

Dear Colleagues,

Here is the December VGP newsletter, which contains some late-breaking news for the Fall AGU Meeting. We hope to see you this week in San Francisco! Please visit the VGP website at <http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP>, and feel free to send any feedback or items for future newsletters to Sarah Fagents (fagents@hawaii.edu).

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(1) MESSAGE FROM THE VGP PRESIDENT

- **Reflections**

My term as President of VGP ends on 31st December 2012, although I still will contribute as Past President on the Executive Committee. It's been a great pleasure working first with Alex Halliday as President and then Catherine McCammon as President-elect and with the Section Secretaries, namely Matt Kohn, Anita Grunder and Julia Hammer. Diana Roman deserves special mention in constructing a great VGP web site. Sarah Fagents has the long service record for putting together the newsletter over many years and her dedication is greatly appreciated. The VGP Executive Committee and the various awards and honors committees have been fabulous. Indeed the Committees do all the hard work, and then I give the good news to those who have won the Bowen and Kuno Awards, which is certainly one of the most satisfying Presidential tasks. It is very much a team ethos within the VGP section. Finally, I thank the members for supporting VGP. It's a vibrant community that shares the passion for understanding how volcanoes, igneous systems and planetary chemistry work. I have been fortunate to play a wider role within AGU as a consequence of being elected as a VGP Officer. I started out by attending Spring AGU at Fort Lauderdale in July 2008 as the newly elected President-elect and took part in the Council meeting for the first time. Since then AGU has seen some profound changes as an organisation and in its governance. I was elected as Deputy Chair on the Council Leadership Team and then became a member of the AGU Board. It has been a hugely positive experience to be part of a committed team of AGU leaders who have transformed and strengthened the organisation for the future. It's been a great privilege to work alongside people like Tim Grove, Carol Finn and Mike

McPhaden and the AGU staff under the leadership of Chris McEntee at a time of such organisational reform and creativity. So I wish VGP and the new Officers well in moving the Section forward.

- **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 at 6.30 pm) as usual. This year's reception is to be held jointly with the Mineralogical Society of America and will include an Awards Ceremony for the 2012 Dana Medal to Max Schmidt. The Reception will include a brief report from me, and the Awards ceremony, which this year honors Yoshiyuki Tatsumi for the Bowen Award and Rajdeep Dasgupta for the Kuno Award. Many congratulations to Max, Yoshi and Rajdeep on their achievements. As well as a very full menu of exciting sessions, VGP highlights include: **The Bowen Award Lecture (V22A). Yoshiyuki Tatsumi:** "The andesite problem: Why is this planet to be the Earth?" Convener(s): RSJ Sparks (University of Bristol) and Matthew Kohn (Boise State University), Tuesday December 4, 10:20 AM - 11:20 AM; 103 (Moscone South). **The Daly Lecture (V41C). Jay Ague:** "Deep Crustal Metamorphic Carbon Cycling in Collisional Orogens: What do we really know?" Convener(s): RSJ Sparks (University of Bristol) and Julia Hammer (University of Hawaii), Thursday December 6, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM; 103 (Moscone South). I would like to highlight the hard work and dedication of the VGP Secretaries (Matt Kohn and Julia Hammer). The superb organization of sessions is very much down to their hard work. It's a big job so if you see Matt and Julia let them know that their efforts are greatly appreciated. Matt Kohn steps down as Geochemistry Secretary after the Fall meeting. Matt has done great work for VGP, having been involved in organising VGP sessions at three Fall meetings. We should not forget also 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. Thanks also to Fidel Costa for organizing VGP sessions in the August AOGS meeting in Singapore. Other VGP members are being honored at AGU. Joe Dufek receives the 2012 Macelwane Medal and John Delaney receives the 2012 Athelstan Spilhaus Award, New AGU Fellows affiliated to VGP are Edward Baker, Janne Blichert-Toft, John Ferry, Andrew Gleadow, Yuji Sano, Stephen Self and Jane Selverstone. Do congratulate them when you see them at the Fall meeting. VGP also congratulates Terry Plank on recently being named a MacArthur Fellow and Kathy Cashman for being elected to the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences.

