



DOWN TO EARTH



Newsletter of the Department of Earth Sciences, U.W.O.

Friday, December 11, 2009

Congratulations...

The Department of Earth Sciences would like to congratulate **Dr. Patricia Corcoran**, whose application for Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure has been granted effective July 1st, 2010. This is very welcome news for everyone in this department, and of course it is recognition of the major academic contributions Patricia has made at Western and within her profession. Congratulations, Patricia!



Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop

The **Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC)** is running their fourth annual Student-Industry Mineral Exploration Workshop (S-IMEW) which will take place May 8-22, 2010, in Sudbury.

This exclusive workshop will see approximately 20 specially selected senior Earth Sciences students from various Canadian post-secondary institutions gather for two weeks of hands-on learning and interaction with representatives from the Canadian mineral exploration community.

The goal of S-IMEW is to focus on the Canadian mineral exploration industry, introducing applied aspects of the industry through mineral exploration techniques, field skills development, mineral deposit models, economic geology and the business side of the industry. This all-expenses paid trip will

also allow students to form key contacts and network with industry representatives.

Students are required to gather a resume, official transcript, two references, and statement of intent as part of the application. For full details, follow this link: <http://www.pdac.ca/students/simew/index.html>

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 18



Earth Sciences Faculty Receive ORF Grants

A dozen University of Western Ontario research projects, including two teams from within Earth Sciences, have received \$19-million from the Ontario Research Fund.

The successful projects are:

Nanobeam Materials Analyser for Probing Planetary Evolution and Resources (NanoMAPPER)

Learning more about the evolution of the planet
Lead Researcher: **Desmond Moser**

In early 2008, an international research team led by University of Western Ontario Earth Sciences professor Desmond Moser made a startling discovery when they unearthed three-billion-year-old microcrystals in northern Ontario. The researchers found that the crystals are not only resistant to change; they grew incrementally over 200 million years, preserving records of their movements through and around the planet during the formation of early North America.

They are providing new information about planetary evolution and the processes that formed Earth's continents, and resources such as gold and diamonds. With a new electron microscope and analyzer, Moser will conduct more advanced micro- and nanomineral research that will improve our knowledge of planetary evolution. It will also have important applications for industry, including mining and advanced manufacturing.

§§

Facility For Stable Isotope Analysis (Facsia) Of Modern And Ancient Biogeochemical Cycles In The Global Environment

Developing new methods of resource exploration
Lead Researchers: **Elizabeth A. Webb & Neil Banerjee**

The demand for minerals, metals, and petroleum is growing, particularly in emerging economies in Asia and Eastern Europe. Canada is positioned to be a leader in providing these commodities to world markets, but it will take new methods of resource exploration to find them. That is where earth scientists like Elizabeth Webb and Neil Banerjee come in. Using isotope-ratio mass spectroscopy, The University of Western Ontario researchers are examining the complex geological processes that affect ore and petroleum generation.

Their research also has applications for climate change, sustainable agriculture, and the search for early life.

§§

Colloquium Schedule, 2010

The Earth Sciences Colloquium is held weekly on Fridays in B&G 0153, 3:30-4:30 PM.

January 8 - Neil O'Brien (Lundinmining Co), The Importance of VMS deposits to Global Mining: Cold-war relicts or post-globalization opportunities?

January 15 - ES 4490 presentations

January 22 - Sanda Botis (Dept. of Earth Sciences, UWO), Title TBA.

January 29 - Tony Runkel (Minneapolis), "Sequence Stratigraphy of Cratonic Interior Sheet Sandstones: Are They Really So Special?"

February 5 - Dariush Motazedian (Carleton University), Title TBA.

February 12 - Dr. Steve Scott (UofT), CIM Distinguished Lecture Series.

February 19 - Reading week. No colloquium.

February 26 - Darrel Long (Laurentian University), "Architecture and depositional style of fluvial systems before land plants: a comparison of Precambrian and Modern river deposits".

March 5 - Larry Morley, Title TBA.

March 12 - Brian Hart (UWO). Title TBA.

March 19 - Jie Li (COMPRES Distinguished Lecturer), Title TBA.

March 26 - Jisuo Jin (Dept. of Earth Sciences, UWO), Title TBA.

April 2 - Good Friday. No colloquium.

April 8 (Thu, SCUGOG lecture) - Dr. Neil Shubin (U of Chicago), Title TBA.

April 9 - Qinya Liu (Dept. of Physics, U of T), Title TBA.

For the most up-to-date version of the Colloquium schedule, visit

<http://www.uwo.ca/earth/news/colloquium.html>.

§§