

November, 2010 Update

VGP Section Newsletter #42a

Dear colleagues,

This supplementary VGP newsletter contains some late-breaking news items.

In this issue:

- (1) Kuno Awardees 2010*
- (2) Change of newsletter distribution dates*
- (3) AGU's Mission:Alignment Project (M:AP)*
- (4) Workshop Announcement: Teaching Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry*

(1) KUNO AWARDEES 2010

VGP is pleased to announce that the Kuno Award for 2010 has been jointly awarded to Joe Dufek (Georgia Tech) and Alison Rust (Bristol University, UK). The Award reflects the outstanding achievements and promise of Joe and Alison at an early stage in their careers. The Kuno Awards Committee, chaired by Professor Bruce Houghton (University of Hawaii), are thanked for their work to identify the awardees and those who made nominations for what was evidently a very strong field. Next year the deadline for Kuno Nominations for 2011 will be in May, so VGP members are invited to start thinking of people to nominate. It's clear there is lot of great talent around.

(2) CHANGE OF NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION DATES

The VGP executive Committee will be considering shifting the dates of the quarterly newsletter by one month to 1st March, June, September, and December. This change fits a little better with the cycle of business and activity during the year and in particular allows VGP members to get better information on VGP events at the Fall meeting. The change also fits in better with the newsletter schedule of other Sections. If you do not receive the 1st February newsletter then you will know that the decision to change has been made and can expect the next newsletter at the beginning of March.

(3) AGU'S MISSION:ALIGNMENT PROJECT

Over the past two years, AGU has undertaken two critical initiatives designed to better position the organization for continued success. The first was a full membership vote to restructure governance to better address how both the science and the business of AGU are conducted. The second was to create a new long-term strategic plan based on broad input from a cross section of science perspectives.

Now the newly configured AGU Council, which represents all constituent voices, is focusing on the Mission:Alignment Project by addressing the question:

Given our strategic plan, stakeholder expectations of AGU, and what is being asked of science and our members -- How does our science need to be organized, recognized and rewarded, disseminated and promoted?

This Mission:Alignment Project (M:AP) supports 11 objectives within the new AGU strategic plan.

Data about this question is being solicited in 6 broad areas:

1. Member perceptions of the value of AGU affiliation
2. Emerging needs for how we disseminate our science, i.e. publications, meetings and new approaches
3. How honors and awards will need to continue to support our members and our strategic direction
4. Outreach: What will be needed to achieve our strategic goals?
5. Governance: How will the new AGU Council need to organize itself and its work?
6. Interdisciplinary leadership and collaboration: What will be needed from us to both lead and collaborate on issues of interdisciplinary societal importance?

The data collection began this fall with telephone interviews with 24 internationally recognized leaders in the geosciences who identified important emerging trends in science, and a series of telephone guided group discussions with members of Sections and Focus Groups.

There will be additional opportunities at the Fall Meeting to provide input including:

Guided group discussions for Section and Focus Group members, students/young careerists and international members. You can go to room 2012 in Moscone West to find out more information or to sign up. Or you can let the leaders of your Section/Focus Group know of your interest in participating. The Guided Group Discussions for Section and Focus Group members will occur Monday at 4:00-5:45 and Tuesday from 10:30-12:20. Discussions for International members will be Tuesday from 1:30-3:30 and for Students and Young Careerists from 4-6 on Tuesday. All sessions will be held in 2012 Moscone West. Your participation will be an excellent way to contribute to your colleagues by helping to strengthen AGU in the future!

Comment opportunities via web and/or survey mechanisms (look for link information on the AGU Website and at Section and Focus Group business meetings in San Francisco.)

Through these multiple venues we hope to engage many members and leaders in thinking about the future of the science and preparing to act on what we learn.

The project timeline is as follows:

September/October 2010: Data gathering with people thinking about emerging trends in the structure of science and with Section and Focus Group members

November 2010: M:AP Project Team review of findings, consideration of what is possible and what is happening in other institutions, and plan for San Francisco data gathering discussions

December 2010: San Francisco opportunities currently planned include full Council discussion, guided group discussions, and web input

January-May 2011: Analysis of the data gathered to establish findings, articulate what is possible, and identify relevant alternatives for the future

Summer 2011: Full Council considers the outcomes and approves ideas it believes are appropriate for the future and determines what next steps, if any, are still needed

A first draft of recommendations is anticipated for consideration by summer 2011, in order to be able to

impact our next round of elections if desired. Additional recommendations not impacting the election cycle may well follow beyond summer 2011.

Mission: Alignment Project Team participants are:

Carol Finn, President Elect & Council Chair
Steve Sparks, Council Vice Chair; Volcanology, Geochemistry, Petrology
Chris McEntee, Executive Director
Harry Green, Council Leadership Team; Tectonophysics
Dennis Lettenmaier, Council Leadership Team; Hydrology
Peter Webster, Council Leadership Team; Atmospheric Sciences
Rick Blakely, Geomagnetism and Paleomagnetism
Mike Ellis, Earth and Planetary Surface Processes
Jennifer Harden, Biogeosciences
Jim Klimchuk, Solar and Heliospheric Physics
Shaun Lovejoy, Nonlinear Geophysics
Tony Lui, Fellows Committee; Magnetospheric Physics
Louise Pellerin, Near Surface Geophysics
Randy Richardson, Outreach Committee; Tectonophysics
Peter Schlosser, Ocean Sciences
Christy Till, Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology
Cheryl Enderlein, Staff; Leadership and Volunteer Services
Representatives of Cygnet Strategy

If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact members of the Project Team as well.

(4) WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT: TEACHING MINERALOGY, PETROLOGY AND GEOCHEMISTRY, AUGUST 7-10, 2011

We would like to call your attention to the forthcoming workshop on Teaching Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry, which is being offered by the On the Cutting Edge program (with support from the National Science Foundation). This workshop will be held at the University of Minnesota on August 7-10, 2011 with an optional post-workshop field trip to the classic Precambrian rocks of northern Minnesota.

This workshop will build on the substantial work that has been done in the past decade to create collections of teaching activities and related instructional resources in the fields of Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry (MPG). We've made a lot of progress but we still have a lot of work to do. Prior to the workshop (February-May) participants will be expected to contribute to an on-line review of the existing teaching activity collections, and to help recruit or create new resources for the collections where needed. This is our best opportunity to create a coherent and comprehensive collection of resources that will serve the MPG community for years to come.

The workshop itself will provide an opportunity to showcase the best new instructional activities, to share and discuss effective teaching strategies, keep faculty current in new advances in MPG research and pedagogy, and to meet colleagues and build networks for continued work. Workshop activities will include presentations, demonstrations of teaching activities, large and small group discussions, and working group sessions.

Workshop information and the application form can be found at:
<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/mpg/index.html>

The deadline for applications is January 15, 2011. Acceptance to the workshop will be announced in early February, and activity review will begin shortly thereafter. Applications are encouraged from all areas of interest related to MPG from the core to the crust, on the Earth's surface, ancient to contemporary, oceanic, atmospheric, planetary, environmental, and emerging (e.g. geobiology, health...). We hope to continue to build an integrated MPG curriculum that has relevance to the entire Earth (and planetary) system.

Thanks in advance for your consideration. We'll hope to see you in Minnesota next summer.

David Mogk, Rachel Beane, Donna Whitney, Kirsten Nicolaysen, Wendy Panero and William Peck,
Conveners

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