

Ethics in the Geosciences

A Geological Society of America Presidential Conference, "Ethics in the Geosciences," will be held July 16–21, 1997, at the Resort at the Mountain, Welches, Oregon, on the flanks of Mount Hood. Cosponsors are GSA and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Purpose and Goals

Unethical conduct and practices are increasing within the geoscience and other scientific communities. Such unethical practices include, but are not limited to, falsification of data, deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications and/or professional registrations, plagiarism, and willful misrepresentation of scientific knowledge in research or to accommodate a client or legal position. This conference will address the complex issues of ethical behavior by providing a forum for input and discussion of ethics and the geosciences among professionals in the disciplines.

GSA Presidential Conferences operate under Penrose Conference guidelines. The presentation format includes keynote addresses, panel discussions, ad hoc working groups, and poster sessions. As an exception to the Penrose format,

participants are allowed and encouraged to disseminate information after the conference.

The primary goals of the 1997 conference are (1) to promote a dialogue within the geosciences community on ethical issues—issues that are not currently a part of the geoscientist's typical education or professional experience; and (2) to develop a framework for assembly and dissemination of information on ethical issues within the geoscience community. Discussions will focus on:

- identification of the types of ethical systems;
- cultural controls on ethical behavior (conflict of ethical systems);
- case histories of ethics violations or perceived violations;
- professional certification, licensing, registration, and enforcement as applied to an ethical framework;
- legal protection associated with enforcement;
- existing codes of ethics from various professional societies and organizations;
- means of instilling and fostering ethical behavior.

This conference will assemble an interdisciplinary group of participants who will serve as catalysts within the geosciences community in the promotion of ethical behavior. The conference topic—"Ethics in the Geosciences"—is an issue that geoscientists need to address and debate in order to create an effective interface between geology and the public. (Indeed, a requirement for a Presidential Conference is that topics must focus on the interface between geology and the public.) Anticipated results of this conference are:

- establishment of increased and more productive communication between geoscientists and behavioral scientists;
- creation of a focus on ethical issues and concepts that can be readily disseminated to the geoscience community;
- identification of methods for fostering and promoting ethical practices;
- development of an agenda for follow-up and future action;
- preparation of guidelines for developing a uniform code of ethics for consideration and adoption by the geoscience community.

Conference Participants

The conference will be limited to 100 participants. Of this number, about 75% will be geoscientists, and the balance

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Bathymetry continued from p. 5

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Klepeis, K. A., 1993, Structural studies of deformation along convergent and transform plate boundaries in the western Scotia Arc [Ph.D. thesis]: Austin, University of Texas, 232 p.

Klepeis, K. A., and Lawver, L. A., 1994, Bathymetry of the Bransfield Strait, southeastern Shackleton Fracture Zone and South Shetland Trench: *Antarctic Journal of the United States*, v. XXVII, p. 103–104.

Klepeis, K., and Lawver, L. A., 1996, Tectonics of the Antarctic-Scotia plate boundary near Elephant and Clarence islands, West Antarctica: *Journal of Geophysical Research*, v. 101, p. 20,211–20,231.

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Larter, R. D., and Barker, P. F., 1991, Effects of ridge crest–trench interaction on Antarctic-Phoenix spreading: Forces on a young subducting plate: *Journal of Geophysical Research*, v. 96, p. 19,583–19,607.

Lawver, L. A., and Hawkins, J. W., 1978, Diffuse magnetic anomalies in marginal basins: Their possible

tectonic and petrologic significance: *Tectonophysics*, v. 45, p. 323–338.

Lawver, L. A., Gahagan, L. M., and Coffin, M. F., 1992, The development of paleoseaways around Antarctica, *in* Kennett, J. P., and Warnke, D. A., eds., *The Antarctic paleoenvironment: A perspective on global change*: American Geophysical Union Antarctic Research Series, v. 56, p. 7–30.

Lawver, L. A., Keller, R. A., Fisk, M. R., and Strelin, J. A., 1995, Bransfield Strait, Antarctic Peninsula: Active extension behind a dead arc, *in* Taylor, B., ed., *Back arc basins: Tectonics and magmatism volume*: Amsterdam, Plenum Press, p. 315–342.

