



ATLANTIC GEOSCIENCE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 33, Number 2, April 2004

In This Issue

President's Forum..... 1

AGS News

2004 Colloquium and Annual
General Meeting 2

President's Report for 2003-04. 3

AGS Awards for 2004 5

2004-05 AGS Executive and
Council..... 8

AGS Field Trip 8

University News

UNB 8

St. FX..... 9

Halifax 2005..... 10

Coming Events 10

Newsletter Address

Please send newsletter submissions and comments to:

Mike Cherry
Nova Scotia Department of
Natural Resources
P.O. Box 698
Halifax, NS B3J 2T9
Tel. (902)-424-8135
Fax: (902)-424-7735
E-mail: cherryme@gov.ns.ca

Deadline for next issue:

June 15, 2004

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Joe White

clancy@unb.ca

When approached part-way through a sabbatical to join the AGS council as Vice-President in what was at the time a fill-in capacity, it was several weeks before it dawned on me that, in other organizations, the VP becomes Prez – so here I am. And in a trite but true statement, it is a distinct pleasure and honour to submit my first column as AGS President.

In a role such as this, there is no more pleasurable way to take office than at the conclusion of a successful colloquium such as we enjoyed at Moncton the end of January. The scientific meeting, as well as the short course, attracted a large number of attendees, and notably a large group of students from throughout the region were present. As noted at the banquet, the quality of student presentations (talks and posters) cannot be overstated. Student award winners are specifically recognized at the banquet, but one cannot reiterate too frequently the difficult time faced by judges in making their choices.

This year, the Distinguished Service Award went to Jennifer Bates, while the Society's highest award, the Distinguished Scientist Award (Gesner Medal) was deservedly presented to Alan Grant. The citations for each of these are carried separately in this issue.

There has been the usually to-and-froing amongst councillors, yet fortunately for both myself and the AGS at large, there remains a cadre of knowledgeable and active members. While

Linda Ham and Tom Al have, respectively, fled to the Arctic and finished his term, new councillors are Dawson Briscoe and Jennifer Bates (I think the definition of caught in a vortex lies somewhere herein). Continuing in their terms are Andy Kerr, Sue Johnson, Tom Martel, Randy Miller, Dave Mossman, Brendan Murphy, Mike Parkhill, Andrew MacRae, Alan Ruffman, Deborah Skilliter, Ian Spooner and Peter Wallace. The Executive for 2004-05 is Joe White (President), David Keighley (Vice-President), Steve McCutcheon (Secretary) and Ken Howells (Treasurer). Contact information for councillors and the executive officers is provided elsewhere in this issue.

Of particular importance to all of us is the fact that Peter Wallace has agreed to remain as Webmaster for the interim (we are looking for volunteers) while the website is reorganized to depend less on Peter's good will. In this regard, I would like to thank Peter for his day-to-day efforts and compliment him on yet another redo of the site.

Organization for the 2005 AGS Colloquium in Saint John, February 4-5, is well in hand with Randy Miller of the New Brunswick Museum as local convenor. Sessions will be held in the Hilton hotel to take advantage of its proximity to the New Brunswick Museum. Before we move on to Saint John, I would like to thank Sue Johnson, Mike Parkhill, Peter Wallace, Ian Spooner, Les Fyffe and Dave Keighley (and all the others who helped) for their contributions in time, effort and in-kind support to the 2004 Colloquium.

Possibly the biggest short term challenge faced by AGS members is the involvement of many of us in preparations for Halifax 2005 GAC – MAC - CSPG - CSSS. If nothing else, this reflects the fact that while regional in organization, we are anything but parochial in outlook and influence. Given the broad success of the AGS - NEGSA meeting in 2003, I anticipate a conference of equal impact. I would encourage our members who may not yet be formally associated with this enterprise to aid and abet it in whatever way they are able. Jennifer Bates is the AGS representative to the local organizing committee and, as May 2005 approaches, I am sure there will

be ample opportunity for professionals and students to do their bit. Although not directly emanating from AGS, the conference cannot help but reflect well on our membership given the great success it will be.

In concluding this first column, I would like to wish the membership a successful and interesting geoscience year and look forward to the challenges of serving your interests.

AGS NEWS

2004 Colloquium and Annual General Meeting

Reg Wilson

Reg.Wilson@gnb.ca

The Society's 2004 Colloquium and Annual General Meeting were held this year at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel in Moncton. Technical sessions were preceded by a tour of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan's potash mine near Sussex and an ion microprobe workshop. The workshop was organized by Alan Anderson of St. F.X and was attended by 55 profes-



Sights from the 2004 Colloquium and Annual General Meeting.

