**. Getting good nominations is critical to the future course of the society and the committee provided us with excellent and difficult choices in electing our new team.

Two people who will be a really tough act to follow are the two secretaries **Janne Blichert-Toft** and **Paul Wallace** who have had the daunting task of organising the fantastic sessions for 2008 and 2009 Fall AGU. Janne and Paul have worked *so* hard but the effect has been very apparent for all attending the Fall meetings. They are being replaced by **Anita Grunder** ([http://geo.oregonstate.edu/people/faculty/Anita\\_Grunder](http://geo.oregonstate.edu/people/faculty/Anita_Grunder)) and **Matt Kohn** (<http://earth.boisestate.edu/content/people/faculty/mattkohn.html>).

Finally, I should like to thank **Don Baker** who organised the best set of Spring Meeting VGP sessions for a very long time last year in Toronto and has followed this with organisation of the Meeting of the Americas in Iguassu Falls this summer (see item (3) below).

I could go on of course. Steve, Catherine and I will be meeting in the next few weeks to discuss the strategy for VGP going forward. Now that things are clearer with AGU organisation we expect to follow through on plans for new web pages, a series of workshops prior to the Fall Meeting, the inclusion of young scientists on the VGP Exec and possibilities for the Daly Lecture, which this year will be held at the Fall Meeting in San Francisco. We welcome your suggestions for the latter. Finally, don't forget to nominate your colleagues to become AGU Fellows (see item (2) below for details). With best wishes,

**Alex Halliday**  
*VGP President*

## **(2) CALL FOR VGP NOMINATIONS FOR AGU FELLOWS**

Do you know someone deserving of AGU Fellowship? On the committee we quite often hear the comment, "I didn't know XXX wasn't a fellow -- I thought they were awarded fellowship years ago." Now is your chance to nominate deserving colleagues. The award is an important recognition of scientific accomplishment, and a strong slate of VGP candidates helps to showcase our research field to AGU and the outside world. VGP has done quite well in recent years, in part due to the enthusiastic suggestions from VGP members regarding potential nominations. Ideas regarding scientists from underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged; for example 24% of AGU members are female, but they made up only 12% of fellows elected in 2010.

For nomination instructions, see <http://www.agu.org/about/honors/fellows/nominations/>, and a complete list of AGU Fellows is given at <http://www.agu.org/about/honors/fellows/alphaall.php>. The deadline for nomination for 2011 AGU Fellows is 1 July 2010. Please contact us if you have questions or suggestions.

**Bernard Marty**, Incoming Chair of the VGP Fellows Committee ([bmarty@crpg.cnrs-nancy.fr](mailto:bmarty@crpg.cnrs-nancy.fr))  
**Catherine McCammon**, Outgoing Chair of the VGP Fellows Committee  
([catherine.mccammon@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:catherine.mccammon@uni-bayreuth.de))

### **(3) MEETING OF THE AMERICAS**

The 2010 Meeting of the Americas will be held in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil, August 8-13. The Program Committee has developed a Union-wide science program that covers topics in all areas of geophysical sciences. Further details are available at <http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10/>.

The deadline for discounted registration is **25 June 2010**.

Sessions of direct interest to VGP members include the following:

- V01 Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology General Contributions
- V02 Collisional Scenarios Related to Accretion Along the Western Margin of South America
- V03 Layered Intrusions: Up and Down Inside a Volcano
- V04 LIPs and Mafic Dyke Swarms of South America
- V05 Magmatism and the Evolution of Andean Type Crust and Lithosphere
- V06 Mantle Plumes in the Atlantic Ocean
- V07 Monitoring of Volcanic Gases and Their Atmospheric Interactions and Impacts
- V08 Monogenetic Volcanism
- V09 New Developments in Non-Traditional Stable Isotope Geochemistry
- V10 Understanding Magmatism: From Crystals to Provinces
- U04 Flood Basalts and Mass Extinctions
- U09 Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean
- U14 Thermal Regimes and Orogenesis from Archean to Present

Full session details are available at

[http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10/program/scientific\\_session\\_search.php](http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10/program/scientific_session_search.php).

### **(4) CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS, AGU FALL MEETING, 13–17 DECEMBER 2010**

Now is the time to submit proposals for special sessions for the 2010 Fall 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 sessions on low-T geochemistry, biogeochemistry and cosmochemistry. The session proposal deadline is May 27, and information about submitting a session proposal can be found on the AGU website:

[http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm10/program/session\\_proposals.php](http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm10/program/session_proposals.php)

Questions or ideas? Contact VGP Secretaries **Anita Grunder** ([grundera@geo.oregonstate.edu](mailto:grundera@geo.oregonstate.edu)) or **Matt Kohn** ([mattkohn@boisestate.edu](mailto:mattkohn@boisestate.edu))