

[home](#) > [publications](#) > [geochemical news](#) > [gn134 \(jan 08\)](#)

## Geochemical News 134 | January 2008

### In This Issue

[President's Letter | January 2008](#)  
by *Marty Goldhaber*

[17th V. M. Goldschmidt Conference in Cologne, Germany](#)  
by H. Palme

A Preview of [Goldschmidt 2008](#) in Vancouver, Canada  
By *Diane Hanano and Heidi Dale-Johnson*

[Report on the Goldschmidt 2007 Excursion to the Laacher See Volcano, August 25, 2007](#)  
by G. Wörner

[Goldschmidt 2007 Excursion: A volcanic hike in the Tertiary Siebengebirge](#)  
Trip Leaders : *Melanie Moll and Holger Paulick*

[HABs, Iron, Ferries, and Celebrations](#)  
by *Angelina Souren*

[Nick's Picks \(#134\) Should the GS be on Facebook?](#)  
by *Nicholas Wigginton*

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## President's Letter | January 2008



Marty Goldhaber  
GS President (2008-09)

I am writing this letter during my first month as President of the Geochemical Society. Since I first joined in 1971, my affiliation with the society has greatly benefited me both professionally and personally and I am honored to be serving in this office. Over the last several years, it has been my good fortune to spend quality time discussing GS issues with an impressive group of past Presidents: Judy McKenzie, Tim Drever and my immediate predecessor, Sue Brantley. Along with the past and present board members, they have been passionate about our society, and the field of geochemistry is much the better for the many positive accomplishments during their tenures. I really hope that working with our current Board of Directors and with all the members of our Society, we can find ways to build on what the previous GS leadership has done, and continue to find ways to encourage research, education and outreach in the field of geochemistry. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how to improve our Society to best to serve our scientific community. I invite you to take advantage of our completely revamped web site (<http://www.geochemsoc.org/>). You can also expect some exciting new communication tools in the coming months. I hope you will find them as useful new ways to network, and continue to get value from your membership in the GS.

There is no doubt that our field is moving forward dramatically, making it an especially remarkable time to be a geochemist. Powerful new geophysical and isotopic tools provide insights into the evolution and operation of our home planet and extraterrestrial exploration is producing astonishing geochemical data that allow fresh insights into the evolution of the cosmos. Increasingly, the earth's near surface environment has become a worldwide concern. We live today in what some have called the Anthropocene-a, a new geologic epoch in which humankind has emerged as a force that is capable of reshaping the face of the planet. Geochemistry is at the heart of understanding how we can monitor, control, and adapt to these rapid changes to our environment.

The swiftly growing scope of the geochemical enterprise makes it crucial to stay abreast of developments in the field. What better way to stay in touch than to attend the annual Goldschmidt Conference. Goldschmidt 2008 in Vancouver promises to be one of the best ever. Dominique Weis and the International Program Committee have done a fabulous job of putting together a meeting featuring a spectacular venue coupled with an extraordinary scientific program. Please look at the advertisement in this issue and visit the conference web site (<http://www.goldschmidt2008.org>). There is still time to get the early registration rate. I am looking forward to seeing you in Vancouver.

Finally, I want to extend a special thanks to Sue Brantley. I have watched with real admiration her stewardship of the Geochemical Society. Sue's accomplishments for the Geochemical Society have left a remarkable framework upon which we may grow.

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[Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta](#)

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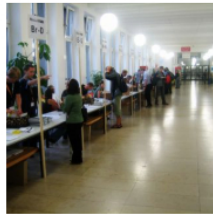


[home](#) > [publications](#) > [geochemical news](#) > [gn134 \(jan 08\)](#) > [17th v. m. goldschmidt conference in cologne, germany](#)

## 17th V. M. Goldschmidt Conference in Cologne, Germany



University of Cologne and City ...



Registration of participants in ...



The rector of the university of ...



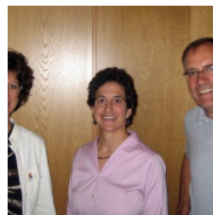
Drinking, eating and discussion...



Paul Asimov of Caltech, giving ...



A plenary lecture in the main ...



Sue Brantley (president of the ...



Claude Allegre giving a talk



Jerry Wasserburg giving his cit...



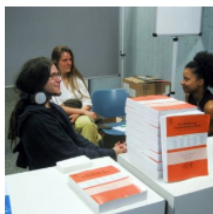
Newly elected fellows of the G...



Crowded Poster sessions at the...



Team of experts responsible fo...



Abstract volumes are still avail...



Lots of food (and beer) at the ...



The huge Gurzenich hall was c...

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual V.M. Goldschmidt Conference took place on the premises of the University of Cologne in Germany, from August 19 - 24, 2007. It was the largest Goldschmidt Conference ever, with 2225 participants from 47 countries, among them 642 students, nearly one third of the total number of participants. The 2007 Goldschmidt Conference was organized together with the annual German Mineralogical Society Meeting, which is, of course, a much smaller meeting.

The Cologne Goldschmidt Conference was the second Goldschmidt Conference in Germany, after the 1996 Conference in Heidelberg, which had some 800 participants.

The steady increase in attendance of Goldschmidt Conferences reflects a growing interest in all aspects of Earth sciences. Goldschmidt Conferences are benefiting from the rapid technical improvements of mass spectrometric methods. I estimate that more than 70 % of all abstract are in one or the other way related to mass spectrometry, either reporting progress in mass spectrometric procedures or using mass spectrometry as a research tool.

In the past years I had the impression that low temperature geochemistry is steadily increasing at the expense of high temperature geochemistry. The experience in Melbourne and Cologne seem to indicate, however, that this trend is not continuing. High and low temperature themes had about equal shares at both conferences with increasing tendency for removing boundaries.