Upper left: Sue Johnson and Peter Wallace at the registration desk.

Upper right: A small part of Acadia University's presence at the conference.

Lower left: Participant in the tour of Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan's mine prepare to go underground. Tour leader Brian Roulston is third from left (yellow hard hat).

Lower right: Outgoing president Reg Wilson (right) enjoys a rare quiet moment.

Photos courtesy of Howard Donohoe and Dave Lentz.

sionals and students. Attendees heard presentations about instrumental developments and applications of the ion microprobe in fields ranging from climate change to geochronology. Presenters included Steve Clement (Ion Optical Consulting), Mike Hamilton (Jack Satterly Geochronology Laboratory) and Graham Layne (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute). The workshop closed with a discussion about the possible establishment of an ion probe facility in Atlantic Canada.

Some 180 people registered for the meeting. The technical program included special sessions on environmental geology, hydrocarbon geology and geophysics, and concurrent general sessions on diverse areas of current research in Atlantic Canada. The Geophysics Session was the first of an anticipated series in memory of J. Edward Blanchard. Dr. Blanchard, who passed away in 2003, was the first geophysicist at Dalhousie University, and pioneered the application of many geophysical methods in resource development in Nova Scotia. He also supervised many students who went on to become prominent members of

the geophysical community.

Student participation in the Colloquium continued at its usual high level, with 15 oral and 19 poster presentations. Each year, the calibre of these presentations astonishes the professionals in the audience, and is a source of great consternation to the judges who must choose winners of annual awards. This year's winners were Shawna Weir Murphy of St. Mary's University and Chris Hamilton of Dalhousie University. Shawna received the Graham Williams Award for her poster "Cretaceous Rocks of Orpheus Graben, Offshore Nova Scotia". Chris was awarded the Rupert MacNeill Award for his oral presentation "Ice-contact Volcanism in Southwest Iceland: Analysis of Hyaloclastite Flow Deposits Using Remote Sensing, Stratigraphy, and Geochemistry".

Recipients of the Society's two major awards – the Distinguished Service Award and the Distinguished Scientist Award (Gesner Medal) – were Jennifer Bates and Alan Grant. Citations for these two awards are provided elsewhere in this issue.

The closing banquet was capped by a fascinating presentation by Djordje Grujic of Dalhousie University, who spoke of his travels to Bhutan. His presentation was entitled "Journeys in the Kingdom of the Flying Dragon: Mountains, People, and Geology of the Bhutan Himalaya".

The organization committee to whom much is owed for the meeting's success comprised Sue Johnson (chair), Mike Parkhill, Peter Wallace and Ian Spooner. Ian brought along a cheerful and capable band of students from Acadia to look after audio-visual equipment: they included Cameron Bartsch, Robin Black, Lori Cook, Russell Hiebert and Tansy O'Connor-Parsons. Brian Roulston led the tour of the PCS mine; Ken Howells organized the Blanchard geophysics session; and Alan Anderson, the ion microprobe workshop. Dave Keighley, Erin Smith and Maurice Mazerolle assisted with set-up and registration, as did Peter Wallace.

The Society also gratefully acknowledges support received from the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan – New Brunswick Division, the Minera-



Student award winners at the 2004 Colloquium and Annual General Meeting.

Top: Shawna Weir Murphy (St. Mary's University) receiving the Graham Williams Award for the best student poster from Reg Wilson.

Bottom: Chris Hamilton (Dalhousie University) receiving the Rupert MacNeill Award for the best student oral presentation from Ralph Stea (left) and Reg Wilson

Photos courtesy of Howard Donohoe.

logical Association of Canada, Corridor Resources Ltd., Freewest Resources Ltd., McGregor Geoscience Ltd., and St. Francis Xavier University.

Editor's Note: The preceding is an abridged version of an article in the Spring 2004 issue of GEOLOG.

President's Report for 2003-2004

Reg Wilson

Reg.Wilson@gnb.ca

The mission statement of the Atlantic Geoscience Society (AGS) is to communicate ideas and information about earth science in general and the geology of Atlantic Canada in particular, both to the professional geoscience community and the general public. To achieve these ends, the AGS organizes colloquia, sponsors special projects, and engages in numerous outreach activities aimed at fostering the interchange and dissemination of geoscientific knowledge. The following is a summary of these activities, and the accomplishments made possible by dedicated AGS volunteers over the past year.

