Limnogeology Division Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 1
October 2007

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Welcome…

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Limnogeology Division of the Geological Society of America (Vol. 5, Number 1). This issue contains information about the upcoming GSA meeting (hope to see you there!) and reports from the fourth International Limnogeology Congress and field trip.

Limnogeology Division
THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

CONTENTS

From the Editor

Peter Drzewiecki
Storrs, CT

It's October, and for many of us that means we are deeply entrenched in the routine of the classroom or laboratory after an exciting field season this past summer. Based on the reports in this edition of the Limnogeology Newsletter, it appears to have been an interesting summer for conferences and field trips as well! I would like to thank Michael Rosen and Beth Gierlowski-Kordesch for their contributions reporting on these activities.

This Newsletter, like the last, lacks technical articles from the division members. I hope to use my time at GSA to solicit articles for future Newsletter editions. Please consider contributing, and use the next few weeks to come up with good ideas for submission!

This newsletter contains information on the upcoming GSA Meeting (including the time and place of our Division Business Meeting), the Kerry Kelts Award winners, and reports on the 4th ILIC Meeting and Pre-meeting field trip, and the 2006 IAL Lake Seminar in the Mexico. If you ever have news you would like in the Newsletter, please send it in to me! I look forward to seeing you at GSA!

Message from the Chair

Kevin Bohacs

Three topics for your consideration this time: our newsletter, the international limnogeological community, and our upcoming meeting.

This is **your** newsletter—we hope you will use it to share your news and views, along with your thoughts and progress in research and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in your investigations. Please contact our Secretary, Peter Drzewiecki, or any of your officers for more information. We also welcome short reports on your research findings and hope you would use this newsletter as a sounding board for your ideas.

I, and many of your Limnogeology Division colleagues participated in the fourth International Limnogeological Congress and field trips conducted by the International Association of Limnogeologists and graciously hosted by Lluis Cabrera and his Spanish colleagues in Barcelona, Spain this past July. The Congress was a great success despite the untimely death of Dr Tim S. Brewer from University of Leicester in the U.K., during the meeting. The whole assembly responded with great sensitivity and understanding and the organizers did a wonderful job in handling the entire situation. The meetings and field trips were attended by hundreds of limnogeologists; papers covered lakes and their deposits on all continents, spanning the entire Phanerozoic plus a goodly chunk of Proterozoic. I saw much creative and inspiring research and was particularly heartened by an increased emphasis on putting lake deposits into their geological and geomorphic context, to view lakes as an essential and integral part of the landscape. I really enjoyed a number of presentations on lacustrine ichnofauna and the broad mix of research on muds to rocks from physical, chemical, and biological perspectives throughout geological history. I also attended two enjoyable field trips to the Neogene basins of central Spain and was, once again, struck by the amazing amount of excellent work that has been done by our Iberian colleagues. Not to mention the opportunity to visit what is probably the world's only drive-in coal mine…

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting at 5:45 – 7:45 p.m. on Monday, 29 October 2007 in Room 506 of the Colorado Convention Center. It will be held jointly with the Sedimentary Geology Division (to reduce one small source of conflict in our lives). We have exciting news on the status of the Kerry Kelts fund for student support and will present several Kerry Kelts Awards. We hope to see you there!

Yours in Limnogeology,

Kevin Bohacs

…and in other limnogeo news: Bravely carrying the banner of limnogeology to the world—the limnogeology research program of our Past Chair, Tom Johnson, was featured in a segment of the Science Channel's "Faces of the Earth" this summer. Tom and his colleagues and students were shown working on their research vessel, the "Blue Heron", taking and describing cores from Lake Superior. They did a very nice job of highlighting the importance of limnogeological research to the broader community in terms of understanding climate change and freshwater resources. Well done, Tom et al.!

