

THE FLUX LINE

News of the Geomagnetism and Paleomagnetism Section of AGU

July 2010

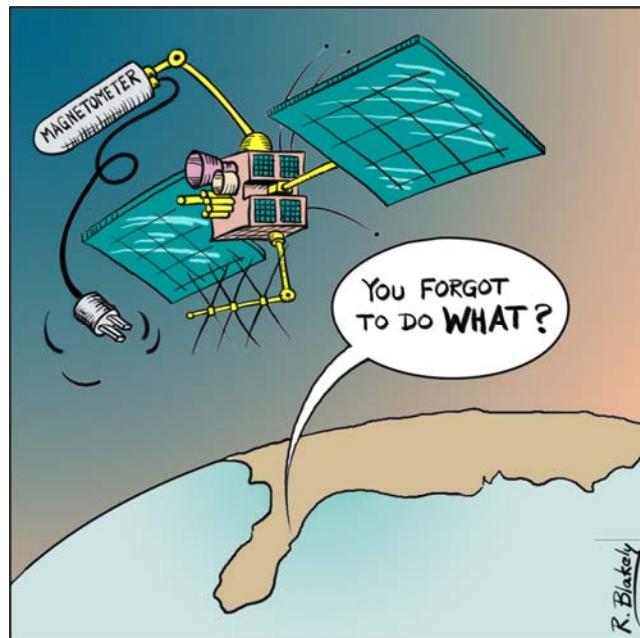
A note of introduction

It has been a long while since we had a “GP Newsletter”, and we thought now might be a good time to resurrect the tradition, especially considering all that is happening in AGU and GP. The newsletter is meant to supplement rather than supplant information already available on our website (<http://www.agu.org/sections/geomag>).

Consider this to be an experiment and give us your thoughts, pro or con: Is it worth your time to receive this digital rag four times a year?

Thanks to Cathy Constable

The GP Section owes many thanks to Cathy Constable as she steps down from Section President. Cathy led us through a tumultuous and exciting period in AGU. She served as GP President-Elect in 2006-2008 and as GP President 2008 to 2010. Cathy was our representative on the AGU Council as it morphed into an entirely new entity. She was a member of AGU’s Executive Review Committee, the body charged with finding AGU’s new Executive Director, and she represented Council on the AGU Publications Committee. Cathy will stay on as a member of GP’s Executive Committee.



Katerina Petronotis continuing as GP Webmaster

While we are in a thanking mood, let’s not forget Katerina Petronotis. Katerina has agreed to continue as GP’s Webmaster for another two years. Please visit the GP website to find Section news and information (<http://www.agu.org/sections/geomag>).

Santa Fe Conference on Rock Magnetism

The Eighth Santa Fe Conference on Rock Magnetism was held June 24-27 at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Approximately 50 participants from 10 countries convened for a series of lively, in-depth discussions on current topics in rock magnetism and related disciplines. Two keynote lecturers (Peter Olson, Johns Hopkins University, and Brandy Toner, University of Minnesota) very effectively took on the important and difficult role of bridging our diverse areas of specialization with trans-disciplinary perspectives on numerical dynamos and planetary magnetic fields and on biogeochemical signatures of iron oxyhydroxides in deep-sea deposits. Prior to the meeting, John Geissman (University of New Mexico) led a field trip to Valles Caldera National Preserve to visit the famous paleomagnetic site that gave the Jaramillo subchron its name. A full report on this meeting will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *IRM Quarterly*, which is freely available at <http://www.irm.umn.edu/IRM/Quarterly.html>.

Recent awards and related news

- 2009 William Gilbert Medalist: Dennis Kent
- 2009 James Macelwane Medalist and AGU Fellow: Benjamin Weiss
- 2009 AGU Fellow: Hermann Lühr

- 2009 Bullard Lecturer: Suzanne McEnroe
- Best student presentations (December 2009): Kaori Tsukui and Chuang Xuan
- Best student presentations (December 2008): Ciaran Beggan and Eric King

Two awards of note were presented at the EGU General Assembly last May. Jean Pierre Valet was awarded the Petrus Peregrinus Medal for outstanding contributions to paleomagnetic data acquisition from sediments and lavas, essential for interpretation of paleosecular, excursion, and transitional behavior of the earth's magnetic field. And Karl-Heinz Glassmeier received the Julius Bartels Medal for outstanding contributions to all subfields of geomagnetism, from ground to space, including magnetic pulsations on earth and in the magnetosphere of other planets, magnetic induction below the earth's surface and on other planets, cometary environments, and paleo-magnetospheres.