The 2003-2004 term began auspiciously with a very successful joint meeting of AGS and the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America (NEGSA), held in Halifax on March 27 to 29, 2003. Co-chairs Marcos Zentilli and David Scott, and members of their organizing committee, are to be congratulated for their outstanding achievement in staging this event. Approximately 660 registrants, about half of whom were GSA members, attended some 406 oral and poster presentations, organized into 5 symposia and 12 theme sessions. The presentation of the AGS awards is a highlight of each year's banquet, and two very worthy individuals were honoured in Halifax. The Distinguished Service Award went to Bob Grantham, formerly of the Nova Scotia Museum and now at the Johnson GeoCentre in St. John's, Newfoundland. The winner of the Distinguished



Outgoing President Reg Wilson delivering the 2003-04 President's Report at the Annual General Meeting. Photo courtesy of Howard Donohoe.

Scientist Award (Gesner Medal) was Georgia Pe-Piper of St. Mary's University. Given the large number (165) of student oral and poster presentations and the concomitant difficulties involved in judging, no Rupert MacNeill or Graham Williams awards were made: instead, ALL student presenters were awarded a copy of the Society's flagship publication, *The Last Billion Years*. Our banquet speaker was Steve Blasco of GSC Atlantic, who delivered a fascinating presentation on his adventures aboard a Russian submersible while exploring the remains of HMS Titanic.

Meetings of the AGS Council were held on May 5, August 21 and October 15, 2003, and January 30, 2004. With the exception of the latter, all meetings were conducted by teleconference, which has proved to be relatively low-cost and complication-free, while saving many councillors the time and expense of travelling long distances. As usual, much of the Society's business was carried out by our various committees, the reports of which have been compiled by Mike Parkhill in the 2004 Colloquium Program and Abstracts.

The Products Committee, chaired by Ken Howells, assesses all proposals

for AGS products, especially those requesting grants. This year, the Products Committee reviewed proposals for a revised edition of the Nova Scotia Geological Highway Map (submitted by the committee of the same name), a Nova Scotia GeoSites brochure (submitted by the Education Committee), the book *Gesner's Dream* by the New Brunswick Branch of CIM, and a "Geology Rocks the Campus" geoscience day for aboriginal students, submitted by the Equity and Diversity Committee of APEGNB. Grants approved by Council included \$2000 for the Geological Highway Map, up to \$2574 for the GeoSites brochure (depending on the number of private sector partners), \$2000 for *Gesner's Dream* (book purchase), \$250 for "Geology Rocks the Campus", \$500 for AUGC, and \$500 to support the CANQUA meeting held in Halifax in June, 2003.

The Education Committee, chaired by Graham Williams, is perhaps the most visible committee because of the various outreach activities with which it is involved. Projects that fell under the Education Committee umbrella for 2003-2004 include the Nova Scotia geological sites pamphlet, the Fundy Basin paintings and poster project, Earthnet, the AGS – Photographers

Guild of Nova Scotia Geology and Photography Competition, the “Beyond the Last Billion Years” talk series, and two publications – a poster called “The Evolving Maritimes” and a “The Last Billion Years” colouring book. Details can be found in the report of the Education Committee. The “Beyond the Last Billion Years” talk series merits special mention here because of its phenomenal success. Seven talks were presented in 2003, with a total attendance of well over 650 people, the majority of which were non-geologists. As a result, the AGS has reached a very broad audience. The talk series will continue next year, and anyone with suggestions regarding topics and themes is encouraged to contact Deborah Skiliter at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History. The 2003 winner of the photography competition was an image of the North Mountain Basalt and Blomidon Formation, *i.e.*, straddling the Triassic – Jurassic boundary, taken at Five Islands Provincial Park by Wayne Garland.

The Video Committee, also chaired by Graham Williams, was involved in fund-raising efforts for the proposed video, “A Gateway to Canada: The Anatomy of Halifax Harbour”, but met with little success. So far, just over 40% of the requisite funds have been raised, and the committee is looking forward to a more positive response in 2004.

The EdGeo Committee, chaired by Jennifer Bates, continued its series of teacher workshops with a two-day event in August at the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro. The theme this year was “Experience the Excitement of Earth Science”, which attracted 29 participants. The fact that 15 presenters were available to assist at the workshop speaks to the level of commitment within this committee. Another EdGeo success occurred at the AGS – NEGSA meeting in Halifax, where a very well-attended education session entitled “Bringing Geology into the Classroom” was convened by committee members Jennifer Bates, Linda Ham and Anne Marie

Ryan.