The Annual Business Meeting and Awards Reception of the

Limnogeology Division of GSA

Monday, October 29, 2007 from 5:45 to 7:45 PM
Room 506, Colorado Convention Center

This year's meeting is a joint meeting with the

Sedimentary Geology Division

2007 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

Denver, October 28-30, 2007

Peter Drzewiecki

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America is rapidly approaching! This year, the Limnogeology Division is sponsoring 6 oral sessions, all on Monday and Tuesday (October 29-30). These sessions include:

- **T4. From Geoarchaeology and Paleoanthropology to Sedimentary Geology and Geochemistry: A Memorial to Richard L. Hay**
  GSA Archaeological Geology Division; GSA Limnogeology Division; GSA Sedimentary Geology Division; Mineralogical Society of America
  Gail M. Ashley, Marie Jackson, Enrique Merino, and Thure E. Cerling
  - This interdisciplinary session in memory of Richard L. Hay encourages papers in geoarchaeology, limnogeology, tephra and sedimentary geochemistry, and zeolite minerals, to provide an opportunity for presentation of new research inspired by Hay's multifaceted career.
  - Oral - Monday, 29 October 2007, a.m. and
    Oral - Tuesday, 30 October 2007, a.m.

- **T45. Advances in Understanding and Detection of Groundwater–Stream Water Interactions across Temporal and Spatial Scales**
  GSA Hydrogeology Division; GSA Limnogeology Division; GSA Environmental Geoscience Division
  Michael N. Gooseff and Brian L. McGlynn
  - This session seeks to bring together scientists working to understand spatial and temporal scaling of controls on groundwater-surface water interactions to discuss advances in field and modeling techniques, and implications of new findings.
  - Oral - Tuesday, 30 October 2007, a.m.

- **T46. Climate Change Hydrology**
  GSA Hydrogeology Division; GSA Limnogeology Division
  Mark Person and Emi Ito
  - This session seeks to bring together hydrologists and limnologists to shed new light on the hydrologic response of streams, lakes, and aquifer systems in response to past/future climate change using field and modeling based studies.
  - Oral - Tuesday, 30 October 2007, p.m.

- **T52. Inland Waters, Playas and Saline Lakes: More than Mini-Oceans**
  GSA Limnogeology Division
  Kathleen Nicoll and Michael Rosen
  - What are the frontiers in assessing lacustrine archives of terrestrial environmental and hydroclimatological change? This session welcomes papers addressing diverse aspects of ancient-modern deposits, including mineralogy, stratigraphical architectural elements, geochronology, and preservation of fossil records.
  - Oral - Tuesday, 30 October 2007, p.m.

- **T53. Evidence for Paleoenvironmental Change during the Paleogene from the Interior Basins of Western North America**
  Paleontological Society, GSA Limnogeology Division
  Cynthia A. Stiles, Alan R. Carroll, and Michael E. Smith
  - A multidisciplinary forum for presenting evidence of paleoclimatic and/or depositional environment changes in the North American continental interior from geochronologically correlated early Cenozoic records, including paleolakes, paleobotanic and paleonotologic evidence, paleosols, and basin stratigraphy.
  - Oral - Monday, 29 October 2007, a.m. and
    Posters - Monday, 29 October 2007, p.m.

