

Mineralogical Society Senior Bursary Report

Attendance at Fall AGU, San Francisco 14-19 December 2008

Thanks to the Mineralogical Society Senior Bursary and support from a Royal Society Conference grant, I was able to attend the Fall AGU meeting in San Francisco in December. The meeting was the biggest conference I have ever attended with well over 15000 attendees. I was co-chairing two sessions at the meeting one on the Anthropocene (as part of my role on the Stratigraphy Commission of the Geological Society of London) and the other on Large Igneous Provinces. Both these sessions generated a lot of interest and were well attended. I was presenting a poster in the session on large igneous provinces on my work in the Caribbean and I had quite a few useful discussions with people about my and their work. One aspect of the conference which was not particularly good was the fact that the oral and the poster sessions were in different buildings and getting between the two involved walking down the street for several hundred yards and crossing a major road. However, this was somewhat compensated for by the attendance at the meeting of a significant number of igneous petrologists.

During the meeting I was invited to attend several other 'fringe' meetings the first of these was an 'Editors forum' (in my capacity as editor in-chief of Lithos) to discuss a policy document on the publication of geochemical data. This meeting resolved to approve the document and push for all major journals which publish geochemical data to insist that authors provide a basic minimum amount of information on each sample analysis reported in their paper, with the aim of setting general reporting standards for geochemical data in the scientific literature, and to facilitate the seamless incorporation of data into scientific digital data collections, e.g. the exact location of the sample, analytical method, precision and accuracy, the use of unique sample identification numbers etc.

I was also invited to attend a luncheon to discuss international strategy for large igneous province research. This meeting, convened by Kaj Hoernle (Kiel) and Mike Coffin (Southampton) and attended by 15 key LIP researchers, resolved to aim to develop multi-disciplinary networks for LIP research and form an umbrella group linking smaller groups LIP-related groups.

In summary, this was a very useful conference for me to attend and I would once again like to record my thanks to the Mineralogical society for awarding me a Senior Bursary.

Andrew C. Kerr
Cardiff University