

Dear Colleagues,

Here is the September issue of the AGU Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology Section newsletter. Further information on VGP activities may be found at <http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP/>. Please send newsletter feedback to Sarah Fagents (fagents@hawaii.edu).

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

VGP members will now be starting to anticipate the AGU Fall meeting which promises to be bigger and better than ever. A record number of abstracts (over 20,000) have been received. Details of the VGP sessions are provided below. Thanks especially to our Secretaries, Anita Grunder and Matt Kohn, for the work they have done to put the VGP programme together. It's a huge task and it is through such altruistic and dedicated volunteers that the Fall meeting works so well.

#### \* 2011 VGP Awards

I am delighted to report the outcome of VGP Awards for 2011. The Bowen Award is to be shared by Marc Hirschmann (University of Minnesota) and Jamie Connolly (ETH, Switzerland) for their outstanding contributions in petrology and geochemistry. The Bowen Award lectures are a highlight for VGP during the Fall meeting. Marc's lecture is entitled "By Permission of the Mantle: Modern and Ancient Deep Earth Volatile Cycles". Jamie's lecture is entitled "Hydromechanical Modeling of Fluid Flow in the Lower Crust." Katie Kelly (Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island) will receive the Kuno Award for 2011 and this reflects her significant contributions to island arc igneous geochemistry. As a new experiment Katie will give a Kuno Award lecture at the EGU Vienna in Spring 2012 as part of the collaboration between VGP and the GMPV Division of EGU. The Bowen and Kuno Awardees will be honored at the VGP reception at the AGU Fall Meeting; it's scheduled at 6.30 pm on the Tuesday December 6. The Daly Lecture for 2011 will be delivered at AGU Fall Meeting by Colin Wilson (Victoria University, New Zealand) with a title: "Insights into the Workings of Rhyolitic Explosive Eruptions and their Magmatic Sources".

Thanks to the Bowen and Kuno Award Committees for their work in selecting such excellent and deserving awardees. Also I thank all those who nominated candidates. It's quite a lot of work of course, but the pleasure and esteem of the awardees makes it so worthwhile. The competition is stiff and there will be supporters and nominators who have submitted packages for unsuccessful but still excellent candidates. Many of these will have another opportunity. It's essential that we have strong candidate lists also for AGU Fellowship and Union Awards. It is not too early for VGP members to start thinking about who to nominate for 2012.

\* AGU leadership news

AGU Council met for the second time since the new Governance changes came in on 16 17 and 18 August in Washington DC. VGP President-elect Catherine McCammon and I both attended. A brief report of the Council meeting will be published in Eos soon but in the meantime I mention some highlights in this newsletter. The Mission Alignment Project Team has been working for Council to develop ideas concerning Affiliation, Honors and Recognition and how the new Council can evolve. This work is still ongoing, but some great new ideas are emerging. While there is a consensus that the existing Sections and Focus Groups should remain the basis on which AGU organises its science, there is recognition that new forms of affiliation are needed. Therefore it is likely that affinity groups will be formed to address issues such as the aspirations of students and early career researchers within AGU, transdisciplinary research, and science related to major challenges of environmental change. Council is also keen to see new mechanisms of enabling members to make their views and ideas known. While there are great strengths in the way that AGU honors and recognises the achievements of its members, there is now recognition that some groups and interests are still not adequately catered for, including for example recognition of mid-career scientists, those interested in inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research, and those making major contributions to science and society issues. These topics are therefore likely to feature high in the agenda for creating new awards. There is also recognition that more needs to be done to address issues like gender and minorities within the award system. Some key changes have been made to the terms of reference for the Honors and Recognition Committee to streamline decision-making, to help members in making nominations and to develop new awards, which address the identified gaps. VGP members are again encouraged to join in this discussion; if you have a great idea for an Award, Medal or Prize, let me know.

Transdisciplinarity is becoming a key issue as geoscientists are increasingly being asked to apply their understanding of the natural world to the major challenges facing society. We not only need to develop even further interdisciplinary collaborations within the natural sciences but also need to start interacting with social scientists, economists, political scientists and the humanities. The imperative to do this also comes from the membership survey and especially the new generation of geoscientists. It's easier said than done of course. Council spent time discussing how AGU can address these issues. There was much discussion about options for meetings and new kinds of meetings. It

seems likely that future Fall meetings will include linked thematic sessions cutting across Sections and Focus Groups that address the major challenges. There are also thoughts about short meetings that provide opportunities to communicate with and work with other disciplines on these challenges.

From a VGP perspective the increasing emphasis on Education and Outreach and the involvement of student and early career researchers in AGU Governance are notable. Of course we now have student representation with Jessica Ball on the VGP Executive Committee. VGP is therefore getting into shape to align itself with the AGU strategic plan and these new developments.

