

GEOCHEMISTRY NEWSLETTER

FALL 1997

**AMERICAN CHEMICAL
SOCIETY DIVISION OF
GEOCHEMISTRY**

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The San Francisco meeting in April was a huge success for the division. I wish to thank all the symposium organizers for their skill and cooperation. Among the highlights was the poster session on Wednesday evening after the business meeting. Many members suggested that we try to do more poster sessions. This can be done when we have such a great turnout of abstracts (245 at the San Francisco meeting). However, the Las Vegas meeting is about 100 abstracts so we'll not be able to have a poster session.

The Division executive committee decided that we could have more efficient communication with the members if we had an up-to-date e-mail list. We request that all members send an e-mail note to our Division secretary, Michaele Kashgarian, so that she can download your e-mail addresses easily. Her e-mail address is kashgarian@llnl.gov. Many thanks.

**Don't forget our homepage
which can be found at <http://grommet.whoj.edu/index.html>**

or indirectly through the ACS main website (<http://www.acs.org>). Tim Eglinton, our immediate past Chair, is the curator of our homepage. Tim promises to do this for an unspecified time and is most pleased with the responses he has received.

Wiley, Inc. is interested in starting a Geochemistry textbook or reference book series which would be marketed for the senior undergraduate and graduate level arena. They are

contacting several geochemists as to the interest and are in the process of selecting a technical editor. Stay tuned for more developments.

PACIFICHEM 2000 will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii in Dec. 2000. Ken Anderson is looking for symposium organizers. The organizers will need to interact with scientists from two other Pacific rim countries to insure an international flavor to the symposia.

John Schaumlöffel from Washington State University has volunteered to be our newsletter editor. If you have any newsworthy items send them to him at his e-mail address which is schaumlo@mail.wsu.edu. Thanks to John for his help. We look forward to working with him.

To maintain high quality and timely symposia requires a solid financial base. GEOC acquires its resources through membership dues, earnings on the sale of Division

symposium volumes and participation at ACS national meetings. The Division finances are in reasonable shape and one of the main reasons is that we have one symposium volume per year from our National meetings. These volumes have been rated very highly by the ACS and the ACS encourages us to continue our present pace. However, it is possible for us to have two volumes per year so interested organizers are encouraged to contact the ACS Books department to write a proposal.

Additionally, it is very important that when you complete your National Meeting conference registration forms that you identify yourself as a GEOC member first. ACS provides an allotment of funds based on what division you identify on these forms as well as abstract forms and membership subscriptions. The Division appreciates your continued support and hopes that you will encourage other colleagues and students to join the Division. I hope to see many of you this year at the national meetings and I look forward to working with you to keep our Division strong.

Respectfully yours,
George W. Luther, III
GEOC chair

GEOCHEMISTRY DIVISION AWARD WINNERS FOR 1996

BEST SYMPOSIUM

"Application of molecular markers to environmental geochemistry" at the Orlando meeting and organized by Robert Eganhouse of USGS.

BEST STUDENT PAPER

"Quantification of the dilute sedimentary soot-phase" was by Orjan Gustafsson of MIT from the same symposium.

**Congratulations to both
Bob and Orjan!**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEETING (4-April-97)

Publications

Amber, Resinite, and Fossil Fuels, Anderson and Crelling, eds., is now available as an ACS publication.

Sparks and Grundl's ACS publication of their symposium, **Kinetics and Mechanisms of Reactions at the Mineral/Water Interface**, at the San Francisco meeting (Spring 1997) is currently under contract.

ACS publications under consideration include: Tom Wildeman and George Luther's symposium planned for Fall 1997 in Las Vegas, **Mining, Minerals and the Environment** (joint with Chemical Education), and from the Spring 1997 meeting in San Francisco, Hatcher's **Biogeochemistry of Algae** symposium, as well as Evershed's symposium on **Geochemistry and Archaeology**.

George Luther reported on his meeting with an editor from Wiley about publishing annual monographs on various geochemical topics. A series on Geochemistry is still in the planning stages and Wiley is actively soliciting proposals for books.

Revision of Geochemistry Bylaws

The executive committee agreed to include the following proposed changes in the Division bylaws on the next ballot: (1) The immediate Past-Chair shall be included as an officer (on the Executive Committee) of the

Division; (2) Addition of the position of "Program-Chair Elect" to precede the sequence of Program Chair/Chair; and (3) At the discretion of the Program-Chair, the Secretary and Treasurer will serve up to two additional 1-year terms without additional election.

ACS Council

Pat Hatcher reported that the ACS Council will be voting whether to move the Council meetings from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. He is opposed to this move which he viewed as discriminatory toward divisional councilors who may be more likely to be active participants in the scientific program than the regional councilors. Additionally, he reported that the Division Activities Committee has decided to abolish the "Best Division" awards in lieu of an evaluation procedure.

Aquatic Science Council

The Division has been asked to participate in the Aquatic Science Council. Pat Hatcher attended a workshop a few months ago. The Division would like to participate if there is

a way to pro-rate dues for smaller organizations to participate.

Treasury report and related issues

The Geochemistry Division has a balance of about \$24,000 at this time.

The executive committee recognized that publication of symposia via ACS Books is a good source of revenue (income has been approximately \$1500 per book).

The price of publication and mailing of the newsletter and recent ballot has almost doubled since the change was made to first class postage. The executive committee decided to continue using first class postage so that the members would receive their abstract booklets prior to the meeting.

Membership

The committee discussed the need to promote associate membership in the Division, in particular to encourage Geochemical Society members to join. The need for an electronic version of the membership list which includes e-mail addresses was recognized by the committee. The Division web page was suggested as a way to collect this information.