A huge variety of subjects were discussed at the conference, from the formation and evolution of the Earth to the origin of life, from paleoclimatology to the study of present environmental pollution. There were talks about the formation of the Earth's core and at the same time contributions are presented that discuss techniques for storing CO<sub>2</sub> deep in the interior of the Earth. It is the mixture of applied and fundamental research that makes this conference so attractive.

### Conference Location

The university of Cologne is located within the city of Cologne, numerous shops, restaurants, coffee shops etc. are within walking distance. Other attractive sites, various museums, the Rhine river, Cologne cathedral etc. can be easily reached with public transportation. Although participants were spread in hotels all over the city public transportation allows easy and fast connections to the conference center. A ticket valid for unlimited use of public transportation within the inner city of Cologne was included in the registration package.

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high temperature talks were in large separate lecture hall building of the university while the low temperature talks clustered in the lecture halls of the main university building, with only a few minutes walk between the two locations.

## Attendance

Goldschmidt Conferences are truly international conferences. A total of 47 countries were represented at the Cologne Conference with 24 % of the participants from Germany, 18% from USA, 8 % from UK and the same fraction from France, followed by Japan (7 %), Switzerland (4 %), Canada (4 %), Australia (3 %), Russia (3 %), China (3 %). It is remarkable that less than 25 % of the participants came from the organizing country.

## Welcome Party

The conference began with a welcome party in the mensa of the university. The place was fairly crowded with some 1500 people. Many liters of local "Kölsch" beer contributed to lively discussions among conference participants.

## Scientific Sessions

The international program committee (ICP) had chosen 99 symposia which led to about 1250 oral presentations in the 15 lecture halls. For plenary sessions the two Aula lecture rooms were combined to a large lecture room with 1077 seats. Access to additional lecture rooms was established, but not needed. The 1100 posters were displayed in three late afternoon sessions (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday) at the third floor of the Mensa building.

## Keynote Speakers

There were 105 keynote speakers from 17 countries: USA (41), Germany (14), UK (14) etc. The keynote speakers received travel some support, depending on the distance they had to travel. A total of 48 000 € was provided by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for this purpose.

## Abstracts

2367 abstracts are printed in a special volume of GCA (vol. 71, 15). Each participant received an CD with abstracts. Abstract volumes could be purchased by participants, session chairs received free copies.

**Conference Organisers:** Herbert Palme, Albrecht Hofmann

**Program Committee:** Herbert Palme (chair), Albrecht Hofmann (Mainz), Carsten Münker (Bonn), Sumit Chakraborty (Bochum)

**Local Organising Committee:** Philip Kegler (chair) and R. Kleinschrodt

R. Groß (Mainz), R. Hoffbauer, P. Hofmann, R. Hollerbach, M. Jens, M. Scheidt, H. Paulick, H. Prager (Mainz), R. Reucher, E. Stefan, G. Suhr

**Student Helpers:** 72 Students from the Universities of Cologne, Bonn and Bochum.

**Cambridge Publication** with Paul Beattie did an excellent job in organizing abstract submission, registration and establishing the the program structure.

## Scientific Program

### Plenary lectures

In a series of five plenary lectures entitled "*Making the Earth in Five Days*" the evolution of the Earth from its accretion to the formation of the present surface and the origin life were discussed:

*Alessandro Morbidelli*

Terrestrial Planet Formation: Our Solar System and Extra-solar Worlds

*Paul Asimow*

Magmatism and the Evolution of the Earth's Interior

*John Valley*

Evidence of the Earliest Crust on Earth

*James Kirchner*

The Chemistry of Earth's Dynamic Surface

*Jochen Brocks*

Molecular Fossils and Early Life on Earth

In addition, there were two more plenary lectures: *The Geochemical Society Presidential Lecture* by Susan Brantley:

Bedrock to Soil: Earth's Weathering Engine

and the *The Gast Lecture* by Katherine Freeman: From Microbes to Mountains: Molecular Signatures of Life and its Environment.

The plenary lectures started each morning at 8:30. They were surprisingly well attended. The Gast lecture followed the 8:30 plenary lecture Tuesday morning and the President's address was given Friday morning after the 8:30 plenary lecture.

Wednesday and Thursday morning plenary lectures were followed by the award ceremonies.

## Award Ceremony, Wednesday, August 22

The following awards were presented:

*Geochemical Society*

2007 Clarke Medal: Ethan Baxter; Citationist: Don de Paolo

*European Association for Geochemistry*

2007 Houtermans Medal: Stephan Parman; Citationist: Tim Grove

*Geochemical Society*

2006 Patterson Medal: Fred MacKenzie; Citationist: John Morse

*Geochemical Society and European Association for Geochemistry*

*New Fellows:* Jill Banfield, Don Canfield, Marc Chaussidon, Jitendra Nath Goswami, Mark Harrison, Frank C. Hawthorne, Michael F. Hochella, Jr., Boaz Luz, Catherine McCammon, Judith McKenzie, Hugh St. Clair O'Neill, Robert O. Pepin, Mark H. Thiemens, David Vaughan, Arthur F. White

*German Mineralogical Society (DMG)*

Abraham-Gottlob-Werner-Medaille: Herbert Kroll



Viktor-Moritz-Goldschmidt-Preis: Thomas Zack

*Geochemical Society of Japan*

Geochemical Journal Award: Yuji Sano, Naoto Takahata, Yukiyasu Tsutsumi and Tomoharu Miyamoto

## Award Ceremony, Thursday, August 23

*European Association for Geochemistry*

2007 Urey Medal: Harry Elderfield; Citationist: Ros Rickaby

*Geochemical Society*

2007 Goldschmidt Medal: Günter Lugmair; Citationist: G.J. Wasserburg

*Geochemical Society*

2007 Patterson Medal: Gordon Brown; Citationist: George Helz

*Geochemical Society*

2007 Distinguished Service Award: Michael Hochella

*International Association of GeoChemistry*

IAGC Vernadsky Medal: Fred Mackenzie,

IAGC Ebelmen Award: Dana Royer, Seifu Kebede

*International Association of Geoanalysts*

Early Career Award: Jerome Chmieleff

Shen-su Sun award: Yigang Xu

The strict time limit imposed by the organizers was not followed by awardees and citationists which led to some delays in the beginning of the normal morning sessions. It is recommended in future conferences to reduce the number of awards presented.

