

Lakehead University Geology Department

Alumni Newsletter #3

August, 2012

With another semester about to start, there have been a lot of changes in the Geology Department. As mentioned in the last newsletter Dr. Graham Borradaile retired in December. We have been very fortunate to recruit Dr Amanda Diochon, who will start with the Department this Fall. In addition Dr. Steve Kissin has completed his term as Chair of the department and, as of July 1st, has been replaced by Dr. Pete Hollings.



Ayat Baig, a new recruit to the MSc program at Lakehead, logs core with Dr. David Cooke from CODES, as part of a collaborative study of the MAX Mo-porphyry system in BC.

The Department was thrilled to receive a donation of \$5000 from one of our alumni this summer. This very generous gift will be put to good use to enhance our program and support our students.

Outreach

Members of the Department were involved with the very successful **58th Institute on Lake Superior Geology Annual Meeting** which was held in Thunder Bay this May. Close to 250 geologists attended the meeting including 60 students. Phil Fralick, Steve Kissin and Pete Hollings all ran field trips, as did Rob Cundari, one of our graduate students, and many of our alumni, including Dorothy Campbell, Mark Smyk, Pete Hinz, Alan Aubut and Mark Puumala. To top the meeting off Ben Kuzmich, one of our Honours students, won the prize for the best oral presentation in the Student Paper competition.

We are also pleased to welcome Kristi Tavener to the department. Kristi will be working with Anne in our lapidary lab, helping to meet the extra demand placed on the facility by students and researchers. This continues to be an exciting time with increasing enrollment of both graduate and undergraduate students and the new Centre of Excellence in Mineral Exploration and Sustainable Mining Development. So stay tuned as your department continues to grow!

Funding Success

The Geology Department continues to be very successful in obtaining grants from the **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council** with Drs Fralick, Hollings and Mitchell recently receiving Discovery grants worth \$540,000 over the next five years. In addition, Dr Hollings received a Collaborative Research Development Grant from NSERC worth ~\$100,000 to support the work of two MSc students studying the MAX and HVC porphyry deposits in British Columbia. We also continue to work with local industry, with Dr Hill and her graduate student Skylar Schmidt starting a new research project with the Lac des Iles mine.



Ben Kuzmich, who has just graduated from Lakehead, receives his prize from Mike Easton for the best student paper presentation at this years ILSG meeting. Ben presented the results of his honours thesis on the Dog Lake Granite Chain in the Quetico subprovince.

Please contact peter.hollings@lakeheadu.ca if you have a story to share



New Faculty

Amanda and her family are excited to be moving to Thunder Bay after spending the last two years in Ottawa, where Amanda was a post doc in Dr Edward Gregorich's lab at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. Amanda is a biogeochemist and her research has recently focused on organic matter cycling in the soils of northern forests, peatlands and agricultural systems. She uses both field and laboratory approaches to study the controls on soil organic matter cycling with the goal of better predicting and moderating the effects of resource management, natural disturbance, and climate change on environmental quality. Amanda will be building on her past experiences in northern regions to develop new lines of research that contribute to the Centre of Excellence in Mineral Exploration. Amanda is a graduate of St Fran-

cis Xavier University (BSc in Aquatic Resources), Northern Illinois University (MS in physical geography) and Dalhousie University (PhD in Earth Sciences). She is looking forward to building capacity in biogeochemistry and enticing students to explore the softer side of geology.

New Developments

The **Centre of Excellence in Mineral Exploration and Sustainable Mining Development** is poised to help address the challenges created by Northern Ontario's booming mining sector by bringing together researchers and community partners from First Nations, Government and Industry. The Centre will spearhead results-oriented research and educate highly skilled professionals with technical skills, and also the interdisciplinary perspectives necessary to address complex issues involving multiple interests.

The Geology Department will play a strong role in the Centre, given our mandate to train geologists who find new ore deposits and monitor the environmental impacts of their development. Lakehead faculty members and graduate students from Geology, Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Natural Resource Management and Geography will offer a comprehensive knowledge base and support system, led by Centre Director, Dr. Peter Hollings. Their expertise will help to foster dialogue between industry and local communities.

An NSERC Industrial Research Chair specializing in mineral exploration, working with the newly announced CRC Chair in Mining Remediation and Aqueous Geochemistry, will form the core of the Centre. The Centre of Excellence will sustain and stimulate the economy in northern Ontario and establish Lakehead University as a major national and international player in economic geology and sustainable development.



Second year students master the Brunton compass during field school this May

Want to know more? Please visit our web site at www.geology.lakeheadu.ca