

November, 2010

VGP Section Newsletter #42

Dear colleagues,

Here is the final VGP newsletter of 2010, which focuses largely on events at the Fall AGU Meeting. Please see <http://vgp.agu.org> for further information on VGP activities. Suggestions for future newsletter items can be sent to Sarah Fagents at fagents@hawaii.edu.

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(1) VGP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Fall Meeting approaches. I am looking forward to meeting old friends, learning about great new science, and meeting VGP members. Anita Grunder, Matt Kohn, AGU staff and numerous convenors have put together a great programme. I am always amazed at how smoothly AGU meetings go and this only happens because of the professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm of AGU staff and VGP volunteers.

*** VGP Activities at the AGU Fall Meeting**

As usual, we have some special VGP events. The VGP reception will take place in the San Francisco Marriott Salon 9 at 6.30 pm on Tuesday December 13. The reception will start with the Awards ceremony for VGP, including the Bowen Award to Hans Keppler and Sam Bowring, the Kuno Award, and acknowledgment of this year's Daly lecturer, Dominique Weis. I will also update VGP members with the developments in the Section. We ask that people attending do not start consuming drinks until after the award ceremony is finished as a courtesy to those we are honoring. Drinks will of course be served immediately following the end of the Awards ceremony. The Bowen Award lectures will be delivered on Tuesday starting at 10:20 am in Moscone West (MW-2022), and the Daly lecture will be delivered by Dominique Weis at 9 am on Thursday in Moscone West (MW-3001).

*** Recent Developments at AGU and VGP**

The new AGU Board and Council are now up and running. Executive Secretary Christine McEntee is now in post and it is already clear that her energy and vision are having a significant impact. AGU leadership has published a Strategic Plan. I am privileged to be involved in the Council Leadership

Team as Deputy Chair under the leadership of AGU President-elect Carol Finn. This also makes me a member of the Board and therefore in a position to contribute to the evolving ideas on the future for AGU. Input from the Sections and Focus Groups will play a key role in these new developments. I am very keen on getting feedback and ideas from VGP members both on developments in AGU in general and in VGP in particular. The new AGU Board and Council are very much in a consultative phase at the moment and want to hear from members regarding where the priorities should lie. So please collar me or other VGP officers at the Fall Meeting if you have a point to make or ideas to contribute.

With regard to VGP, President-elect Catherine McCammon and I have been discussing how VGP is organised and are considering various possibilities for change, with the input of past President Alex Halliday and Secretaries Anita Grunder and Matt Kohn. Like AGU in general, we are in a consultative phase and so the Fall meeting is a good time for members to let us know their ideas and views. We have a business meeting where all the officers and volunteers for VGP will meet to discuss ideas. I can announce two changes in this newsletter though, namely the formation of two new committees and the call for student representation on the VGP Executive Committee.

It has become apparent that the Education and Outreach Committee covers a very wide range of functions and, in particular, it includes the task of assessing outstanding student presentations at AGU meetings. This is a vital and time-consuming task for committee members. At this Fall Meeting there will be nearly 300 VGP student presentations and AGU has asked that each presentation is assessed by three people. It seems unreasonable to ask committee members to do more than this. On the other hand, Education and Outreach involves much more than assessing student awards, and this is especially true now, with outreach having been identified as a high priority by AGU. The Executive Committee has therefore decided to split these functions into two committees. Further, after consultation with many people, including current committee members, it became clear that some volunteer members might be interested in helping with student awards and others with education and outreach work. One new committee will be called the Student Award Committee and will solely be devoted to the task of assessing presentations. The other Committee will be a new Education and Outreach Committee tasked with developing new initiatives for VGP as a contribution to the increasing AGU focus in these areas. This newsletter includes a call to VGP members for volunteers for both new committees. The changes will take place after the Fall Meeting.

In the context of the new VGP Education and Outreach committee, it is not surprising that outreach has emerged as a high priority for AGU in discussions on Council. A few weeks ago in the UK there were rumours that the government might cut the science budget by as much as 20%. The UK science community lobbied intensely and as a result the final announcement was for level funding. Although this is in fact a small cut, the overall feeling in the science community was one of relief and that key messages had got through. I am sure such dialogue is going on in all countries in slightly different local contexts. The message that a strong science base is critical to prosperity, well-being and the stewardship of the planet must be stated repeatedly at all levels. We also need to keep stating that finding solutions to society's problems and challenges requires science to be underpinned by fundamental research, and that expecting all publically funded research to have immediate impact is not only naive but detrimental to the long term effectiveness of science. Understanding how science works, its benefits to society and the importance of the Earth system on which our lives depend needs to be promulgated from school children through to senior politicians. I hope that the new committee can develop initiatives and ideas that support the VGP community, and AGU more generally. After all, VGP members conduct science that is fascinating to the public (erupting volcanoes!), and make major contributions to understanding how nature works, safeguarding natural resources, and making society resilient to natural hazards.

Finally, AGU and VGP leadership is very keen to see student and early career representatives in the committee structures of sections and focus groups. This newsletter also includes an open call for student volunteers to fulfil these roles as an interim measure while there are discussions on the best mechanisms of identifying and including student and early career representatives.

*** Call for Membership of Student Award Committee**

VGP members are asked to put their names forward for the new Student Award Committee. This activity is a wonderful way of encouraging future generations of scientists. A young scientist who receives an award and implicit praise for quality of their research is hugely encouraged. Maybe you were a past recipient and remember the pride you felt when the letter came from AGU to say what a great talk or poster you gave. All that hard work seemed worthwhile and I suspect most departments will trumpet the success of their students. So, past recipients, I encourage you to volunteer and give something back. If you would like to volunteer then please send me a short CV (two pages) and a brief covering email saying why you would like to help (Steve.Sparks@bristol.ac.uk).