## Exhibitions

There were 25 exhibitors. Their fees went to the university to compensate for the use of lecture rooms (a total of ca. 30 000 €).

## Panel Discussion: CO<sub>2</sub>-Sequestration

Wednesday afternoon there was a panel discussion on CO<sub>2</sub>-sequestration. The discussion was in German but conference participants could follow the discussion by simultaneous translation. About 500 people were present. Representatives of the major German energy providers as well as representatives of various research institutions discussed the potential and the dangers of CO<sub>2</sub>-sequestration. Discussion leader was Gerold Wefer (University of Bremen).

## Conference Dinner

Wednesday evening the conference dinner was served in the Gürzenich, the traditional ballroom and reception hall of the City Council of Cologne. The two Crawford Prize winners for geology of 1986, C. J. Allègre and G. J. Wasserburg were present and gave short addresses. The Gürzenich was fully booked with 1500 people, including some 500 students. More than 1000 liters of beer were consumed.

## Student support

The Goldschmidt Travel Support Program had a total of 45 000 €. The Geochemical Society gave 7314 €, the Geochemical Society of Japan 2400 € and the German Mineralogical Society 5000 €. The ESF\_Archean Environment Program supported one student and one keynote speaker (1400 €). The rest was Conference money.

There were about 140 applications. A committee led by Johnson Haas selected 72 students and researchers, 50 students received 500 € and 20 students 1000 € each. The student support program was very effective and it should be continued and extended in further Goldschmidt Conferences.

## Excursions

We had planned 6 excursions, to Crete, Italian Alps, Nördlingen, Eifel (2) and Siebengebirge. Only two one-day excursions (Siebengebirge, Eifel) had a sufficient number of participants. The other excursions were cancelled.

## Workshops

A number of workshops was organized before and after the Goldschmidt Conference, some at different locations. All of them were well attended.

International School of Isotope Geology

9th EMU School

IODP Topical Symposium: North Atlantic and Arctic Climate Variability

Fluid-Fluid Equilibria in the Crust

European Mantle Workshop (EMAW2007)

H. Palme

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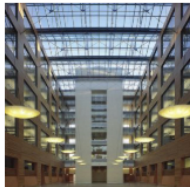
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## Goldschmidt 2008



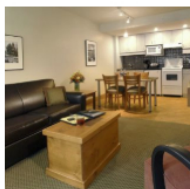
Life Sciences Centre atrium



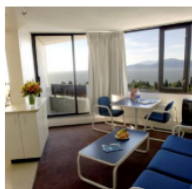
Life Sciences Centre lectur...



Aerial view of the UBC cam...



West Coast Suites living roo...



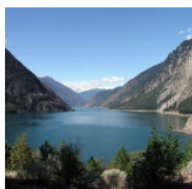
The Gage Towers: premium...



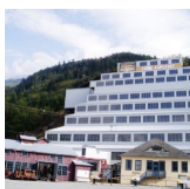
The Gage Towers: standard ...



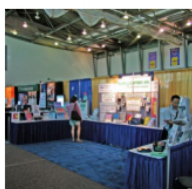
The Museum of Anthropology



British Columbia



Field Trips: Britannia Mine



Sponsorship & Exhibition: S...



### INTRODUCTION

The 18th Annual V.M. Goldschmidt Conference™ will take place 13-18 July 2008 on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and marks the first time a Goldschmidt Conference will be held in Canada.

The theme of Goldschmidt2008, "from sea to sky," reflects Vancouver's spectacular natural surroundings - perched on the edge of the Pacific Ocean and backed by the peaks of the Coast Mountains.

The local organizing committee invites you to come and experience all that Vancouver has to offer and to participate in the exciting scientific and social program that we have put together. Goldschmidt2008 in Vancouver is a meeting not to be missed!

### IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission and Online Registration Opens: **2 January 2008**

Abstract Submission Deadline: **1 March 2008**

Early Registration Deadline: **11 May 2008**

Goldschmidt2008 in Vancouver: **13 - 18 July 2008**

### VENUE

The University of British Columbia campus is the perfect setting for a large, prestigious meeting such as the Goldschmidt Conference. The natural beauty of the campus, coupled with the spectacular views of the Pacific over Burrard Inlet, the North Shore Mountains and the downtown core of Vancouver will only enhance the conference experience.

The oral sessions will be held in a network of academic buildings, all boasting state-of-the-art technology, and all within walking distance of each other and the campus accommodations. The exhibition and poster sessions will be held in the Student Recreation Centre, offering 18,000 square feet of open, modern space. The world-renowned UBC Museum of Anthropology will host the Conference Barbecue. The museum houses one of the world's finest displays of Northwest Coast First Nations art, while offering stunning vistas of the Vancouver skyline.