The APICS Earth Science Committee, chaired by Jarda Dostal, is a perennial sponsor of the Atlantic Universities Geological Conference, held in 2003 at St. Mary’s University. About 130 student and faculty attendees participated in an Imperial Oil-sponsored workshop, three field trips, 12 oral presentations and 3 poster displays by students from the Atlantic region. Details on the conference can be found in the APICS report. APICS and AGS also sponsored a speaker’s tour, organized by Ian Spooner and Peter Wallace. The 2003-2004 speaker is Brendan Murphy of St. F.X., with a talk entitled “How do supercontinents form?” The talk has so far been delivered at four venues (UNB, NB Museum, Acadia and Dalhousie), with two more on the agenda for February 2004 at St. Mary’s and the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

Atlantic Geology is the official journal of the AGS, and the only regional geoscience publication in Canada.

The editorial staff of Sandra Barr, Ron Pickerill and Rob Fensome have had a very productive year and succeeded in clearing up a great deal of backlogged material. In 2003, Volume 37 (combined Numbers 2 and 3) and Volume 38 (Number 1 and combined Numbers 2 and 3) were mailed, and Volume 39, Number 1, is to be printed by early February 2004. The journal continues to be financially stable, and various production problems with the new printing company, Gaspereau Press, are being resolved. Additional details are available in the Editor’s Report for 2003.

Good communication is the lifeblood of an organization comprising members scattered over a large area, and we are fortunate that our two main vehicles for dissemination of news and information are in very competent hands. The AGS Newsletter is thriving under the stewardship of Editor Mike Cherry, and four issues of Volume 32 were published in 2003. Our Webmaster, Peter Wallace, maintains and updates the AGS website, which

for non-members in particular may be the main source of information pertaining to AGS and its activities. I am not the first to point out that Peter has been a stalwart member of AGS over the years, and in addition to his Council duties and website contributions, Peter maintains the registry of members and is commonly seen wherever an AGS display booth is present.

In the past year, AGS erected booths at three events, namely AGS – NEGSA, CANQUA, and the Rockhound Roundup, also known as the Parrsboro Gem and Mineral Show. AGS products and publications have proved so popular at these venues that some are no longer available and others are dwindling rapidly. Our most acclaimed recent publication, *The Last Billion Years*, went into its fourth printing in the early fall of 2003. This means that 6400 copies from the first three printings have been sold and distributed from Nimbus, making the book an official best seller, with over 5,000 copies sold in Canada.

It is clear from the broad spectrum of activities briefly described herein that AGS continues to achieve conspicuous success in its objective of enhancing the awareness of geoscience in the Atlantic region. It has been a pleasure to interact with those whose hard work makes all this possible, and an honour to be President of such a dynamic organization. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Executive and Council for helping to make my life easier, particularly Ken Howells (Treasurer), Jennifer Bates (Past President), Steve McCutcheon (Secretary), Joe White (Vice President), Mike Parkhill, Sue Johnson, Peter Wallace and David Keighley. And thank you to the membership for allowing me this opportunity.

AGS Awards for 2003-2004

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of exceptional and altruistic contributions to the At-

lantic Geoscience Society over a long period of time. This year's recipient is Jennifer Bates.

The citation for Jennifer's award was read by Reg Wilson.

Jennifer Bates has made an outstanding contribution to the activities of the Atlantic Geoscience Society, both in the realm of outreach and educational activities and on council, including a term as President.

It was through Jennifer's initiative that EdGEO came to the Maritimes to stay. Jennifer struck a committee in January 1994 to establish the Nova Scotia EdGEO series of workshops, and it speaks volumes for Jennifer's tact, diplomacy and organizational skills that, after ten years, she still chairs the Committee and is on good terms with all the members. Under Jennifer's guidance, the workshop has become a highly successful annual event, changing location each year to give teachers throughout Nova Scotia the opportunity to attend. Venues have included Dartmouth/Halifax (1994, 2004), Syd-

ney (1995), Wolfville (1996), Bridgewater (1997), Truro (1998), Parrsboro (1999, 2001, 2003), Antigonish (2000) and Digby (2002).

The success of the Nova Scotia EdGEO program is becoming legendary: teachers continue to give rave reviews, and much of this success is due to Jennifer's continuing contribution as chair of the local committee and as an active participant. For this alone, she deserves to be awarded the Society's Distinguished Service Award. But she has other claims to fame, including her roles in the development of EarthNet and the publication of *The Last Billion Years*, for which she was production co-ordinator and made a significant contribution to the book's quality and success.