#### \* Data availability in AGU publications

Publications are becoming one of the highest agenda issues for AGU and there is an ongoing study by external consultants on how AGU should develop its publications strategy in a rapidly changing world. One issue concerns data in publications and the Publications Committee and Department have asked Sections to poll their members on the issue of data availability and the need to require authors to supply 0–Level data along with their submissions. Current AGU policy on data archiving and referencing can be found at [http://www.agu.org/pubs/authors/policies/data\\_policy.shtml](http://www.agu.org/pubs/authors/policies/data_policy.shtml). VGP members should note the following points:

- Reproducibility is important
- Different disciplines may have different needs
- Some regions of the world restrict scientists from sharing data
- Data availability is a “hot” issue across the sciences

VGP has responded to this request by asking all members of the VGP Executive Committee to comment, and these responses have also been sent to Barbara Major (Assistant Director of Publications). If VGP members have views that they would like to have heard then please send them to Barbara Major ([BMajor@agu.org](mailto:BMajor@agu.org)). However, note that it is likely that a member-wide survey will be sent to all members on this issue.

#### \* AGU–EGU collaboration

I am pleased to announce that collaboration between AGU and the European Geosciences Union (EGU) is being developed at both organisational level and by an arrangement between the VGP Section and the Geochemistry, Mineralogy, Petrology, and Volcanology (GMPV) Division. There will joint GMPV/VGP sessions at EGU in Vienna (22-27 April 2012) as well as the Kuno Award Lecture. Topics for the GMPV/VGP joint sessions are:

- Impact on global climate and economy of volcanic eruptions, past and present
- Origin and Evolution of Earth's Continental Crust
- Deep mantle mineralogy, geochemistry and geodynamics
- Subduction processes: geochemistry and mineralogy
- The early Earth: emergence of a habitable planet

- Erosion, weathering: geochemistry and mineralogy
- Elements Critical to 21st Century Economies

There will be many sessions of great interest to VGP members at the Spring EGU meeting and these will be announced in the next VGP newsletter. AGU members get concessionary registration for EGU meetings, so I encourage VGP members to attend and support this collaboration.

\* Changes in IAVCEI leadership

I would like to extend congratulations on behalf of VGP to the newly elected officers and Executive Committee of the International Association for Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI), including new President Ray Cas. The full IAVCEI Officers and Committee can be found at <http://www.iavcei.org/IAVCEI.htm>. In a new era of enhanced partnership between AGU and other science societies and associations IAVCEI is one of those organisations, with strong overlapping interests with AGU VGP and like EGU I hope that VGP can find ways of developing partnerships with organisations like IAVCEI which share common interests with VGP.

\* WPGM-AOGS Meeting, Singapore, August 2012

A reminder of another meeting and international collaboration. At the next Western Pacific Geophysics Meeting (WPGM), the Western Pacific Section and the Asia Oceania Geophysical Society will join forces in Singapore (13-17 August 2012). Since AOGS doesn't have as many subsections as AGU, VGP and Tectonophysics are grouped under a Solid Earth section. The meeting will be co-chaired by Peter Swart from AGU and Minhan Dai from AOGS, and Paul Tapponnier is the AGU representative for the corresponding 'Solid Earth' part of AGU. Fidel Costa ([fcosta@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:fcosta@ntu.edu.sg)) is the VGP Section representative for this meeting and expects to announce more details in the next newsletter. There are already some tentative timelines for the session proposals: from 30 October to 30 November 2011. Fidel encourages VGP members to submit to him session proposals.

\* In memoriam

It is with great sadness that I report to VGP members on the death of Ian Carmichael on 27 August. Ian was one of the giants of 20th century petrology. His contributions will be very long lasting and he will be greatly missed. It is expected that full obituaries will be published in Eos in the coming weeks.

(2) REPORT FROM VGP SECRETARIES: FALL MEETING 2011

Our 1200 abstracts have been massaged into nearly 50 VGP sessions for the AGU meeting in San Francisco (December 5 to 9). Look for a focus on mineral topics early in the week and a focus on the mantle and on subduction zones (in both VGP and Union

sessions), mostly toward the end of the week. A bridging set of sessions on aspects of magma plumbing complement an extravaganza of volcano surveillance presentations and a three-session exposé on 100 years of observing Hawaii. The geologic time scale, magma chamber processes, all manner of volcanism, hot fluids, cold fluids, the Earth's crust, geologic maps, elements critical in the 21st century and so much more will be at the smorgasbord. And don't forget that other sections likely have sessions of interest to you. For general interest, the author Simon Winchester (author of "The Map that Changed the World") will speak Monday at noon. The program will be out soon. We all owe much to the great staff at AGU.

As you fill your AGU dance card, don't forget the Bowen Lectures Tuesday afternoon (not the traditional time) followed by the VGP section awards reception Tuesday evening and the Daly Lecture on Thursday morning.

To all- we extend an invitation to share your ideas about the abstract process and the December meeting. We will take them to the VGP executive committee meeting in December. Focused and constructive emails would be ideal. In particular, what are the pros and cons of the large and growing size of the AGU meeting?

We braved the 5.8 earthquake in Virginia and the advent of hurricane Irene. As far as we know, no one is giving two talks at once, although a handful will have overlapping poster sessions. The AGU election cycle is under discussion. We will arrange to have staggered terms for VGP secretaries. Anita will be rotating out next.

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