The university campus itself has something to offer for every delegate. Visitors to the campus are able to enjoy athletic facilities including indoor and outdoor pools, a spacious gym and field areas, a variety of shops and services, and restaurants and food providers to tempt any appetite. The campus occupies the western point of the city, in an area called Point Grey. The campus adjoins the largest green space in the City of Vancouver, Pacific Spirit Regional Park. The 763 hectare park is popular for its cycling and running trails, and allows its visitors a stunning window into the lush forest environment that makes up much of Vancouver's surrounding areas.

Vancouver is a mecca for tourists, offering a wealth of activities for visitors. As the proud host of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Vancouver is keen to share its excitement with Goldschmidt delegates. The natural wonders of Vancouver include majestic mountains, sparkling lakes and the Pacific, plus lush rainforests and foliage, all features that can be enjoyed in one day! The city also offers world class shopping, fine cuisine and entertainment, all served with friendly hospitality and the highest level of quality. Internationally, Vancouver has a reputation for being clean, green, safe and accessible. Vancouver is also a gateway to many popular tourist locations in British Columbia, including Whistler Resort, the Canadian Rockies and Victoria and Vancouver Island.

### ACCOMMODATION

The majority of Goldschmidt2008 delegates will be staying in on-campus accommodation at the University of British Columbia. These accommodations combine the city's most spectacular views and location

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with the best value and variety of rooms possible. In addition to these advantages, on-campus accommodation offers the convenience of being in close proximity to the conference events and other Goldschmidt2008 delegates.

The primary residential complex for Goldschmidt2008 delegates is the Walter Gage Residence. This property offers a range of accommodation types, from freshly renovated luxury one-bedroom suites in the West Coast Suites, to shared multi-bedroom units, with communal living areas in the Gage Towers. The Gage Towers are often favored by groups attending the conference from the same institution. Dormitory style and multi-bedroom unit accommodation at Totem Park Residence will also be available, offering affordable, quiet, clean single and double rooms with shared lounges and washrooms.

For those delegates not staying at the conference campus accommodations, there are also a wide variety of hotels available for booking off campus. From luxury 5 diamond hotels to the more informal comforts of bed and breakfast accommodation, Vancouver has something to suit all pockets and preferences. In downtown Vancouver, arrangements have been made to accommodate Goldschmidt delegates at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel, Sutton Place Hotel, and the Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites.

The Goldschmidt2008 website (<http://www.goldschmidt2008.org>) will provide you with the necessary information to make your booking in minutes!

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION

There are a multitude of transportation choices for getting to and around Vancouver. The Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is the second busiest airport in Canada, with daily non-stop flights to Asia, Europe, the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, and other airports within Canada. YVR is a world leader in international air travel and is consistently recognized as one of the best airports in North America. The airport is only a ~25 minute drive from either downtown Vancouver or the UBC campus. Delegates may also opt to fly into Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), a scenic 2.5-3 hour drive from Vancouver.

The UBC campus is easily accessible from downtown Vancouver, with multiple public transportation buses traveling between the campus and downtown in under half an hour. The campus bus loop is conveniently located directly beside the Student Recreation Centre, and within walking distance of the conference academic facilities.

## DINING

The conference has arranged for a caterer to provide a lunch for everyone each day (included in the registration fee). Numerous restaurants and cafes are conveniently located all over the campus and in the nearby University Village and Marketplace.

Dining options off campus range from casual to gourmet and feature cuisines from around the world that will suit every budget and palate. Vancouver's dining scene is truly an attraction in itself. The city's diverse cultural background makes dining in Vancouver a delightful and delicious experience.

## PROGRAM THEMES

The international program committee (IPC), chaired by Rick Carlson, Barbara Sherwood Lollar and Dominique Weis, have identified 20 themes that are designed to cover the full range of geochemistry, from sea to sky. The themes that will form the focus of Goldschmidt2008, with their coordinators below, are:

Theme 1: **The Early Solar System: Chemistry and Chronology**  
Sara Russell, Mini Wadhwa

Theme 2: **Planetary Geochemistry**  
Bill McDonough

Theme 3: **Early Earth: From Mantle to Microbes**  
Steve Mojzsis, Vickie Bennett

Theme 4: **Continental Crustal Evolution**  
Hugh Smithies, John Percival

Theme 5: **Mantle Dynamics**  
Cinzia Farnetani, Nicolas Coltice

Theme 6: **Mantle Geochemistry**  
Catherine Chauvel, Cornelia Class

Theme 7: **Experimental Petrology**  
Michael Walter, Penelope King

Theme 8: **Fluids in the Crust and Mantle**  
Jacqueline Dixon, Robert Bodnar

Theme 9: **Subduction Processes**  
Jon Davidson, Yoshiyuki Tatsumi

Theme 10: **Magmatic Processes**  
Aaron Pietruszka, Kari Cooper

Theme 11: **Thermochronology**  
Jim Lee, Peter Reiners

Theme 12: **Resource Geochemistry**  
Sarah-Jane Barnes, Sarah Gleeson

Theme 13: **Terrigenous Sediments and Sedimentary Components**  
David Barbeau, Sidney Hemming

Theme 14: **Fluid-Solid Interaction from the Atomic to the Global Scale**  
Eric Oelkers, Ruth Blake

Theme 15: **Marine Geochemistry**



Theme 15: **Marine Geochemistry**  
Katrina Edwards, Tim Eglinton

Theme 16: **Weathering and Landscape Evolution**  
Derek Vance, Joerg Schaefer

Theme 17: **Paleoclimate**  
Frank McDermott, Rosalind Rickaby

Theme 18: **Environmental Geochemistry**  
Greg Slater, Patricia Maurice

Theme 19: **Biogeochemistry**  
Ken Takai, Lesley Warren

Theme 20: **Techniques**  
Mark Rehkamper, Shuhei Ono

Please see the conference website (<http://www.goldschmidt2008.org>) for the list of 100+ sessions within these themes, their descriptions, and their convenors.