EarthNet, an under-rated highlight of AGS's outreach activities, is a database of resources and information for teachers, students and the general public. Jennifer, again, must be awarded much of the credit for EarthNet, having chaired the committee since its inception in 1995. After a few years of

low activity because of the difficulty of acquiring sustainable funding, EarthNet is now being reborn under Jennifer's leadership, thanks to a new enlightened approach to outreach in the public sector. The aim is to make EarthNet a world leader in geoscience educational databases.

Another notable contribution that Jennifer has made was during her term as president of AGS in 2002-2003. The 2003 annual meeting was combined with the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America's Northeastern Section and held in Halifax. It was a huge success, attended by about 600 people, and drew rave reviews. One of the highlights was the one-day session, "Bringing Geology to the Classroom". Jennifer was the prime motivator and organizer, with help from Linda Ham and Anne Marie Ryan. The session was packed throughout the day, no mean feat when most of the attendees were teachers giving up a treasured Saturday.

For these contributions and many others, Jennifer Bates is a worthy recipient of the Society's Distinguished Service Award.

Distinguished Scientist Award (Gesner Medal)

The Gesner Medal is awarded to a person who has developed and promoted the advancement of geoscience in the Atlantic region through his or her own effort (*i.e.* publications, maps, memoirs, etc.). Dr. Alan Grant of the Geological Survey of Canada is the 2004 recipient.

The following citation was read to the banquet by Alan Ruffman:

Alan Grant is one of the finest compilers of geology and geophysics that we have in our region of Atlantic Canada. His reputation for top-notch work is legion, and for the past 37 years there has not been a Canadian east coast compilation that has not included Alan Grant's work – be it the *Decade of*



Jennifer Bates accepts the 2004 AGS Distinguished Service Award from Reg Wilson. Photo courtesy of Howard Donohoe.

North American Geology volumes, reviews of the continental margin off Labrador, in Baffin Bay, off eastern Newfoundland, geophysical results for potential petroleum provinces of Eastern Canada, isopach maps of east coast sediment thicknesses, basement contours off Eastern Canada, Palaeozoic seafloor geology of Hudson Bay, seafloor geology of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, maps of seismic basement, Newfoundland to Nares Strait, or basement character and sediment thickness over the same area, etc., etc.

Alan Grant came out of six years of work with Mobil Oil Canada Ltd. as a seismic field person and an interpreter, and was comfortable working with deep seismic data long before these sorts of data were generally available to the Geological Survey of Canada or university scientists. He speaks the language of the oil company explorationist, and he has not ever forgotten it despite going back to school to earn a second science degree in geology, a BSc in geology, then going on to an MSc at the University of New Brunswick on recent marine sediments in Baffin Bay in 1965, and finally a Dalhousie PhD in 1971 on the continental margin off Labrador and Eastern Newfoundland. And he is used to working with early poor quality offshore seismic data. His recent Gulf of St. Lawrence work is a credit to his perseverance with such data! As a result, there is a steady stream of oil companies' personnel into his office at the Geological Survey of Canada – Atlantic. And Alan takes time to talk to them. He has always taken time to talk to all who approach him, and in that sense has probably affected any number of firms' plans to enter the East Coast Canadian petroleum scene in ways that no-one can enumerate or document.

I first met Alan Grant as an undergraduate student when I drove a station wagon of Geological Survey of Canada hammer seismic equipment back from Winnipeg where I'd worked the summer of 1962 on profiling the proposed Winnipeg Floodway. I was detailed to stop in the Kirkland

Lake area, where I met Alan who had just finished his summer as interpreter on the GSC seismic refraction crew in southern Ontario. I showed him how to run our gear, and then he and I diligently swung the sledgehammer over a two- or three-day period as we tried to map the buried glacial valleys and esker thicknesses in the area. A sample of kimberlite had just been found in an esker, and the GSC was keen to start a diamond rush in Ontario. It took about 30 years, but as we now all know, Canada is now producing diamonds with lots of promise for more. Alan impressed me in that first encounter as a teacher, and has ever since.