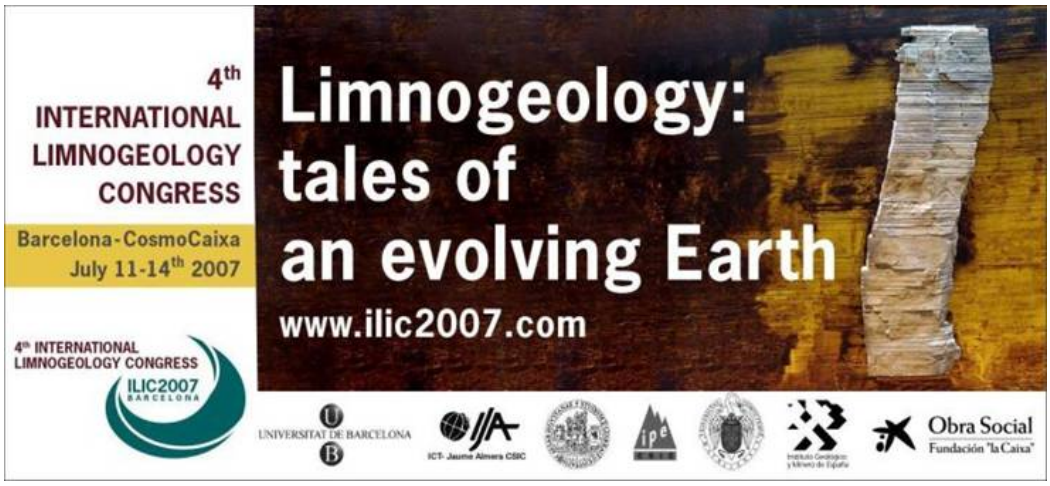
- **T58. Long Records of Paleoclimate in the Southern Deserts of North America**
  GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA Limnogeology Division
  Marith Reheis, D.M. Miller, and Charles G. Oviatt
  - Interdisciplinary approaches to long glacial-interglacial records of climate change in the southern deserts of the U.S. and Mexico, including lacustrine, eolian, cave, wetland and marine systems, and middens.
  - Oral - Monday, 29 October 2007, p.m.

- **Session 142. Limnogeology Posters**
  GSA Limnogeology Division
  - Posters - Tuesday, 30 October 2007, a.m.

Report on the 4th International Limnogeology Congress

Barcelona, July 11-14, 2007

Michael R. Rosen
Elizabeth Gierlowski-Kordesch



The 4th International Congress of the International Association of Limnogeology was held in balmy Barcelona in the summer of 2007. Professor Lluís Cabrera headed the organizing committee which processed 359 submitted abstracts and arranged five field trips (Figure 1). Representatives from 35 countries converged on the "CosmoCaixa" – a premier children's science museum (Figures 2 & 3). Four full days of presentations and posters were planned. The meeting was exceptionally well run and the organizing committee is to be commended on a great venue, excellent planning, and a stimulating scientific agenda. They even provided perfect weather for Barcelona in the summer!

The pre- and post-meeting field trips included trips to the Paleogene alluvial-lacustrine transitions of the eastern Ebro Basin (Field trip leaders: A. Sáez, P. Anadón, and J. de Gibert), the Neogene carbonate systems of the central Ebro Basin (Field trip leader C. Arenas), the Carboniferous to Quaternary lakes of northern Spain (see summary below; Field trip leader B. Valero Garcés), the Miocene lake deposits of La Cerdanya (Field trip leaders: C. Martín-Closas and X. Delclòs), and the Paleogene shallow lacustrine systems of the southeastern Ebro Basin (Field trip leaders: P. Arbués and Ll. Cabrera). The guidebook has been published by the Geological Society of Spain, edited by C. Arenas, A.M. Alonso-Zarza, and F. Colombo, as part of the "Geo-Guías" series as volume three (Geological field trips to the lacustrine deposits of the northeast Spain).

Figure 1 – The famous Monserrat Range located west of Barcelona. It is comprised of conglomerates and sandstones of Eocene age interpreted as fan-delta to fluvial deposits. The famous monastery is located half way up the mountain and can be reached by trail, train, road, or gondola. It is designated as Monserrat National Park.

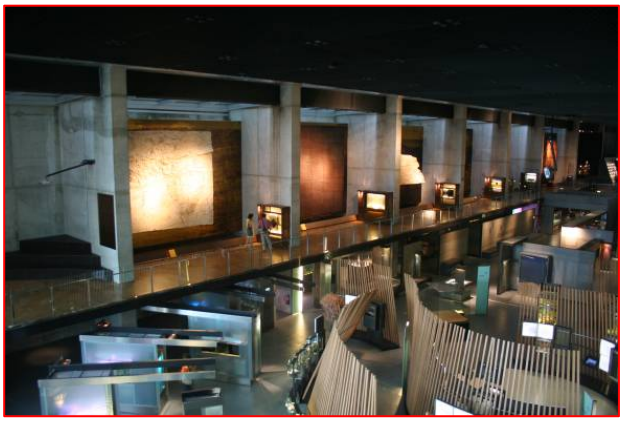


Figure 2. View of exhibit space in CosmoCaixa. Participants had full access to the museum, which provided exceptional hands-on science information for children.