## SOCIAL PROGRAM

### Welcome Reception/Ice Breaker

Date: 13 July 2008  
Venue: Rose Garden, UBC  
Cost: Free to registered delegates (\$30 CAD for accompanying guests)

All delegates are invited and encouraged to attend the Goldschmidt2008 Welcome Reception. The reception will be held outdoors at the beautiful Rose Garden, which overlooks Burrard Inlet and the North Shore mountains. The conference will be officially opened at the reception, with a welcome address from the conference organizers and UBC officials. The Ice Breaker is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and form new friendships!

### Conference Barbecue

Date: 16 July 2008  
Venue: Museum of Anthropology, UBC  
Cost: \$30 CAD (\$20 CAD for student registrants and \$60 CAD for accompanying guests)

The barbecue will be subsidized by the conference and through sponsorship to make this event affordable for all delegates. It will be held at the stunning and world-renowned Museum of Anthropology. This event will feature live entertainment and West Coast-themed cuisine including fresh barbecued salmon. Space is limited so book early!

### Conference Dinner Cruise

Date: 18 July 2008  
Venue: Harbour Cruise  
Cost: \$110 CAD (registered delegates and accompanying guests)

Held on the last night of the conference, the dinner cruise will be a memorable event that completes your conference experience! This unique event offers unparalleled views of the city, mountains and famous Vancouver landmarks. Enjoy a delicious meal and the company of your fellow Goldschmidt2008 delegates. Space is limited so book early!

## SHORT COURSES/WORKSHOPS

Numerous short courses and workshops focusing on applications in analytical geochemistry will be offered in conjunction with Goldschmidt2008. We encourage Goldschmidt delegates to take advantage of these opportunities.

### The Geochemist's Workbench Standard/Professional Training Workshop

Date: 10-11 July 2008

Contact: Tom Meuzelaar ([tom@rockware.com](mailto:tom@rockware.com))

### A Hands-On Introductory Tour of Kimberlites

Date: 11-12 July 2008

Contact: Maya Kopylova ([mkopylov@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:mkopylov@eos.ubc.ca))

### Quality Assurance in Analytical Geochemistry

*Sponsored by the International Association of Geoanalysts*

Date: 13 July 2008

Contact: Michael Wiedenbeck ([michawi@gfz-potsdam.de](mailto:michawi@gfz-potsdam.de))

### Laser-Ablation-ICPMS in the Earth Sciences: Current Practices and Outstanding Issues

*Sponsored by the Mineralogical Association of Canada*

Date: 19-20 July 2008

Contacts: Rob Raeside ([rob.raeside@acadiau.ca](mailto:rob.raeside@acadiau.ca)) and Paul Sylvester ([pauls@esd.mun.ca](mailto:pauls@esd.mun.ca))

Please see the conference website (<http://www.goldschmidt2008.org>) for a description of each course and information on how to register. To propose a short course or workshop, please contact Diane Hanano ([dhanano@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:dhanano@eos.ubc.ca)).

## FIELD TRIPS

A wide selection of field trips throughout southern British Columbia has been planned for Goldschmidt2008 delegates. These trips have been designed to explore and showcase the unique geologic processes that have shaped this stunning landscape.

1. **Wrangellia flood basalts on Vancouver Island: an accreted Late Triassic oceanic large igneous province**

4 day post-conference trip (July 18-21)  
Leaders: Andrew Greene (UBC), Graham Nixon (BCGS), Nick Massey (BCGS), James Scoates (UBC)  
Contact: [agreene@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:agreene@eos.ubc.ca)

**2. Effusive to explosive volcanism In Canadian Cascades: insights into landscape-controlled volcanic processes**

2 day trip  
Leader: Kelly Russell (UBC)  
Contact: [krussell@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:krussell@eos.ubc.ca)

**3. Lava and tephra of the Neogene Chilcotin Group**

3 day trip  
Leaders: Graham Andrews (UBC), Kelly Russell (UBC)  
Contact: [gandrews@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:gandrews@eos.ubc.ca)

**4. Southern Vancouver Island geology: 200 million years of crustal growth**

2 day post-conference trip (July 19-20)  
Leader: Dante Canil (U Vic)  
Contact: [dcanil@uvic.ca](mailto:dcanil@uvic.ca)

**5. Transect through the Southern Canadian Cordillera: Calgary-Vancouver**

4 day post-conference trip (July 19-22)  
Leaders: Darren Grocke (McMaster), Dan Gibson (SFU), Philip Simony (U Calgary), Derek Thorkelson (SFU)  
Contact: [grocke@mcmaster.ca](mailto:grocke@mcmaster.ca)

**6. Geochemistry of recent surficial deposits and associated soils**

Leaders: Stephanie Grand (UBC), Leslie Lavkulich (UBC), Brent Ward (SFU), Margaret Schmidt (SFU), John Clague (SFU), Cathie Hickson (GSC)  
Contact: [sgrand@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:sgrand@interchange.ubc.ca)

**7. Britannia Mine remediation**

1 day trip  
Leaders: Gerry O'Hara (Golder Assoc.), Terry Johnson (Golder Assoc.)  
Contact: [GOHara@golder.com](mailto:GOHara@golder.com)

**8. Triassic porphyries in southern BC**

2-3 day trip  
Leaders: Jim Logan (BCGS), Mitch Mihalynuk (BCGS), Vic Preto (retired from BCGS)  
Contact: [Jim.Logan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jim.Logan@gov.bc.ca)

**9. Caulfeild Cove**

Half-day trip (July 16 afternoon)

Please see the conference website (<http://www.goldschmidt2008.org>) for a description of each trip as well as exact dates, costs, and information on how to register. For general field trip inquiries, please contact the field trip organizer, Dr. Derek Thorkelson ([dthorkel@sfu.ca](mailto:dthorkel@sfu.ca)) of Simon Fraser University.