We shared the cruise of the launch NEEDLIK during a glorious, sunny, day-long, sub-bottom profiling run across from the Ottawa Islands in Hudson Bay to the shoreline of the Province of Québec in 1965. And regularly while Alan was a scientist at the Atlantic Geoscience Centre and I was at Geomarine Associates Ltd., I

or my employees, did not hesitate to drop in to chat with Alan, to get some guidance, share his dry humour, locate a line of seismic data, look over his shoulder as a map was coming together, and I hope occasionally offer our own piece of worthwhile advice. I am sure that the selection committee found Alan's letters of support all reflected a great admiration for Alan, not only as a geoscientist, but also as a mentor, as a role model, as a listener, and as a person.

Dr. Alan Grant, now an Emeritus Scientist at the Geological Survey of Canada at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, is being awarded the 2004 Gesner Medal of the Atlantic Geoscience Society, to recognize his long and impressive contribution to geology and geophysics in Atlantic Canada, and well beyond. His areas of contribution cover not only all parts of Canada's offshore, from the Arctic Islands south along all parts of the eastern Canada continental shelf and slope, including those of west



Alan Grant, recipient of the 2004 AGS Distinguished Scientist Award (Gesner Medal), accepts his medal from Alan Ruffman (left) and Reg Wilson (right). Photo courtesy of Howard Donohoe.

Greenland, the Labrador margin, Orphan Knoll and Flemish Cap, Hudson Bay, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Scotian Shelf through to Georges Bank, but also parts of southern and northern Ontario, and the subsurface geology of Alberta and southern Saskatchewan as he began his career. His curriculum vita and bibliography show us a very wide publication range, reaching beyond 200 items to date (and still growing!), from company private reports for Mobil Oil Canada Ltd., Geological Survey of Canada Papers, Memoirs, Maps and Open File Reports, to a wide variety of international, national, and regional peer-reviewed journals, including *Science* and *Nature* on at least four occasions. He has also published in journals reaching a very wide, more popular, audience, such as *Geotimes*, *Geos* and *Episodes*.

Alan Grant's extensive bibliography includes regular presentations to the Atlantic Geoscience Society's annual colloquium. He is a regular participant at the Geological Association of Canada's annual meetings, and at various national, and occasionally international, meetings. Dr. Grant, as a federal employee, like all employees in the GSC, suffered the all-too-common federal stricture on travel to international conferences. He was, however, used regularly at the GSC annual review with talks and posters. Dr. Grant also served two periods of eight and two years as Associate Editor of the Bulletin of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists.

He has persevered and produced scientific work at the Atlantic Geoscience Centre at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography far beyond most others, in spite of an Ottawa-driven policy of under-funding and understaffing. Alan received the M.J. Keen Medal from the Geological Association of Canada in 1997. We can be quite proud to have a person like Alan Grant in our camp, and tonight we are delighted to honour his 47 years in geology and geophysics, with the award of the Gesner Medal, the Atlantic

Geoscience Society's Distinguished Scientist Award. Well done, sir!

AGS Field Trip

Peter Wallace
peter.wallace@dal.ca

At the Executive Meeting during the 2004 Colloquium, the suggestion was made to hold an AGS Field Trip during the fall of 2004 (late September to early October). A fall trip, instead of one during the summer, makes sense for many reasons, from logistics to the availability of participants and leaders. Suggestions needed from the AGS membership on where a trip might be held and/or who might be available to lead it. As the GAC-MAC-CSPG-CSSS and NAPC conferences are coming up in 2005, this is an opportunity for a dry run of a field trip planned for either of those meetings. Visit the AGS website (History of the AGS page to see what other trips have

been held. If you have ideas or wish to volunteer your services, contact Peter Wallace at 902-494-2364 or peter.wallace@dal.ca.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

University of New Brunswick

Dave Lentz
dlentz@unb.ca

The Geology Department at the University of New Brunswick has been quite busy this term with numerous visiting lectures, in particular the CIM Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Nand Dave (CANMET). Dr. Dave presented a lecture entitled "Uranium Mine Waste Management, Rehabilitation and Decommissioning - A Canadian Perspective". The Department is currently hosting two Post-Doctoral Fellows. Dr. Lisa Cavé is working with the UNB Environmental Geochemistry Group, in particular Tom

2005-2005 Executive and Councillors of the Atlantic Geoscience Society

Executive

Joe White (President)	clancy@unb.ca
David Keighley (Vice President)	david.keighley@gnb.ca
Steve McCutcheon (Secretary)	steve.mccutcheon@gnb.ca
Ken Howells (Treasurer)	khgeoscience@navnet.net
Reg Wilson (Past President)	reg.wilson@gnb.ca