Richard Gordon, GP President-Elect, will chair the GP Honors and Awards Committee during 2010-2012.

Please note that the deadline for 2010 William Gilbert Award nominations has been extended to July 31. The Gilbert Award alternates between open nominations and junior researchers. This year, it will be presented to an outstanding junior researcher. Eligible nominees must be either less than 36 years of age on January 1, 2011, or less than 5 years from PhD graduation on that same date. The award is for excellence in at least one of the following categories: scientific rigor, originality, and impact; leadership and service to the GP research community; and/or development of new cross-disciplinary research areas and methods. Any AGU member can nominate a potential candidate. Nomination details are available at http://www.agu.org/about/honors/section_fg/awardnom_sfg.shtml#GP_sect_award. Nominations for Gilbert Award candidates should be sent to Richard Gordon (rgg@rice.edu) to arrive no later than July 31.

Meeting of the Americas to draw a GP crowd

GP will be very well represented at the Meeting of the Americas in Iguassu Falls August 2010, thanks in large part to the efforts of Avto Gogichaishvili, our Section representative on the meeting committee. GP will host 40 scientific sessions, with 188 presentations. Our participation in this meeting exceeds that of all other solid-earth Sections and Focus Groups!

The GP Section will host a reception at the Meeting of the Americas, Tuesday, August 10, at 7 pm, in the Internacional Fox Hotel. Beverages and snacks have been underwritten by our sponsor, 2G Enterprises.

General Lisa

Congratulations to Lisa Tauxe for her election to AGU General Secretary, 2010-2012. Lisa will be responsible for all things "corporate" in AGU, and her elected position places her on the newly formed AGU Board of Directors (see below).

Thanks to the old and welcome to new GP's Executive Committees

The GP Executive Committee works with the GP President to manage Section affairs. In accordance with our By-Laws, the Executive Committee reformulates every two years. The outgoing Executive Committee included Cathy Constable, Rick Blakely, Gary Acton, Vincent Courtillot, Katerina Petronotis, Stefan Maus, and Avto Gogichaishvili. Special thanks to Gary Acton and Avto Gogichaishvili for their hard work at organizing the Fall AGU Meeting and Joint Assemblies during the last two years. The new Executive Committee is comprised of about ½ returnees and ½ new faces: Rick Blakely, Richard Gordon, Laurie Brown, Cathy Constable, Katerina Petronotis, Julie Bowles, and Paul Bedrosian.

New AGU governance

AGU governance changed dramatically on July 1 of this year. These changes were approved by a vote of the AGU membership, with both AGU and GP members voting 97% in favor. Details are described at <http://www.agu.org/about/governance>, but here is a shockingly brief summary:

- Before July 1, AGU was governed by the Council, consisting of the elected officers of the Union, two elected representatives from each Section, and the Executive Director.

- After July 1, AGU will be managed by two bodies: the Board of Directors and the Council. The Board of Directors is responsible for the business affairs of the Union and consists of the elected AGU officers, six elected directors, the Executive Director, and a few other representatives. The Council, on the other hand, is responsible for scientific affairs of the Union (e.g., ethics, awards, honors, science policy, strategic planning, etc.). The new Council is chaired by the AGU President-Elect and consists of two elected representatives from each Section and Focus Group, the chairs of AGU committees that deal with scientific matters (e.g., Publications Committee), and up to 5 at-large members appointed by the Council. What does this mean for our Section? The Council is larger now, to be sure, but GP is well represented as it always has been.

Contributions are welcome.

We welcome news items of general interest to the GP community. Please keep them brief (150 words or less) and send to Rick Blakely (blakely@usgs.gov).

—GP Executive Committee