Figure 3. View of CosmoCaixa from the back. Participants of the conference can be seen eating lunch in the fore-ground. This museum is one of the premier science museums in Europe.

The meeting itself comprised days full of presentations and posters on all aspects of lake deposits – from the Precambrian Belt Group of the western United States to modern lakes from Europe to South America to Asia. The breadth of research on lake sediments presented was stunning, and is far advanced from pioneering work on inorganic chemistry of sediments and paleontology used to construct climate change and depositional histories of lake basins.

For example, talks and posters included the use of molecular biomarkers for determining changes in the entire algal community structures in lakes through time, the use of XRF analysis on whole cores, the use of lake cores for determining human modifications to local basins and regional economies, exploration of lake basins on other planets and the use of microbiology to determine chemical reactions and mineral formation.

In addition, new and improved isotopic and dating techniques were discussed in many papers. One of the main issues in Limnogeology since its inception has been the accurate dating of cores using multiple techniques. This issue is still a major concern for anyone pursuing limnogeology and a number of sessions at this conference were devoted to this topic. However, many of the techniques discussed either need other traditional dating techniques for verification or are only applicable to specific time periods or localities.

Overall, anyone looking at the breadth of topics in the abstract volume would be impressed with the progress that has occurred in using limnogeologic investigations to their full potential since the first ILIC in 1995.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Bradley Medal of the International Association of Limnogeology to a limnogeologist of stature who also has served the community. This meeting's recipient was Professor Michael R. Talbot of the University of Bergen (Figure 4). In addition to his groundbreaking work with stable isotopes in lake sediments as well as his research in African lakes, Mike was a co-organizer with Kerry Kelts of the first IGCP lake project (ICGP-219 – Comparative Lacustrine Sedimentology in Space and Time). This project was the catalyst for organizing lake scientists globally and was the seed that developed into the International Association of Limnogeology. Mike Talbot also is a tireless promoter of lake research and has mentored many students from Norway and beyond.

Figure 4 – Michael Talbot accepting the IAL Bradley Medal. He is a professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Bergen in Norway.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck the conference early in the morning of the last day of the meeting during the morning plenary session with the collapse and death of Tim Brewer from the Geology Department of the University of Leicester. The talks and poster sessions for the day were cancelled to honor our colleague. Although this sad event did not allow the presentation of a number of talks and posters that final day, it is anticipated that many of them will be published in special issues of journals that will result from the meeting.

The support of the following agencies is acknowledged for contributing to the success of the meeting: Instituto Geológico y Minero de España, Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia, Generalitat de Catalunya and its Institut Geològic de Catalunya, Universitat de Barcelona, CosmoCaixa (Fundació "la Caixa"), Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Sociedad Geologica de España, International Association of Sedimentologists, Agència Catalana de L'Aigua, IECentanys, Exxonmobil, Repsol, and ATLL (Aigues Ter Llobregat).

The 5th International Limnogeology Congress (ILIC5) will be held in Germany in the summer of 2011. Dr. Antje Schwalb (Braunschweig) will head the organizing committee. We all look forward to another meeting full of lake topics!

Field Trip Report on the 4th International Limnogeology Congress Pre-Meeting Field Trip

Northern Spain, July, 2007

Michael R. Rosen

Carboniferous to Quaternary lakes of northern Spain

I was one of the few fortunate participants of ILIC4 to attend the Carboniferous to Quaternary lakes of northern Spain that was led by Dr. Blas Valero Garcés, Ana Moreno, Mario Morellón, Penélope Gonzalez-Sampériz, Pablo Corella and Mayte Rico. I say one of the few fortunate because there were only seven participants on the trip, which made access to the field trip leaders simple and led to informal and stimulating discussions at every stop. As I liked to say on the field trip, "it was a 6 day field trip conducted in 4 days!" We were generally on the road by 8:30 or 9 in the morning but finished each day about 12 hrs later. This was great because we would arrive at the hotel just in time for Spanish dinner time (around 10 PM). I managed to take over 500

digital photos on the trip and I guess became the unofficial field trip photographer. Don't worry, this report only has a sample of some of the photos!