*** Call for Membership of the Education and Outreach Committee**

VGP members are asked to put their names forward for the new Education and Outreach Committee. Many members of VGP already make wonderful contributions to both education and outreach through their own organisations and institutions, as well as through their own independent efforts. The new committee will harness the experience, expertise and enthusiasm of the VGP membership to develop new ideas on how to enhance education and outreach over the broad range of VGP interests. The new committee will be part of a wider AGU effort to prioritise outreach of AGU science. If you would like to volunteer then please send me a short CV (two pages) and a brief covering email stating your interests and expertise in education or outreach or both (Steve.Sparks@bristol.ac.uk). I would also appreciate hearing of any ideas on priorities and initiatives for the new committee.

*** Call for Student Representatives to VGP**

VGP plans to include student representatives within its organisational structure. Students interested in helping VGP are asked to send a brief CV (two pages), a supporting email or letter stating your interest in contributing to VGP and a letter of support for your application from your research advisor. VGP will contribute to the costs of attendance at the Fall Meeting. You are encouraged to come and talk to VGP officers at the Fall Meeting if you are interested and want to know more.

Steve Sparks, VGP President
Steve.Sparks@bristol.ac.uk

(2) PRESS COVERAGE AT THE AGU FALL MEETING

One of the activities of VGP at the Fall Meeting is to publicize significant research carried out by VGP members. There are representatives of local, national and international press at the meeting. Anyone or any group who would like to give the press access to their research, can send me a single page description of their work, including the day and time of their talk and/or posters. I will place multiple copies of these summaries in the pressroom, where they will be available as source material for media representatives to report.

Attila Kilinc, VGP Press Officer
kilinc@ucmail.uc.edu

(3) SHORT COURSE ON HOW TO SUCCEED IN AN ACADEMIC CAREER

A one-day short course on "How to Succeed in an Academic Career" will be offered to PhD students and post-docs in the environmental sciences prior to the AGU Fall Meeting. This course will attempt to demystify the academic enterprise for budding Assistant Professors. Please forward to any students or post-docs you think might be interested.

Date: Sunday December 12, 2010, 8:30am-4:00pm

Location: Redwood Room, Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, San Francisco

For more information and how to register by the November 1 deadline, see:
http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/fe/watershd/academia_career_success.php.

Jeff McDonnell
AGU Fellow, OSU Distinguished Professor of Hydrology

(4) VGP SESSIONS AT THE FALL AGU MEETING

Listed below are the VGP sessions taking place at the AGU Fall Meeting, 13-17 December 2010. Full details are available at http://vgp.agu.org/newsletter_1008.html or <http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm10/>.

Matthew Kohn and Anita Grunder, VGP Secretaries

- V01. Volcanology, Geochemistry, and Petrology General Contributions
- V02. Looking Backward and Forward: Volcanology in 2010 and 2020
- V03. Innovations in Isotope Mass Spectrometry and Isotope Metrology in Geosciences
- V04. Geologic Maps and Quantitative Applications
- V05. The 2010 Eruption of Eyjafjallajokull - A Landmark Event for Volcanic Cloud Hazards
- V06. 175 Years of Geological Research in the Galapagos
- V07. Tracking Magma Through the Crust to Eruption
- V08. Volcanism and Environmental Change
- V09. Dynamics of Pyroclastic Density Currents
- V10. Quantifying Magma Mixing Processes
- V11. The Causes and Consequences of Rhyolite Volcanism at Chaiten Volcano, Southern Chile
- V12. Metamorphic Perspectives of Subduction Zone Evolution
- V13. EARTHTIME Geochronology
- V14. The 2008-2010 Eruption of Halema'uma'u, Kilauea II: Eruption, Ascent and Plume Dynamics
- V15. The Subduction Filter: Effects on the Mantle, Arcs and Continents
- V16. Chemical, Physical and Petrographic Perspectives on Magmatic Differentiation
- V17. Supervolcanoes: Modeling of Eruption Scenarios and their Regional and Global Impacts
- V18. Life After Collapse: Five Decades of Edifice Reconstruction at Bezymianny Volcano, Kamchatka
- V19. Magmatic Architecture During Flow: Constraints on Timescales and Dynamics of Magma Ascent
- V20. Volatiles in Magmas: the Breath of the Deep Earth
- V21. Mass Independent Isotope Fractionations: Empirical, Experimental and Theoretical Perspectives

- V22. Lakes in Volcanic Environments: Geochemical, Limnological, Biological and Geophysical Aspects
- V23. What Can Pyroclasts Tell Us?
- V24. Diffusion in Minerals and Melts
- V25. Generation and Evolution of Alkaline to Sub-alkaline Magmas
- V26. The Constraint of Magma and Gas Transport by Geophysical and Geochemical Data
- V27. Magma-Ice-Meltwater Interactions: Physical Processes and Implications for Volcanic Hazards
- V28. Building the Volcanic Oceanic Crust
- V29. Microanalysis in Geoscience: Advances and Challenges
- V30. Innovative Geothermal Exploration Methods
- V31. Geochemistry and Geochronology of Accessory Phases
- V32. Texture Controlled Geochronology: Linking Petrography, Mineral Zoning and Dating
- V33. Ultrahigh-Pressure Metamorphism: 25 Years After the Discovery of Coesite and Microdiamond
- V34. Bowen Lecture
- V35. Daly Lecture
- V36. Earth's First Few Hundred Million Years
- V37. Are Hotspots Hot?

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