



Citation for Professor Rebecca A. Jamieson, PhD
(AGS Colloquium, Fredericton, Feb 11th, 2017)

Dr. Becky Jamieson will be awarded the AGS's Gesner Medal. Becky has been active in the Atlantic geoscience scene for over 40 years, first completing her BSc thesis on the metamorphism of the contact aureole right outside her classrooms and lecture halls on the Dalhousie University campus. While that might seem a modest start, it remains one of very few investigations of a geological unit 700 km long but less than 2 km wide. Her PhD research took her deeper into the Earth, and north to the tip of Newfoundland, to investigate the St. Anthony Ophiolite and Hare Bay Allochthon, which she did at Memorial University, under the supervision of Dave Strong and likely some tutelage by Hank Williams. These studies launched Becky into a career as a metamorphic petrologist, structural geologist and tectonic modeler who has led the field for the better part of 35 years.

I may be biased, but I hope that few of you would debate that metamorphic geology is fundamental to a full understanding of the geology of an orogen, and I'm sure even fewer would argue against the hypothesis that Becky is one of its leading proponents. In fact, a special session is being organized at the upcoming GAC-MAC meeting in Kingston as "a tribute to Becky Jamieson and her outstanding career contributions to geoscience through her field-based research on the metamorphic architecture of orogenic belts and the geodynamical drivers of heat and metamorphism during collision." The organizers of the session invite contributions from areas in which Becky "has focused her career, including the Grenville, Appalachian, Caledonian, Trans-Hudson, and Himalayan orogens."

Not only is the scope of her work multi-orogenic and international, but so are her collaborations, with keynote papers already confirmed for that session from the UK, the US and Canada. However, it is clear that Becky's work is firmly grounded in the Atlantic Canada region, where 24 out of the 50 bachelors, masters and doctoral theses she has supervised are located. The student who started by poking the rocks on Dalhousie campus has poked, hammered, microprobed, and modeled rocks from Nova Scotia to New Zealand.

Fully one-third of Becky's published papers since 1988, dealing with orogenic development, burial and exhumation, and ultra-high pressure metamorphism of the Caledonides, Alps, Grenville, Himalaya, and the Appalachians feature Chris Beaumont as a co-author. The joint papers of this "dynamic duo" not only explore the geology of many mountain belts, but contribute fundamental insights on the "origin of orogens" (to quote the title of their 2013 invited paper in the GSA Bulletin's 125th anniversary series). One wonders at the nature of the daily discussions around their dinner table!

In addition to her work on shear zones, geothermometers, and orogens, Becky has been active above ground, as a rigorous, but popular, professor of Geology from the first year to graduate level, and as a loyal supporter of the Atlantic Geoscience Society, most recently organizing a special session on "Dates, Rates, and Durations of Tectonic Processes – Timing is Everything" at last year's colloquium in Truro.

The Gesner Medal is awarded to a person who has developed and promoted the advancement of geoscience in the Atlantic region (tick); has made a contribution of large enough scope to have impact beyond the region (tick); and to a person who is still active in geoscientific research (tick again). Although Becky recently retired from Dalhousie, she is definitely still active, with work in progress in ultra-high pressure rocks in Norway, modelling of the Himalaya-Tibetan Orogen, metamorphism of the Grenville Orogen, and (as an extension of her undergraduate thesis work) the contact metamorphic aureole of the South Mountain Batholith in Nova Scotia. Indeed, Becky is a worthy recipient of the Gesner Medal.

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