Nagihara, S., and Lawver, L. A., 1989, Heat flow measurements in the King George Basin, Bransfield Strait: *Antarctic Journal of Science*, p. 123–125.

Pankhurst, R. J., 1983, Rb-Sr constraints on the ages of basement rocks of the Antarctic Peninsula, *in* Oliver, R. L., et al., eds., *Antarctic earth science*: Canberra, Australian Academy of Science, p. 367–371.

Pankhurst, R. J., and Smellie, J. L., 1983, K-Ar geochronology of the South Shetland Islands, Lesser Antarctica: Apparent lateral migration of Jurassic to Quaternary island arc volcanism: *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, v. 66, p. 214–222.

Pelayo, A., and Wiens, D. A., 1989, Seismotectonics and relative plate motions in the Scotia Sea region: *Journal of Geophysical Research*, v. 94, p. 7293–7320.

Ramos, V. A., and Mahlborg Kay, S., 1992, Southern Patagonian plateau basalts and deformation: Backarc

testimony of ridge collision: *Tectonophysics*, v. 205, p. 261–282.

Roach, P. J., 1978, The nature of back-arc extension in Bransfield Strait [abs.]: *Royal Astronomical Society Geophysical Journal*, v. 53, p. 165.

Sandwell, D. T., and Smith, W. H. F., 1992, Global marine gravity from ERS-1 Geosat and Seasat reveals new tectonic fabric: *Eos (Transactions, American Geophysical Union)*, v. 73, p. 133.

Smellie, J. L., 1990, Graham Land and South Shetland Islands, *in* LeMasurier, W. E., and Thomson, J. W., eds., *Volcanoes of the Antarctic plate and southern oceans*: Antarctic Research Series, v. 48, American Geophysical Union, p. 302–359.

Storey, B. C., and Garrett, S. W., 1985, Crustal growth in the Antarctic Peninsula by accretion, magmatism and extension: *Geological Magazine*, v. 122, p. 5–14.

Tanner, P. W. G., Pankhurst, R. J., and Hyden, G., 1982, Radiometric evidence for the age of the subduction complex of the South Orkney and South Shetland Islands, West Antarctica: *Geological Society of London Journal*, v. 139, p. 683–690.

Taylor, B., and Natland, J., editors, 1995, Active margins and marginal basins of the western Pacific: *American Geophysical Union Monograph* 88, 417 p.

Wessel, P., and Smith, W. H. F., 1995, A new version of the Generic Mapping Tools (GMT): *Eos (Transactions, American Geophysical Union)*, v. 76, p. 329.

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Each month, *GSA Today* features a short science article on current topics of general interest. For guidelines on submitting an article, contact *GSA Today* Science Editor S. M. Kay, Cornell University, (607)255-4701, fax 607-254-4780, E-mail: kay@geology.cornell.edu.

(including most invited key participants) will include social scientists, political scientists, attorneys, judges, planners, and journalists. Participants will represent the academic, governmental, and industrial sectors. Participants should share a primary interest in identifying areas in need of ethical standards and should have the ability or position to effectively disseminate and implement concepts that evolve from the conference.

Conference Schedule

Technical sessions will be held each morning from 8:00 a.m. until noon beginning on July 17. In addition, technical presentations and/or discussions will be held from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the first and third days and from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. on the second and fourth days of the conference. Nonscheduled times will allow for informal discussions, ad hoc group meetings, planning sessions, or recreation.

Conference Conveners

The principal convener is **David Stephenson**, past president of GSA (1994–1995), South Pass Resources, Inc., 11259 E. Via Linda, Suite 100-949, Scottsdale, AZ 85259, (602) 948-7171, fax 602-948-7205, E-mail: sprigeo@aol.com.

The co-principal convener is **Pete Rose**, president of the Division of Professional Affairs, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, 711 West 14th St., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 480-9970, fax 512-473-2240, E-mail: prrose@onr.com.

Co-conveners of the conference are **Richard Grauch**, U.S. Geological Survey, M.S. 973, Denver Federal Center, P.O. Box 25046, Denver, CO 80225, (303) 236-5551, fax 303-236-3200, E-mail: rgrauch@helios.cr.usgs.gov; and **Tom Holzer**, U.S. Geological Survey, M.S. 977, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (415) 329-5637, fax 415-329-5163, E-mail: tholzer@isdmnl.wr.usgs.gov.