Field trip participants posing under a rainbow in the Pyrenees. From left to right: Oliver Saas, a German student), Rosemary (Blas' daughter) Blas Valero Garcés, Penélope Gonzalez-Sampériz, Ana Moreno, Stephanie Girardclos, Antje Schwalb, Maria Letizia (Mizzi) Filippi, Pierre Francus, Michael Strasser, Pablo Corella, Mario Morellón, and Karel Martinek (not present in photo Kosei Yamaguchi and Michael Rosen, who was taking the photo).

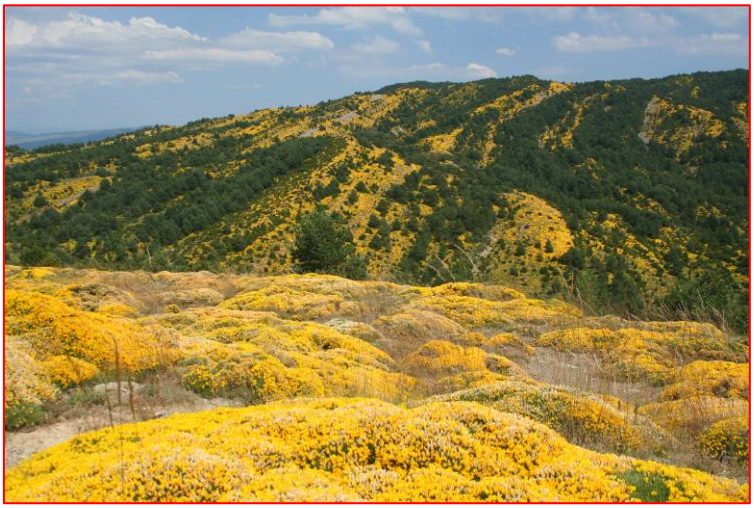
We left Barcelona on the first day of the field trip with introductions and a quick coffee break on the road (it was a long drive to the first stop). We then stopped to view outcrops of the Stephanian – Permian series red beds and carbonate lacustine deposits of the Central Pyrenees. The outcrops were mostly red mudstones, with coarser alluvial fan deposits and volcanics, with thin laminated layers of calco-dolomitic lacustrine units and calcretes. The rocks were spectacularly red, provided a great overview of the older units seen throughout the field trip. The outcrop also provided great views of the surrounding area. We then traveled to Montcortés Lake a recent karst lake with a very small catchment. This stop provided an excellent discussion on the Quaternary cores taken in the lake and our (what turned out to be typical) late lunch.

Panorama of Montcortés Lake.

We then traveled back in time to Stephanian – Permian series rocks and looked at thin coal beds interbedded with limestone lacustrine units.

The second day we returned to recent lakes both karstic (at lower elevations) and glacially influenced (at higher elevations). We also saw Holocene travertines that have been used to build churches. In between, we were treated to amazing views of wildflowers and an 11th century arched bridge across a steep and beautiful river that at one time connected a monastery with the outside world. The wildflower only bloom for a few weeks each year in late spring across a particular elevation band. We were certainly lucky to see this.

