

Mineralogical Society Student Bursary 2015- Colleen Mann, School of Material Science and Engineering, University of Sheffield

Goldschmidt 2015, Prague 16th-21st August

I would like to thank the Mineralogical Society for awarding me a postgraduate student bursary, which helped fund a recent trip to the Goldschmidt conference in Prague.

A Material Scientist @ Goldschmidt 2015

Goldschmidt is one of the biggest annual gatherings of geochemists. Session 13a (Mineralogical and Geochemical Processes in the Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Radioactive Waste Disposal) accepted my abstract on the Interactions between vitrified nuclear wastes and high pH solutions: An experimental and natural analogue approach. My talk was well received and I had some brilliant discussions with people throughout the day about my research and the future of my work.

The 2015 Goldschmidt gathering was the 25th anniversary, there were 25 themes and 25 student ambassadors; I was invited to be a student ambassador representing the theme in which my work was presented "Energy Resources". Goldschmidt provided a wealth of opportunities not only for young scientist but anyone who is willing to get involved, I participated in the PHREEQC workshop which was invaluable as I will need to use this tool a lot in my research. In addition to attending the conference I made good use of my free time in the evenings, for example the classical concert I attended at St Ignatius Church, this early Baroque church provided a beautiful backdrop for the string quartet.

The lunch time plenary sessions were varied and covered interesting topics, as a material scientist I went to these lectures with an open mind and willingness to learn about topics I had never even heard of for example Neo-Plumbotectonics. The most enjoyable lecture was by Andrew Revkin, who broached the topic of communication, I was fortunate enough to have lunch with him after his session to discuss with other students how we as scientists can communicate our work effectively. Andrew left us with a question/statement for use on social media " #lamascientistbecause....." such a simple statement can open up unexpected dialogue with a wide range of people, I shall Tweet my statement this afternoon #lamascientistbecause... I want to solve problems.



Myself, Daniel Backhouse and Dr Claire Corkhill enjoying a celebratory drink after a successful day of presentations.