## OPTIONAL TOURS

Tourism opportunities to local Vancouver attractions and to destinations such as Whistler and Victoria will be possible for delegates and their guests. Visit the conference website (<http://www.goldschmidt2008.org>) or Tourism Vancouver (<http://www.tourismvancouver.ca>) for more information on what to do and see in this amazing city!

## STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

Goldschmidt2008 encourages student participation in Vancouver.

Some financial support is available from various member societies (Geochemical Society, European Association of Geochemistry, Geological Society of Japan, Mineralogical Association of Canada, among others) to students who are presenting the results of their own research in a talk or poster format at the 2008 V.M. Goldschmidt Conference.

Applications will consist of:

- 1) Your current CV,
- 2) A copy of your submitted 2008 Goldschmidt abstract and assigned abstract number,
- 3) A one page description of the broader impacts and significance of your research, and
- 4) A brief budget justification that includes a description of your financial need, and availability of travel support from other sources.

Visit the Goldschmidt2008 website (<http://www.goldschmidt2008.org>) for more detailed information on student travel funding opportunities!

## SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Vancouver has set a goal to be the cleanest, greenest, healthiest city in the world. Vancouver, and in turn the University of British Columbia (UBC), are dedicated to climate protection, green architecture, active transportation, sustainable systems and bringing sustainability to all aspects of running and building the city and campus.

UBC is Canada's leader in campus sustainability. It is Canada's first university to develop a sustainable development policy, and the first to open a campus sustainability office. UBC, as Canada's largest campus energy retrofit, cuts its energy costs by \$2 million every year. It also saves 15,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, reduces water use by 30 percent and decreases energy use by 20 percent annually.

Sustainability is not only important to residents and businesses, but to visitors to Vancouver and UBC as well. UBC has pledged to make sustainability the foundation for campus operations, research and teaching. UBC's sustainability vision is to earn the respect of future generations for the social, ecological and economic legacy we create. UBC is encouraging the organizing committee for Goldschmidt2008 to factor ecological, social and economic consequences into the planning and execution of the conference. The organizing committee is committed to working with and towards the environmental initiatives of Vancouver and UBC, and invites all delegates to assist in not only making their visit to Vancouver and UBC sustainable, but to contribute to the overall environmental initiatives of Vancouver and UBC.

## SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITION

Exhibition and sponsorship at Goldschmidt2008 is a unique promotional opportunity that will provide significant visibility and exposure to over 2000 local and international delegates, and allow valuable interaction with leading geochemists, key academic purchasers and graduate students.

The Goldschmidt conference will host an exhibition to encourage the interaction of conference delegates with exhibitors wishing to take advantage of the meeting to raise their profile with the geochemical community. The exhibition will be located in the heart of the conference to maximize its value both to delegates and to exhibitors. The number of exhibit booths is limited; therefore we recommend that interested parties contact the conference organizers as soon as possible. In addition to the exhibition, there is a diverse selection of sponsorship opportunities available to exhibitors and others, ranging from the Conference Barbecue, to the poster sessions, to delegate bags.

Please contact Diane Hanano ([dhanano@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:dhanano@eos.ubc.ca)) for further details or to request a copy of the Goldschmidt2008 Sponsorship & Exhibition Prospectus.

## CONTACT US!

Conference Organizer: Dominique Weis ([dweis@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:dweis@eos.ubc.ca))

General Inquiries: Cecilia Li ([celi@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:celi@eos.ubc.ca))

Sponsorship and Exhibition: Diane Hanano ([dhanano@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:dhanano@eos.ubc.ca))

Publications: Paul Beattie ([info@goldschmidt2008.org](mailto:info@goldschmidt2008.org))

Website: Andrew Varley ([info@goldschmidt2008.org](mailto:info@goldschmidt2008.org))

UBC Conferences and Accommodations: Heidi Dale-Johnson ([heidi.dalejohnson@ubc.ca](mailto:heidi.dalejohnson@ubc.ca))

Field Trips: Derek Thorkelson ([dthorkel@sfu.ca](mailto:dthorkel@sfu.ca))

International Program Committee: Rick Carlson ([rcarlson@ciw.edu](mailto:rcarlson@ciw.edu)) and Barbara Sherwood Lollar ([bslollar@chem.utoronto.ca](mailto:bslollar@chem.utoronto.ca))

*Photos courtesy of Tourism Vancouver and UBC  
By Diane Hanano and Heidi Dale-Johnson*

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## Goldschmidt 2007 Excursion: The Laacher See Volcano

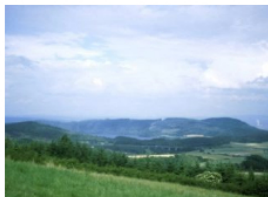


Fig. 1: The crater of the Laacher See volcano.



Fig. 2: Laacher See Tephra deposit with...



Fig. 3: CO2 degassing at Laacher See crater.

G. Wörner, Göttingen

This one-day excursion on 25 August 2007, was attended by 40 geoscientists from 14 countries and concentrated on the origin of the Laacher See tephra deposits.

The Laacher See volcano is part of the Quaternary East Eifel volcanic field of western Germany and located in a belt of Upper Tertiary to Holocene volcanism in Central Europe. The Eifel is underlain by a region of anomalously hot mantle and is characterized by intraplate alkaline volcanism (basanites, tephrites, phonolites, leucitites and nephelinites). The Laacher See volcano is the most recent centre in the East Eifel (13,065 ± 50 ybp, Fig. 1) erupted 6.3 km<sup>3</sup> of phonolitic magma during period of a few days approximately 12,880 years ago. The Laacher See Tephra exhibits a vertical zonation in its petrography and major and trace element chemistry and has been inferred to represent the inverted zoned magma chamber (Fig. 2).