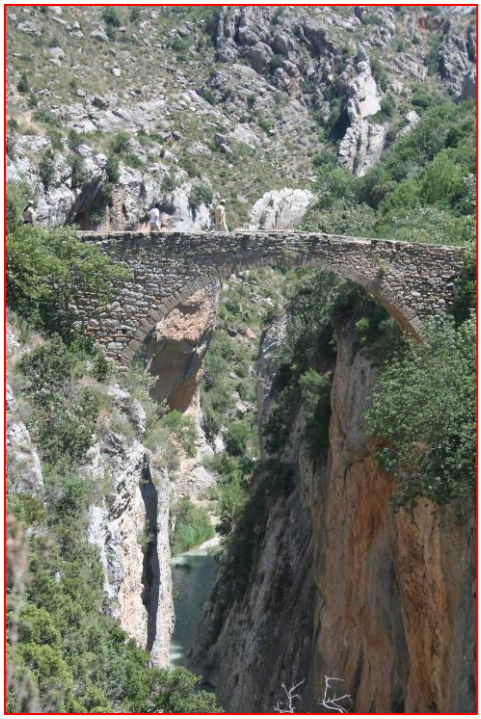
The Karstic lakes (Estanya Lakes) occur at the boundary between Mediterranean and Sub-Mediterranean bioclimate regimes. These evaporation and ground water controlled lakes provided a vigorous discussion of the utility of knowing water budgets and how to best determine inputs and outputs in karst systems. The lakes also have canals that



Panorama and close up of the wildflower *Erinacea anthyllis* ("Erizón" in spanish)) that blooms in late spring in the Pyrenees for only a few weeks a year.

have been in use since the 12th century, although they are now no longer used. The influence of human impacts to lake systems were also discussed in terms of lake water budgets. Then we traveled west and north to the glaciated areas of the Pyrenees in the headwaters of the Gállego River. Tramacastilla Lake formed in a glacially carved basin about 30,000 yrs BP, and changes in the core lithology point to changes in the surface hydrology as the reason for substantial depositional changes during deglaciation. Apparently landslides caused the proglacial creek that drained into the lake to be diverted blocking the source of Cretaceous and Paleocene limestone that had previously been deposited in the lake before about 20,000 years BP.

Above: Panorama of Estanya Lakes



Above: 11th century bridge over the Congosto de Olvena gorge with the Esera River below

Above: Participants viewing travertines near Estaña Village

Right: Glacially carved lake basin of Tramacastilla Lake

The third day was windy and cold and mostly spent in the higher elevations of the Pyrenees. Although the intention was to view small glacial lakes and Permian lakes that would have entailed an extensive hike, we all decided it was too cold and windy for the hike. Instead we traveled up a ski lift to view the Permian outcrops from a distance. Although the trip up the ski lift was relatively cold, the trip down was even colder. But we survived and had a great lunch at the top of the lift. This was another day of spectacular scenery, wildflowers, great conversation, and comradery.

Pico Anayet, which is 2545 m high and consists of Permian volcanics intruding into Stephanian – Permian carbonates and siliciclastics.

The last day of the field trip was back to Quaternary lakes, more saline than the previous lakes and of great interest to me personally. I won't bore you with the details of the evaporitic construct of the region, but the lakes although windy were a good change from the more freshwater lakes of the previous 3 days. On this day we had two stops at saline lakes (La Salineta and La Playa) in the Central Ebro Basin. At these basins we learned how anthropogenic changes for agricultural purposes may have profound impacts on the hydrology of the system and may, in the end, cause issues for the lakes and the surrounding agriculture. La Playa has also been mined for salts and has been used since Roman times.

Participants listening to Ana Moreno about La Salineta

Saline water in La Playa with Medieval brick work surrounding it.

Right: Blas Valero Garcés explaining something important!

A hugely informative guidebook has been published by the Geological Society of Spain for all the field trips, edited by C. Arenas, A.M. Alonso-Zarza, and F. Colombo, as part of the "Geo-Guías" series as volume three (Geological field trips to the lacustrine deposits of the northeast of Spain). I would recommend anyone who is interested in further details about this trip or other trips to purchase the field guide.

I may be slightly biased because I have known Blas since we were both post docs in Minnesota, but I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed his leadership of the field trip as well as his colleagues input. Discussions were full of enthusiasm, the scenery, rocks, lakes, food, and companionship were fantastic and we all learned a great deal about the limnogeology, paleoclimate, glacial history and tectonics of the Pyrenees.

Test Yourself…

What lake is this?