Councillors

Jennifer Bates	jennifer.bates@nrca.gc.ca
Dawson Brisco	briscodc@gov.ns.ca
Susan Johnson	susan.johnson@gnb.ca
Andrew Kerr	akr@zeppo.geosurv.gov.nf.ca
Andrew MacRae	andrew.macrae@smu.ca
Tom Martel	tmartel@corridor.ns.ca
Randy Miller	millerrf@aibn.com
David Mossman	dmossm@mta.ca
Brendan Murphy	bmurphy@stfx.ca
Mike Parkhill	michael.parkhill@gnb.ca
Alan Ruffman	no e-mail
Deborah Skilliter	skillidm@gov.ns.ca
Ian Spooner	ian.spooner@acadiau.ca
Peter Wallace	peter.wallace@dal.ca

Al, and Dr. Claudia Trepman is working with the UNB Impact Geology Group, in particular Profs. John Spray and Richard Grieve.

Our students recently visited the Brunswick No. 12 mine and mill near Bathurst, the Belledune lead smelter, and the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan's mine at Sussex. We thank Noranda and PCS staff for the excellent tours and hospitality.

Prof. Ron Pickerill is on sabbatical until the end of June, although he has been in the Department daily and continues to enjoy being harrassed by authors in his duties as editor of several journals. Ron is continuing his research in the Carribean, as well as on Precambrian - Cambrian boundary trace fossils. He is hoping to visit collaborators in Denmark, Holland, and the UK. Prof. Tom Al is also on sabbatical and has been very busy with his research, graduate students, and getting the new CFI imaging facility equipment in place before his sabbatical finishes in July. Prof. David Lentz was elected to be the Geoscientist-at-Large for the APEGNB. Together with Prof. Bruce Broster, who is also an APEGNB representative, Dave hopes to keep geoscientists in the province informed on key issues and opportunities related to APEGNB's objectives, as well as contribute to their outreach activities. Dave is also very much looking forward to ending his term as President of the CIM Geological Society in early May.

Mr. J.J. Luke Ootes successfully defended his M.Sc. thesis entitled "Geology of the Crestaurum Gold Mine, Yellowknife Greenstone Belt, Northwest Territories, Canada" in late March. He was supervised by Prof. Dave Lentz. Lastly, we are in the midst of interviewing for our vacant position (Assisant Professor level) in sedimentology and stratigraphy.

St. Francis Xavier University

Brendan Murphy
bmurphy@stfx.ca

The winter term has flown - it seems as if it started just yesterday. The walls are reverberating from the buzz of students preparing for exams and finishing term papers, theses and research projects (all on time, of course). But the walls will not be reverberating for long - exams are over April 22, field school runs from April 24 to May 5, and convocation is May 2. Next year, these walls will be silent. Geology (now Earth Science) has been housed in Augustine (the oldest building on campus) for longer than anyone around here can remember. In the old days, a student missing class could be retrieved from the upstairs dorm by a vigilant professor. By late summer, and in time for the start of the 2004-05 academic year, we will have moved to the newly constructed (and yet to be named) Physical Sciences Complex. This \$23.5 million facility will be home to chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering. It will house modern undergraduate laboratories and classrooms, as well as facilities for advanced research in each discipline. The complex is part of a \$75 million renewal initiative currently underway at St. FX.

This move is a considerable net gain for the department. Our old building, charming as it is, lacks analytical facilities that a modern building offers. We have also outgrown our space. In addition to undergraduate students, there are now six full-time faculty positions, four lab supervisors, and a host of post-doctoral and graduate students. Our new quarters will offer the space required.

It has been a very busy year for faculty. Alan Anderson continues his investigation of hydrothermal processes in the Earth's crust by field and experimental studies. He is currently working on rare earth element complexing in hydrothermal brines and on zircon - aqueous solution interactions up to 500°C. These experiments have

been conducted at synchrotron facilities in the United States. Alan has been appointed chair of the Canadian Light Source Users Advisory committee and, at the recent AGS colloquium, convened a workshop on the application of the ion probe to the Earth Sciences.

Lisa Kellman studies biogeochemical cycling in watersheds and is Director of EESL (Environmental Earth Science Laboratory) in the Department of Earth Sciences (see <http://envscilab.stfx.ca/envirolab/envsciences.html>.) She has been on sabbatical for the 2003-4 academic year.