New VGP Officers and AGU elections

The election results are now known. Congratulations to Catherine Chauvel who will be President-elect from 1st January 2013, and to the two new Secretaries Vickie Bennett (G) and Don Baker (VP). Julia Hammer will stay on as VP Secretary for another year to enable us to stagger the terms of the Secretaries. The AGU elections of course also involve the runners up and we should recognise that they too volunteered. Their nominations represent recognition of their achievements too and also signal their willingness to work for the community. I especially thank them for putting their names forward and hope that they will consider volunteering for VGP and AGU in other ways. I also congratulate Jenny Riker for being elected as student representative on Council.

- **VGP activities in 2012**

What has VGP done this year? Apart from the Fall meeting, one highlight has been the collaboration with our counterpart EGU Division (GMPV) at their Spring meeting in Vienna. There were jointly organised sessions and the inaugural Kuno lecture was given at EGU by Katie Kelley. This collaboration will be repeated through some joint sessions at Fall AGU and VGP involvement in Spring EGU with more joint sessions and the Kuno Award lecture. Collaboration with the Mineralogical Society of America has also developed. We welcome them to the VGP reception, to which they have generously contributed with support for refreshments. Finally, there were VGP sessions at the AOGS meeting in Singapore, in which AGU was a major partner.

- **Volunteers**

One of the main tasks for the new Officers will be to refresh the Committees with some Committee members and Chairs coming to the end of their terms of duty. A list of Committees can be found on the web site (<http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP/>). If you would like to volunteer then please do contact us.

- **L'Aquila trial**

Perhaps the most significant event of the last few weeks for AGU and especially VGP has been the L'Aquila earthquake trial of six Italian scientists who were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 6 years in prison. Much has been written about the verdict, which seems to have profound implications for scientists who provide advice especially in relation to natural hazards. There are also many different views and many sources of information of highly variable reliability, through the media, internet and statements from scientific organisations, including AGU (see <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2012/2012EO450003.shtml>). In a world of instantly available opinion, information and misinformation, the discussions of what happened at the trial are confused, sometimes contradictory, and confusing. The verdicts are being appealed and it is expected that the appeal process may last quite a long time (years).

Early reactions from the science community that they were found guilty of not predicting an earthquake have proved to be wide of the mark. The case is complex and nuanced by particular aspects of Italian law and legal processes. However, the case draws attention to the responsibilities of science and scientists in situations where lives are at risk. Risk communication, hazard and risk assessment methodologies, the role of science and scientists in decision-making processes, the legal position of scientists giving expert advice, and politicisation of science are among the issues raised by this tragic case. AGU recognises that the L'Aquila trial is of great interest and concern to its members. Thus a panel discussion on the implications of L'Aquila trial will be held at the AGU Fall Meeting on Thursday 7th December (4 to 6 pm) and I will be one of the Session Chairs along with John Bates. Watch out for the details on venue.

Steve Sparks, VGP President

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(2) REPORT FROM THE VGP SECRETARIES

Please join us in welcoming the new VGP secretaries, Vickie Bennett (G) and Don Baker (VP). Vickie will be starting this January as Matt steps down. Don will start in another year as Julia rotates out. The Fall Meeting is now scheduled with a superb series of excellent sessions. We reiterate Steve's encouragement to attend the Bowen Lecture (10:20 AM Tuesday, Moscone South 103) and Daly Lecture (9:00 AM Thursday, Moscone South 103), and would like to highlight the MSA Dana Award

lecture, which will be given by Max Schmidt at 9:30 AM Wednesday (Moscone South 103). Recall that AGU is experimenting with "Swirls" this year, representing fields that span many sections/focus groups throughout AGU. The Swirls "Characterizing Uncertainty," "Dust and Aerosols" and "Subduction Zones" are represented by over 20 VGP sessions (over 60 counting co-sponsorships with other sections/focus groups). Please see the AGU meeting program to find other sessions in those areas that may be of interest to you. Do you see a gap in the Fall Meeting session roster you'd like to see filled next year? Then propose a session to ensure your topic gets covered. The window for session proposals will likely open in late February. The Fall Meeting is a great place to organize your ideas and collaborators. Last, I (Matt) would like to thank everyone in VGP, especially Anita Grunder, Steve Sparks, Catherine McCammon, and Julia Hammer for all their help and support. I've only ever received encouragement and appreciative comments.