Hint: The lake was featured in a 1999 Movie of the same name that featured Bill Pulman, Bridget Fonda, and a large reptile.

(The name of the lake, and the source of the photo are found at the end of the Newsletter)

2006 IAL Lake Seminar in the Mexican Volcanic Belt

Central Mexico, August, 2006

Elizabeth Gierlowski-Kordesch

In August of 2006, an IAL lake seminar was held in central México, based from Morelia in Michoacán Province. Morelia itself is an old colonial city, established in 1541 and recognized as a Cultural World Heritage Site. The architecture of its buildings represent Renaissance, Baroque, and Neoclassic elements. The geology surrounding Morelia comprises the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (around 19º N latitude). This belt stretches across México as a 1200-km-long and 100-km-wide continental arc, active since the Miocene, resulting from the subduction of the Rivera and Cocos plate beneath the North American plate. Volcanoes, hot springs, and lakes characterize the landscape consisting of a series of E-W depressions bounded by normal faults with some strike-slip component.

The lake seminar consisted of a poster session on the first day followed by three days of a field excursion to the modern to Pleistocene lake deposits of the area. This meeting was organized by Dr. Victor Hugo Garduño Monroy and Dr. Isabel Israde Alcantara of the Department of Geology and Mineralogy at the Michoacán University of San Nicolás of Hidalgo in Morelia, México.

Field trip highlights included the Pleistocene lacustrine landscape of the Tierras Blancas Basin containing many seismites, the Los Azufres volcanic field (one of the main geothermal fields in México) containing andesitic and basalitic lavas as well as rhyolitic and dacitic domes associated with the Los Azufres Caldera, the Cuitzeo Basin containing andesites and ignimbrites covered by fluvio-lacustrine sediments of Pliocene age, and the basin containing Patzcuaro Lake and its Quaternary to Holocene deposits associated with many volcanoes (cones, domes, shield) and ash layers. Participants of this seminar included local students and international geologists who all enjoyed the local cuisine of the Michoacán area as well as the amenities of the local hot springs.

If anyone is interested in hosting an IAL lake seminar in his or her field area, please contact Elizabeth Gierlowski-Kordesch (gierlows@ohio.edu).

The cathedral of Morelia.

The university building where the poster session was held.

Isabel Israde standing on Pliestocene lacustrine deposits of the Tierras Blancas Basin.

A close-up outcrop photo of the fluvial-lacustrine transition in the Tierras Blancas Basin. Note the carbonate rudstone above the notebook for scale.

Lacustrine deposits of the Tierras Blancas Basin showing deformation from tectonic activity.

Landscape with outcrop in the distance.

Seismite in Pleistocene lake deposits near Morelia.

Patzcuaro Lake

Victor Hugo Garduño in trench in foreground showing the Holocene sedimentary sequence on the plain next to Patzcuaro Lake.

Lluís Cabrera (Barcelona) models a hat at a visit to a local hat factory.

2007 Kerry Kelts Award Winners

This year, four deserving students were awarded the Kerry Kelts Award to the amount of $400.00 each. Congratulations to the following students!

- Melissa Berke (Large Lakes Observatory / University of Minnesota)
  Creating a regional reconstruction of the thermal and hydrologic history of the East African Rift Lake area during the Holocene, since the Last Glacial Maximum, using a multiproxy approach.

- Jessica Chappell (Syracuse University)
  Neogene through Quaternary climate variability in Lake Albert, East African Rift, from scanning XRF analysis of oil exploration well cuttings.

- Colin A. Cooke (University of Alberta)
  Lake-sediment archives of atmospheric mercury deposition from the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes.

- Michael McGlue (University of Arizona)
  Understanding topographic closure and the evolution of foreland basin lakes, developing generic facies models for small lacustrine systems, and developing late Pleistocene-Holocene records of southern hemisphere climate change.

Awards will be announced during the Limnogeology Business Meeting at the 2007 Annual GSA Meeting in Denver.

As always, donations to allow this award to grow can be sent to the Kerry Kelts Research Awards of the Limnogeology Division at GSA, P. O. Box 9140, Boulder, CO, 80301-9140, USA.