Applications

Persons interested in participating in this conference should submit a letter of application that includes a statement of interest in the conference topic, a confirmation that attendance would be for the full duration of the conference, and the subject of any proposed poster presentation. **Deadline for applications is February 15, 1997.** Send letters of application to Heidi Horten, South Pass Resources, 11259 E. Via Linda, Suite 100-949, Scottsdale, AZ 85259. The conference fee, which includes lodging, food, and transportation to and from the Portland airport, is expected to be approximately \$725. Direct inquiries and questions to any of the conveners at the above addresses. Invitations to participate will be mailed by March 15, 1997. ■

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS REMINDERS

PENROSE AND DAY MEDALS, AND HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

Nominations for 1997 Penrose and Day Medals and for Honorary Fellowship in the Society are due by **FEBRUARY 3, 1997.**

YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD (DONATH MEDAL)

The Young Scientist Award was established in 1988 to be awarded to a young scientist (35 or younger during the year in which the award is to be presented) for outstanding achievement in contributing to geologic knowledge through original research that marks a major advance in the earth sciences. The award, consisting of a gold medal called the Donath Medal and a cash prize of \$15,000, was endowed by Dr. and Mrs. Fred A. Donath.

For the year 1997, only those candidates born on or after January 1, 1962, are eligible for consideration. In choosing candidates for the Young Scientist Award, scientific achievement and age will be the sole criteria. Nominations for the 1997 award must include

- biographical information,
- a summary of the candidate's scientific contributions to geology (200 words or less),
- a selected bibliography (no more than 10 titles),
- supporting letters from five scientists in addition to the person making the nomination.

Deadline for nominations for 1997 is **FEBRUARY 3, 1997.**

OFFICERS AND COUNCILORS

The GSA Committee on Nominations requests your help in compiling a list of GSA members qualified for service as officers and councilors of the Society. The committee requests that each nomination be accompanied by basic data and a description of the qualifications of the individual for the position recommended (vice-president, treasurer, councilor).

Deadline for nominations for 1998 is **FEBRUARY 18, 1997.**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The GSA Distinguished Service Award was established by Council in 1988 to recognize individuals for their exceptional service to the Society. GSA Members, Fellows, Associates, or, in exceptional circumstances, GSA employees may be nominated for consideration. Any GSA member or employee may make a nomination for the award. Awardees will be selected by the Executive Committee, and all selections must be ratified by the Council. Awards may be made annually, or less frequently, at the discretion of Council. This award will be presented during the annual meeting of the Society. Deadline for nominations for 1997 is **MARCH 3, 1997.**

JOHN C. FRYE ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY AWARD

In cooperation with the Association of American State Geologists (AASG), GSA makes an annual award for the best paper on environmental geology published either by GSA or by one of the state geological surveys. The award is a \$1000 cash prize from the endowment income of the GSA Foundation's John C. Frye Memorial Fund. The 1997 award will be presented at the autumn AASG meeting to be held during the GSA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.

Nominations can be made by anyone, based on the following criteria: (1) paper must be selected from GSA or state geological survey publications, (2) paper must be selected from those published during the preceding three full calendar years, (3) nomination must include a paragraph stating the pertinence of the paper.

Nominated papers must establish an environmental problem or need, provide substantive information on the basic geology or geologic process pertinent to the problem, relate the geology to the problem or need, suggest solutions or provide appropriate land-use recommendations based on the geology, present the information in a manner that is understandable and directly usable by geologists, and address the environmental need or resolve the problem. It is preferred that the paper be directly applicable by informed laypersons (e.g., planners, engineers). Deadline for nominations for 1997 is **MARCH 31, 1997.**

NATIONAL AWARDS

The deadline is **April 30, 1997**, for submitting nominations for these four awards: William T. Pecora Award, National Medal of Science, Vannevar Bush Award, Alan T. Waterman Award.

Materials and supporting information for any of the nominations may be sent to GSA Executive Director, Geological Society of America, P.O. Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301. For more detailed information about the nomination procedures, refer to the October 1996 issue of *GSA Today*, or call headquarters at (303) 447-2020, extension 140.