Your current secretaries, Matt Kohn and Julia Hammer

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(3) MESSAGE FROM THE VGP STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

AGU is taking great steps toward including more students and early-career scientists in its day-to-day operations, and as your VGP student representative, I'm always happy to listen to and pass on your questions and concerns! Please stop and chat with me at Fall Meeting this year and let me know what AGU can do for you – or how you'd like to participate! I'll be attending the opening mixer, student mixer and student breakfast as well as the oral and poster sessions (and you might see me at a few social media events too). You can also catch me on Twitter (@tuff_cookie) or by email (jlball@buffalo.edu). Hope to see you at the meeting!

Jessica Ball VGP Student Representative

(4) AGU POSITION STATEMENTS

We have been asked by the AGU Outreach Committee to bring to your attention important information regarding AGU's position statements, which have been recently updated and reorganized (http://www.agu.org/sci_pol/positions/). AGU publishes position statements that address a current societal, policy, or academic issue with a scientific overlap relevant to the AGU community. There is a new submission method for AGU members to propose new position statements (<http://sites.agu.org/forms/agu-position-statement-proposal-form/>), but in order to avoid duplicate proposals, the Outreach Committee has suggested that VGP members work together to identify and submit the highest priority gap(s) in the position statement portfolio. General questions regarding the current position statement portfolio, the online submission form, or the position statement writing process should be directed to Erik Hankin (ehankin@agu.org). If you see a need for a new position statement related to VGP interests, please contact me. Thanks!

Catherine McCammon, VGP President-Elect

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(5) CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AT AGU AND VGP LEVELS

On the AGU level, the transition of AGU's leadership is now getting started. Newly elected leaders will take office on 1 January 2013, and about half of the current Board and Council members will rotate off. In addition, there will be changes to AGU committee structure, charges, and composition. This is a great time to be involved in AGU. The work is rewarding, and AGU members who volunteer are making a difference and advancing AGU's mission and vision. This year, AGU is asking members who are interested in volunteer opportunities over the next few years to complete an online form, providing information that will facilitate matching them to opportunities as they come up (<http://sites.agu.org/call-for-volunteers/>). AGU has a variety of volunteer opportunities, of different lengths, starting and ending at different times over the next 2-3 years. And many committees and task forces meet virtually. There's something for everyone.

On the VGP level, one of my first tasks as President will be to repopulate section committees as current members rotate off. A list of committees and their duties can be found on the section web site (<http://www.agu.org/sections/VGP/>). Most committee work is carried out by email. This is your chance to make a contribution to VGP, to fix perceived problems, to promote VGP members for AGU honours, and to add innovations. If you are interested in serving on any of our section's committees, please contact me (catherine.mccammon@uni-bayreuth.de). Thanks!

Catherine McCammon, VGP President-Elect

catherine.mccammon@uni-bayreuth.de

(6) 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 less than 10% of fellows elected in 2012.

For nomination instructions, see <http://sites.agu.org/honors/fellows/>, and a complete list of AGU Fellows is given at <http://sites.agu.org/honors/fellows/fellows-alpha-list/>. The deadline for nomination for 2013 AGU Fellows is March 15, 2013. Please contact us if you have questions or suggestions.

Hans Keppler, Chair VGP Fellows Committee

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(7) VGP-GMPV COOPERATION AT EGU 2013

The EGU General Assembly will be held 7-12 April 2013, and once again VGP and the GMPV Division of EGU are working together. The 2012 VGP Kuno award recipient, Rajdeep Dasgupta, will

receive his award at Fall AGU, and he will give the Kuno Award Lecture at the 2013 EGU General Assembly. There are many sessions of interest to VGP members, and four sessions are co-sponsored by VGP. A full list can be found at the meeting website: <http://www.egu2013.eu/>. The abstract deadline is 9 January 2013.

EGU offers travel support for some scientists and students. The conditions and the deadline (30th November) are given at: http://www.egu2013.eu/support_and_distinction/financial_support.html. Students can compete for the Outstanding Student Poster award where the recipient receives a conference fee waiver and an invitation to publish free of charge in an EGU journal. All members of AGU can register for the EGU General Assembly at member rates.

Questions? Contact GMPV President Nick Arndt (Nicholas.Arndt@ujf-grenoble.fr)