The group visited one of the most famous outcrops of Laacher See Tephra: the Wingertsberg quarry c. 1 km south of the crater rim. A collection of pumice clasts demonstrated the compositional variation and erupted xenoliths were used to reconstruct the magma chamber margins (contact metamorphosed Devonian slates from about 3 to 6 km depth).

We also visited the Laacher See Abbey, one of the most beautiful Roman churches north of the Alps.

A leisurely walk along the lake shore led us to exposures along the inner crater wall (Devonian slate and Quaternary lavas and scoria deposits), gave an impression of the size and natural beauty of the crater and its lake. Finally we were able to observe (and smell) volcanic gases, which continue to emanate along the lake shore (Fig. 3).

A visit to the Laacher See volcano is incomplete without descending down a stair case tunnel (<120 steps) to the ancient underground excavations of the Mendig lava flow (a tephrite), which were used for the production of millstones since Roman times. More recently, the cellars were utilized by breweries, one of which still produces a delicious "Volcano Beer". The day ended cheerfully with beers and food in the patio of the brewery.

### GN134 Content

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Trip Leaders: Melanie Moll and Holger Paulick

[HABs, Iron, Ferries, and Celebrations](#)  
by Angelina Souren

[Nick's Picks \(#134\) Should the GS be on Facebook?](#)  
by Nicholas Wigginton





[home](#) > [publications](#) > [geochemical news](#) > [gn134 \(jan 08\)](#) > a volcanic hike in the tertiary siebengebirge

## Goldschmidt 2007 Excursion: A volcanic hike in the Tertiary Siebengebirge

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**Leaders : Melanie Moll and Holger Paulick**  
(Mineralogisch-Petrologisches Institut, Universität Bonn)



Waiting for the field trip bus

The city of Cologne was a splendid location for an event such as the Goldschmidt conference with abundant opportunities for evening entertainment and bar hopping. Most delegates probably did not get a chance to appreciate that there are spectacular geological sites to be visited in the close proximity of the conference venue, in particular volcanologically speaking.

This field trip to the Miocene Siebengebirge (seven mountains) volcanic field provided a great opportunity to 35 geologists from all over the world to get to know a piece of German wilderness, geology, medieval history, and as a treat at the end of the day, a traditional dinner under the stars in a vineyard at the foot of the Drachenfels (dragons hill).



Field trip participants

All of the transportation was by public trains and busses, probably making this trip one of the most CO<sub>2</sub>-friendly in Goldschmidt history. Everybody assembled at Cologne main train station for the ~30 km ride southward to the foot of the Siebengebirge national park located immediately at eastern banks of the river Rhine. After a short bus trip we reached the trail head of our hiking expedition. The Siebengebirge consists of numerous volcanic necks of basanite, alkaline basalt, latite and trachyte formed during intraplate volcanism between ~27 Ma and ~20 Ma. Also, there is an enigmatic volcanoclastic succession, locally referred to as „Trachyttuff“ and previously inferred to represent a succession of pyroclastic fall deposits and ignimbrites. However, new research demonstrates that at least a significant portion of the sequence was generated by sublacustrine volcanic eruptions and we engaged in lively discussions regarding the lithological evidence.



Field trip participants looking over an outcrop

The Siebengebirge hills are covered by dense forests providing a natural reserve for many endangered plant and animal species. Due to conservation issues the group was limited to one hammer, which was absolutely sufficient to supply everybody with ample specimens to investigate.

During our 10 km hiking trip we enjoyed a full day of sunshine (the first of the entire Goldschmidt Meeting!), visited two ruins of medieval castles, passed scenic view of the Rhine valley, stopped for afternoon tea (and Kölsch...) at an Inn in the forest and finally reached our evening destination: The Drachenfels (dragons hill) vineyard. Here, an outdoor feast consisting of a local pork specialty (Spießbraten) and several rounds of tasting of the local grape products provided the background for some lively entertainment and reflections. I remember that someone promised to organize a similar event for Vancouver 2008...



Looking for the critical zone







*Field trip participants on the hike*



*Field trip participants at the Drachenfels Vineyard*



*Dinner in the field*

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## Nick's Picks (#134)

### Should the GS be on Facebook?

So, I finally did it. I joined [Facebook](#). To the students reading this, that's probably not very shocking, as practically all of the other students in my department seem to have beaten me to it. I was reluctant at first but I finally gave in, partly because of peer pressure and partly because of curiosity. I couldn't help wanting to know what was so enticing, so fun, and so cool about it. Sadly, I was so far behind in my 'e-cool' that even "old fogeys" and [some moms](#) have been connected for a long time. Considering that, everybody must be on these sites, right? As it turns out, that's actually pretty close.

Facebook (73,500,000 members) and other more popular sites like [MySpace](#) (289,000,000 members) are growing at a remarkable rate, especially considering their modest origins. Facebook was originally developed at Harvard for students to network online, but it was soon made available to other Boston-area schools until eventually students, staff, and faculty from universities across the world had access. Now anyone above the age of 13 can get their very own Facebook page which has opened up many more networking channels yet still retained its dominance among college students when compared with MySpace. As a result of Facebook's ubiquity and highly fun/functional applications, it has grown three times faster than MySpace in the past year. Its societal influence offline is growing too; in the U.S., Facebook sponsored the New Hampshire [presidential primary debates](#) with the ABC Network on January 5, 2008. You'd pretty much have to be living under a rock to have not yet at least heard of Facebook by now.