Michaele Kashgarian
GEOC Secretary

ACS ABSTRACT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB!

Abstract forms can be downloaded from the ACS website (<http://www.acs.org>; look under ACS programs, then meetings, then abstract info), or obtained from the ACS by e-mail (abstract@acs.org). Please give your name, address and number of the number of forms you need.

Report from the Program Chair

Hello Everyone!

The Las Vegas meeting promises to be an excellent meeting for the Geochemistry Division. About one hundred papers will be presented in four Geochemistry Symposia and a significant additional number in symposia co-sponsored by the division.

All-in-all, an excellent turn out considering that 'Vegas will be a short meeting (four days instead of the usual five). And just as a reminder, the Division general business meeting will be held on Tuesday at 5:00pm. There will be all the usual "condiments" and plenty to discuss, so please try and attend.

Looking to the future, the Dallas meeting is also shaping up to be an excellent meeting for Geochemistry. We are sponsoring 4 symposia (see page 6!) and there are several symposia in other divisions which will also be of interest to geochemists. Certainly a meeting that you should plan on attending. Additional information regarding these symposia can be found on our Web Site (You did know we had a WWW site didn't you?) at <http://grommet.who.edu/index.html>

Looking beyond Dallas, The fall 1998 ACS meeting will be held in Boston. So far, we have 4 Symposia on the books, but there is still plenty of time for others to be included in the program. Boston promises to be a large meeting for the ACS in general, so it would be nice to have some additional symposia on the books to

help "make our presence felt". We also already have several symposia in the works for meetings after Boston.

Remember, the Geochemistry Division wants to sponsor symposia which are of interest to its members, but, speaking as program chair, we aren't psychics! So if you feel that we are not covering an area which you would like to see covered, make a suggestion for a future symposium!

Symposia are not difficult to organize, and the program chair (me!) is always willing to help to ensure that our meetings are relevant and timely as possible.

Ken Anderson
Program Chair
(kbanderson@anl.gov)

SCHEDULE CHANGE !

Las Vegas has a high occupancy on weekends for casino guests. Therefore, few rooms will be available in any of the ACS hotels on Friday and Saturday nights. The city of Las Vegas has succeeded in getting the airlines to WAIVE the Saturday night stay requirement for discounted airfares. Some poster sessions may be scheduled Sunday evening, but no earlier than 8:00 PM in order that you may arrive the same day if you are scheduled to give a paper. You are encouraged to arrive Sunday, September 7, or later. The airfares available through the ACS discount airfare program will reflect the fact that a Saturday night stay is not required.

CALL FOR PAPERS/UPCOMING SYMPOSIA

4 copies (one on the original ACS form) of a 150 word abstract should be submitted to the symposium organizer. Abstracts for general papers should be submitted to the program chair. Abstract deadlines for these symposia will appear in *C&E News* this summer!

DALLAS, March 29-April 2, 1998

Geochemical advances in petroleum exploration and production

Organizer: Andrew N. Bishop (andy.bishop@ncl.ac.uk)

Do we really understand the mechanisms of natural gas generation and migration?

Organizers: Dr. Françoise Behar (francoise.behar@ifp.fr) and Dr. Yongchun Tang (ytan@chevron.com)

Paradigms in Geochemistry: Point and Counterpoint (title tentative)

Organizer: Dr. Marilyn Fogel (fogel@gl.ciw.edu)

The Biogeochemistry of Aromatic Hydrocarbons.

Organizers: Mark Nanny (nanny@mailhost.ecn.ou.edu), Dr. Eric Lichtfouse (lichtfouse@ensaia.u-nancy.fr) and Dr Sabine Apitz

BOSTON, August 23-27, 1998

Molecular structure and organization at the mineral-water interface

Organizer: Samuel J. Traina (traina.1@osu.edu)

In situ sensors and sampling devices for the measurement of
oceanographically important chemical species

Organizer: Hans W. Jannasch (jaha@mbari.org)

Applications of Vibrational Spectroscopy in Geochemistry

Organizer: Steve Cabaniss (scabanis@slate.mines.edu)

Biomonitoring of Contaminants from Mining and Related Industrial Activities

Organizers: John C. Schaumloffel (schaumlo@mail.wsu.edu) and

Barry C. Moore (bcmoore@wsu.edu)

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Feel free to send copies of newsworthy items for inclusion into our newsletter. Contributions for the Spring 1998 newsletter will be due by late Fall. Send submissions to: John C. Schaumloffel, Washington State University, Department of Chemistry, PO Box 644630, Pullman, WA 99164-4630, or e-mail them to him at schaumlo@mail.wsu.edu

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone with an interest in the theories of physical sciences and the empirical observations of biology, geology, and chemistry is invited to join the division as a member or an affiliate. Members must be full ACS members. Affiliates do not have to be ACS members but may participate in all aspects of division activities except voting and holding office. Both members and affiliates receive newsletters and division meeting abstracts and may purchase books at the division discount rate.

Recent topics of interest include porphyrin geochemistry, environmental geochemistry and marine physical chemistry. The division hopes to attract new members by expanding their programming. As a member, you are encouraged to suggest symposia topics and to participate in planning future symposia.

Benefits of Geochemistry Division Membership

Meetings:

Programming at national meetings

Publications:

Geochemistry Newsletter

Abstracts of papers mailed prior to national meetings

Division has on-line access to their information and activities via the Internet

Discount on ACS meeting abstract book

Discount coupons on books from ACS Symposium Series

AWARDS:

Best Paper by a Young Scientist Award

Best Geochemistry Division Symposia Award

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