Upcoming Meetings

2007 GSA Annual Meeting

October 28-31, 2007

The 2007 GSA Annual Meeting takes place in Denver, Colorado on October 28-31. A description (from the GSA meeting website) of the topical sessions sponsored by the Limnogeology Division can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this Newsletter. Please attend as many sessions as you can!

The Conference website is: http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2007/

International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC)

October 28 to November 2, 2007

The 12th World Lakes Conference (Tall 2007) of the International Lake Environments Committee will take place from October 28 to November 2, 2007, in Jaipur, India.

The conference website is: http://www.taal2007.org

North American Lake Management Society (NALMS)

October 31 to November 2, 2007

The 27th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) will take place from October 31 to November 2, 2007, in Orlando, Florida.

The conference website is: http://www.nalms.org/Conferences/Orlando/

International Society for Salt Lake Research (ISSLR)

May 12-16, 2008

The 10th International Conference on Salt Lake Research (ISSLR) will be in Salt Lake City, Utah from May 12-16, 2008. They are currently accepting proposals for special sessions.

The conference flyer can be found at:
http://www.isslr.org/biblio/ISSLR%20X%20Flyer%201.pdf

International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR)

May 19-23, 2008

The 51st Annual Conference of the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) will take place on May 19-23, 2008, at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

The conference website is: http://www.iaglr.org/

News Ripples…

Deep Drilling Project in NE China

Dear colleagues …

We write to tell you about a remarkable and exciting scientific drilling/coring project in China, and to encourage you to consider participating. The project entails continuous coring of what is anticipated to be a nearly complete Cretaceous section of terrestrial facies in the Songliao basin of northeastern China. This basin was a deeply subsiding rift/sag basin throughout the Cretaceous, in which accrued deep- to shallow-lacustrine and associated fluvial/deltaic facies. The former reflect high organic productivity and water column stratification that resulted in exceptional petroleum source rocks and the largest oil field in China (Daqing field). In addition, the Songliao basin lies adjacent to smaller coeval basins to the west that contain the famous well-preserved Jehol fauna of birds and feathered dinosaurs (among other organisms); thus, the Songliao basin contains a record of the environmental conditions that hosted the Jehol evolutionary events.

We held a workshop at the end of August (last month) in Daqing, China. At the workshop, results from previous studies done in this area were presented and a preliminary list of scientific objectives was synthesized. At this stage, we need to write a full proposal to submit to ICDP by Jan. 15, 2008. Please read the attached cover letter for a summary of this exciting project and the attachments for more detailed information, including the workshop proposal submitted to ICDP, the workshop abstracts, and some photos of cores from our previous pilot drillings (SKI and SK II drill cores). The drilling into the Upper Cretaceous, supported by Chinese government, has been already completed. Currently we are seeking funding from ICDP to complete the drilling into the lower Cretaceous. We hope that you are interested in participating in this exciting

project. If so, we would like to hear your response expressing your interest and your contribution to the proposal within 2 weeks.

The five of us will be serving as PIs for the ICDP project, but Hailiang Dong will act as the point of contact for correspondence.

- Chengshan Wang, China University of Geosciences, China, chshwang@cugb.edu.cn
- Hailiang Doing, Miami University (Ohio), USA, dongh@muohio.edu
- Christian Koeberl, University of Vienna, Austria, christian.koeberl@univie.ac.at
- Stephan Graham, Stanford University, USA, sagraham@stanford.edu
- Feng Zhiqiang, Chief Geologist, Daqing Oil Field, China.

http://www.marietta.edu/~biol/biomes/images/lakes/grsaltlk1.jpg

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Go to the Limnogeology Division website at:

http://rock.geosociety.org/limno/index.html

for the latest and greatest in the World of Limnogeology!

The answer to “Test Yourself…” is Lake Placid in the Upstate New York. This photograph comes from the following website: http://www.carlheilman.com/wallpaper.screensavers/800.heilman.lake.placid.aerial.jpg