Hugo Beltrami studies energy balance at the Earth's surface, looking at temporal and spatial variations of heat flowing in and out of the ground using geothermal data to determine how much the climate has warmed and when. Last year, Lisa and Hugo were recipient of major research awards from the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences. This year, they were awarded \$3,000,000 in research funds over a five-year period from the Atlantic Innovation Fund to examine the important role of variables such as temperature, heat, and moisture on the production of carbon dioxide in the soil profile.

Mike Melchin is studying the Ordovician - Silurian graptolites from Dob's Linn (with Fan Junxuan), the Global Stratotype for that boundary, the record of the Late Ordovician mass extinction in China (with a number of co-authors), and the carbon isotope record of the Late Ordovician-Early Silurian in Arctic Canada, with Chris Holmden. He will visit China in May of this year.

Brendan Murphy is finishing a three-year term as chair of the department. At time of writing, there are 44 days, 8 hours and 32 minutes left. He is co-leader of IGCP 453 - "ancient orogens and Modern Analogues" - which is in the fifth year of a five-year project. The 2003 meeting of the project was held in Western Australia (the Paleo-

proterozoic Capricorn orogen) in September. Next up - the Urals in July.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Oseas Costa, who is teaching courses related to Climate Change, the Environment and Health. Funding has been secured to sustain this position for the next three years. Oseas has been feverishly collaborating with faculty in the School of Nursing on research proposals in that general subject area.

Dr. Tribeni Sharma started with us on January 1, 2003, as an 18 month term appointment. He taught a variety of courses, including Environmental Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Aqueous Geochemistry.

Sid Taylor and Cindy Murphy were extremely busy in teaching and grading labs and in web-based support for many courses. We were fortunate to persuade the Dean that we needed extra support for labs. Xinyue Chang, who obtained an M.Sc. degree from UNB, has just been appointed as Laboratory Supervisor, with special responsibilities for the environmentally-oriented laboratories. She started on January 1st.

The Faribault Club has been very active organizing social evenings, including the end-of-year banquet. They had 16 participants at the AUGC in St Mary's in Halifax and had a great time there. Thirteen undergraduates registered for the AGS Colloquium in Moncton, and 4 went on an informal field trip to Mexico in February. Where they went, we're not exactly sure! Student awards for academic achievement through the year have also been announced. Jessica Beal received the Frank Shea Memorial Award for the top second year student; Peter McChesney received the Keating Award for the top third year student; Jamie Braid was the top graduating student and Matt Kavanaugh received the Mary Tramble Memorial Award for excellence in field studies.

Coming Events

Edmonton 2004: Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum Annual Meeting. Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, May 9 – 12, 2004. For more information, visit the conference website at www.cim2004.ca/.

Brock 2004: Geological Association of Canada – Mineralogical Association of Canada Joint Annual Meeting. Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, May 12 – 14, 2004. For more information, visit the conference website at www.stcatharines2004.ca/.

American Geophysical Union, Canadian Geophysical Union, Society of Exploration Geophysicists and Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society, Joint Assembly. Palais de Congrès, Montréal, Québec, May 17 – 21, 2004. For more information, visit the conference website at www.agu.org/meetings/sm04/.

Halifax 2005: Geological Association of Canada – Mineralogical Association of Canada – Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists – Canadian Society of Soil Science Joint Meeting. Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, May 15 – 18, 2005. For more information, visit the conference website at www.halifax2005.ca.

HALIFAX 2005

Mike Cherry

cherryme@gov.ns.ca



Halifax 2005 is now just a little over a year away, and the pace of activity for all members of the Local Organizing Committee has accelerated markedly since the last report to AGS members appeared in the Newsletter.

A significant change in planning occurred when the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) was added as a fourth partner in the conference. CSSS brings up to 200 additional delegates to the meeting, and discussions are now underway to identify components of the technical program compatible with CSSS's interests.

The technical program, being developed by a committee working under the chairmanship of Chris White, has

been defined. Similarly, a slate of pre- and post-conference field trips has been developed by Sandra Barr and her committee. Ian Spooner's Social Events Committee has outlined a series of exciting events, of which several highlights will be celebrations of the Mineralogical Association of Canada's 50th anniversary.

A first circular, which outlines the technical program, has been distributed by the sponsoring associations. This same information was displayed in a poster at the AGS 2004 Colloquium and Annual General Meeting, and a revised poster and the circular will be available at the GAC-MAC meeting at Brock University in May 2004.

AGS members should watch for the enabling of the conference website, at www.halifax2005.ca. The website should be operating by end of April. Questions about the conference can be submitted to hfx2005@gov.ns.ca.