As it turns out, when I started writing this column for *Geochemical News*, GS past-president Sue Brantley asked me to do some investigating about if the GS could/should have a presence on Facebook-type websites. Having not yet succumbed to the pressures of joining, I asked other geochemists that I knew were frequent users of these sites what they thought. To them, the benefits for GS on Facebook would be that anyone who joined the 'Geochemical Society' group would be able to stay up-to-date with events, announcements, and publications from the GS and catch up with colleagues or friends they may have lost touch with over the years. Okay, so increased awareness of GS activities and increased communication among geochemists? So far, so good. As of January 2008, several other professional societies have already created group pages on Facebook including the British Ecological Society (633 members), Society of American Foresters (331), American Association for the Advancement of Science (965), American Chemical Society (157 members), and American Society of Limnology & Oceanography (20 members). Apparently other scientists and professional organizations see the benefit of using Facebook as well.

If the GS did have a presence on Facebook, it wouldn't be the only geology-related group. There is a group page for the so-called 'Organic Geochemistry Network' (43 members) whose function is "to foster academic and social links between Organic Geochemists as well as people in other related fields." The [American Geological Institute](#) also has a group page to relay important information about the geosciences community as a whole.

But is Facebook really appropriate for social networking with fellow scientists on a professional level? The boundary between networking with friends and establishing professional contacts sometimes becomes blurry, and never before has that been as clear to me as when I started using Facebook. For instance, I recently had a discussion with an old lab mate on my Facebook page about some future experiments I have been planning to do for quite some time. This discussion appeared between conversations with other friends sharing online video links and stories from the past weekend hardly appropriate in a professional context.

### Other online social networking sites

As a result of this apparent disconnect, a few sites have sprouted up with a more professional focus. [LinkedIn](#) was created specifically for establishing professional contacts within companies and educational institutions, particularly in the business world. The [Prometeo Network](#) is for doctors and life sciences researchers, and [Prometos](#) is specifically for academic professors. But the most appropriate social networking site specifically for scientists that I've found is [Nature Network](#) (read an article in *The Guardian* about it here). Nature Network is owned and operated by Nature Publishing Group, the publishers of [Nature](#) (and the new journal [Nature Geoscience](#)).

Nature Network allows you to create your own profile complete with publications, research interests, and current projects (watch a video overview here). It also allows you to join science-themed discussion groups and read blogs by other Nature Network users. Another advantage with Nature Network that differentiates itself from Facebook is that it is not in a 'walled garden,' i.e. anyone can access your page or group even if they don't have a Nature account. This makes finding content on its site very easy. Nature Network allows you to have a link specific to your page (the Geochemistry and Mineralogy group page, for example, can be found at <http://network.nature.com/group/GeoMin>). In contrast, if you try and go to a group's Facebook page, you're out of luck unless you're a member (there's a good commentary piece about this [here](#). Some people *really* don't like Facebook because of this but it certainly limits the access of online 'snoopers').



A Nature Network profile.

So Nature Network may be a more appropriate forum for professional discussions and networking, but its full potential has probably yet to be realized because not very many people seem to know about it (it hasn't even existed a full year yet). One of Nature Network's great features that will certainly rise with the number of users is the 'Local' network feature where you can see content specific to your geographical location including announcements for seminars and workshops. Right now only Boston and London nodes exist but they are planning to open several more in 2008.

### The experiment

But when compared to Facebook, Nature Network doesn't even come close to reaching a large number of scientists, students, or professors. Facebook is one of the most popular and influential web technologies today, and is in the top-ten most



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### Who's Nick?

Nick is Nicholas Wigginton.

He is a Ph.D Candidate in the Department of Geosciences at Virginia Tech. If you have a pick or a suggestion for Nick please contact him at [wigginto@vt.edu](mailto:wigginto@vt.edu).

You can also find him on [Facebook](#) and [Nature Network](#).

### Nick's Picks Archive:

#132: [Georelevant Podcasts](#)

#133: [Making Geochemistry Green](#)

### GS on Facebook

If you have a Facebook account, come join our [GS Facebook Group](#).



influence new technologies early) and is in the top ten most visited sites on the web. Some groups, especially educators, opine that Facebook is essentially a [huge distraction](#), but appealing to students should be a primary goal for academic and scientific organizations. As a result, some professors have started using it as a [teaching aid](#). Why shouldn't the Geochemical Society take advantage of Facebook's omnipresence to promote and advance our field? To test this theory, we've started a [Facebook group for the Geochemical Society](#) as well as the aforementioned [Geochemistry and Mineralogy Group](#) on Nature Network.

On the GS Facebook page, there is already information posted about Goldschmidt 2008, the publications that the GS offers, and a discussion board for topics related to geochemistry. I think that the GS and its members stand to gain a lot with a presence on Facebook, particularly with exposure to students, but only time will tell. In the meantime, feel free to email me with comments or if you feel the GS (or science in general) has a place on Facebook. If you're feeling curious like I was, [sign up](#) for Facebook today (it's easy) and join the GS group by searching for 'Geochemical Society' in the site's search box. Keep in mind that as with most social networking sites online, the content and discussion get increasingly better with the number of users. So far there are just over 20 members in the GS group.



The GS Facebook page

As GS works on a more active role in establishing a web-presence, stay on the lookout for further 'Web 2.0' additions to [www.geochemsoc.org](http://www.geochemsoc.org) including [RSS feeds](#) and various ways to share online GS content with colleagues in 2008.

**Other useful links:**

[7 things you should know about Facebook](#), from the Educase Learning Initiative:

[Criticism of Facebook](#) on Wikipedia

[Commentary](#) on Facebook and other 'Web 2.0' resources from the Medical Library Association

A [video overview](#) of Facebook from the perspective of a Marketing blogger

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