

Dear Colleagues,

Here is the September 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 feedback or future news items to Sarah Fagents (fagents@higp.hawaii.edu).

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(1) MESSAGE FROM THE VGP PRESIDENT

- VGP Elections

Abstract time has been and gone, and now there is a lull before preparing for the AGU Fall Meeting. This is a good point to mention the great work of our Secretaries, Matt Kohn and Julia Hammer. You will find later in this newsletter some information about VGP sessions at Fall AGU. However the Officer elections are coming up very soon. Please use your vote. The candidates are:

VGP President: Catherine Chauvel and Tetsuo Irifune

Volcanology and Petrology Secretary: Don Baker and Alison Rust

Geochemistry Secretary: Vickie Bennett and Qing-zhu Yi

The elections open on 4th September.

- VGP Awards

The Bowen Award for 2012 is given to Dr. Yoshiyuki Tatsumi of Kobe University. Dr Tatsumi has made numerous fundamental contributions to our knowledge of magmatic processes and their role in understanding the evolution of the Earth's crust through laboratory experiments, field-related petrological studies and associated modeling. He has been central in advancing our knowledge of magmatism in hot-spots and subduction zones (especially the Izu-Bonin-Marianas intraoceanic subduction system), and transport processes in the mantle wedge. Congratulations to Yoshiyuki. VGP members will be looking forward to his lecture as one of highlights of Fall AGU.

The 2012 Kuno Awardee is Rajdeep Dasgupta. Raj was educated at Jadavpur University and University of Minnesota, completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and is currently a faculty member in the Department of Earth Sciences

at Rice University. Raj's greatest contributions lie in the area of the deep carbon cycle, specifically investigations of the partial melting behavior of carbonated eclogite and peridotite. Most recently, he has turned his attention to the problem of how to distinguish basalts generated by melting of different mantle lithologies using major element chemistry.

Congratulations are due to VGP members who have won prestigious Union Awards for 2012, namely Josef Dufek for the Macelwane Award and John Delaney for the Athelstan Spilhaus Award.

Finally, readers are reminded of the 2012 cohort of new AGU Fellows from VGP membership, namely Edward T. Baker, Janne Blichert-Toft, John M. Ferry, Andrew J. W. Gleadow, Yuji Sano, Stephen Self and Jane Selverstone.

Be sure to attend the Awards ceremony at the AGU Fall Meeting, and to join the VGP community to celebrate the Bowen and Kuno Awardees achievements at the VGP reception on Tuesday evening (December 4). The Mineralogical Society of America is joining us for this reception, where the Dana Medal ceremony for Max Schmidt will also take place. I would like to thank the Bowen, Kuno and Union Awards Committees of VGP for their careful and successful work to recognise the achievements of our colleagues.

- Editors needed

As highlighted in the last newsletter and in recent announcements, AGU publications are experiencing a period of major change with the outsourcing of production. Our science relies heavily on the work of editors and referees to maintain the high quality of published science. Editorial work by the community is essential to keep the peer-review system going. So please get involved and volunteer. If you think you have the skills and knowledge to make a great editor then do please offer your services. It really should be the responsibility of everyone to take their turn in this critical aspect of AGU science. It's an exciting time for publication with open access now being seriously developed and many technological innovations being implemented. Just got tenure? Well it may be a good time to give something back and become an editor! If you are interested then just let us know which journal(s) you might fancy helping out.

Steve Sparks,
VGP President
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(2) REPORT FROM THE VGP SECRETARIES: FALL MEETING 2012

Our c. 1200 abstracts have been grouped into nearly 40 VGP sessions for the AGU meeting in San Francisco (December 3 to 7). We extend very grateful thanks to Sarah Penniston-Dorland, who has stepped in at the last minute to help us organize VGP sessions. The program is not yet scheduled, but please plan on attending the Bowen

lecture (Yoshiyuki Tatsumi) on Tuesday, and the Daly lecture (Jay Ague) on Thursday. This year, the Mineralogical Society of America's Dana medalist (Max Schmidt) will be presenting a lecture in V028 (Metamorphic and magmatic processes at high pressure), likely either Wednesday or Thursday, depending on scheduling. Other sessions include all manner of volcanism, analytical methods from micro to macro scales, geothermal and other fluids, the Early Earth, geologic maps, magma properties and models, metamorphic and lithospheric processes, and a large session on pyroclasts. VGP-centric Union sessions include Neoproterozoic climate and biogeochemistry, volcanism and ecological change, and oxygenation of the Earth. This year AGU is experimenting with "swirls" or promotion of cross-cutting themes among sections and focus groups. Particularly relevant themes include subduction (melting processes, role of fluids, high pressure metamorphic and magmatic processes, Lesser Antilles arc) and dust (or "ash"; tephrochronology, pyroclasts, vulcanian eruptions). Consult the AGU program when it becomes available to see affiliated sessions.

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?

This year marks our first foray into staggered terms for VGP secretaries. Matt will be rotating out at the end of the year, while Julia stays on to help train your choice of new VGP secretaries.

Your current secretaries,
Matt Kohn and Julia Hammer
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