



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA

Cordilleran Section

### Plates:

## Cordilleran Section Newsletter

'I can't believe summer's over' is the most common refrain you hear on the streets of Corvallis these days. I imagine that field work, paper writing, R+R, are giving way to preparation for the next academic year. Here in Oregon we are ramping up for the 2009 GSA Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland (October 18-21, 2009). There are 8 Pardee Symposia, 168 Theme sessions, and 40 Field trips: something for everyone in the section! For more info: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/>

### Message from the Chair

It is a pleasure to work with the other officers of the Cordilleran Section. We are the largest section, both in numbers (>5,000 members) and in area (extending from about 15–80°N). With recent additions of Mexican states and Canadian provinces, we now include the entire western Cordillera from Alaska through Canada, the U.S., and Mexico (see the beautiful map at: <http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/09secMex.htm>). This geographic diversity provides ample opportunities for interesting sessions/field trips and for forging stronger ties among geologists throughout North America. Our most recent meeting was in Canada and we are trying to develop a Mexican site for a future meeting, (2012?). Our current Vice-chair is Luca Ferrari, the first Mexican geologist to serve as a section officer. If you have ideas about ways to further strengthen ties with our colleagues to the north and the south, please contact me ([kgrove@sfsu.edu](mailto:kgrove@sfsu.edu)). See you in Portland in October and Anaheim in May!

### Goodbye Joan : - (

The irrepressible Joan Fryxell has wrapped up her unprecedented 8 years as the Secretary-

Treasurer of the section. Please join all the Section Officers past and present that had the good fortune to work with her over the past 8 years in thanking Joan the next time you see her. We gave her a rock hammer as a token of our appreciation and because we got worried that she had switched to crunching numbers as her primary involvement with geology. I hope you are using it Joan!

### Section Meetings - Your turn:

Section meetings are the life-blood of our Section. You have three opportunities to take an active role in the Section. **One:** Come to the meetings! These are vibrant scientific meetings where the modest size allows for meaningful interactions with speakers, discussions that are more inclusive, and session formats that are more flexible than the mega-meetings. **Two:** Encourage students to come to the meetings. Section meetings are particularly good places for students to make presentations and to interact with professionals and other students. We have an endowment that we use to encourage students to attend by offering grants to offset their travel and field trip costs and awards for best student presentations. **Three:** Talk with your colleagues about hosting the Section meeting at your institution in 2012, 2013, 2014, or 2015. We need volunteer organizations for these future meetings. We do not have sites in mind now, but we are thinking about you! Help us out by preemptively volunteering. Yes it's work, but it can be very rewarding and your colleagues and the Section appreciate the effort.

### 2009 Section Meeting Report (105<sup>th</sup> !) Kelowna, BC, 7-9 May 2009

The Cordilleran Section meeting in Kelowna this past spring was an intimate affair, marked by strong sessions and lively discussion. The University of British Columbia-Okanagan (UBC-O), hosted the meeting on its new campus. All new buildings, a scenic location on the west side of the Okanagan Valley, and spring weather showcased the UBC-O. It is obvious that the

university is promoting the geology program. One highlight was a reception by the College of Arts and Sciences to showcase their new research facilities. I heard from my two students that lively debate on some outstanding outcrops characterized the field trip along the Okanagan Valley fault system.

The Management Board thanks Rob Young of UBC-O, who almost single-handedly made the meeting happen. Rob, as both the General Chair and Technical Program Chair, was largely responsible for the success of the meeting. Thank you Rob!

Student presentations populated many sessions. There were many excellent student posters at this meeting. Awards (including a \$400! cash prize to each) were made, with great difficulty, to three particularly noteworthy posters:

Undergraduate Poster Award: *Marc Nabelek* (Whitman College) “Developing the Resazurin-Resorufin system as a “smart” tracer to measure microbial respiration and sediment-water interactions”

Undergraduate Poster Award: *Ben Shapiro* (University of Puget Sound) “Unique geochemistry of Gravelly Lake, Tacoma, Wa: evidence for a deep groundwater component” .

Graduate Poster Award: *Josh Goodman* (San Francisco State University) “New constraints on the style, timing, and rates of post-middle-Pleistocene deformation in the Confidence Hills, southern Death Valley, California”.

**2010: Anaheim, California:  
From Mountains to Main Street:  
Anaheim, Ca, 27-29 May 2010**

California State University at Fullerton and the Pacific Section of the APPG will cohost the 106<sup>th</sup> Cordilleran Section meeting. According to the website ‘southern California is a geologic Disneyland’! If that isn’t enough to get you down to SoCal next spring, the fact that the Anaheim Marriott (the meeting venue) is across the street from the real Disneyland ought to seal

the deal. For updates, theme sessions, and field trips, keep your eye on their website: <http://geosociety.org/sectdiv/cord/2010mtg/>.

The local organizing committee includes:

General co-Chairs: Phil Armstrong  
([parmstrong@fullerton.edu](mailto:parmstrong@fullerton.edu)) and Curtis Henderson  
([curtis.henderson@longbeach.gov](mailto:curtis.henderson@longbeach.gov))

Technical Program Chair: Jeff Knott  
([jknott@fullerton.edu](mailto:jknott@fullerton.edu))

Field Trip Chair: Brady Rhodes  
([brhodes@fullerton.edu](mailto:brhodes@fullerton.edu))

Short Course co-Chairs: Diane Clemens-Knott  
([dclemensknott@fullerton.edu](mailto:dclemensknott@fullerton.edu)) and Galen Carlson  
([gcarlson@fullerton.edu](mailto:gcarlson@fullerton.edu)).

9 March 2010 is abstract deadline see announcement on the Section’s website.

**2011: Logan, Utah (joint with Rocky Mountain).**

John W. Shervais of Utah State University proposed and the Management Board has agreed to a joint Cordilleran/Rocky Mountain section meeting for 2011. The folks at Utah State have an excellent on-campus facility reserved for the meeting. Central Washington University’s Department of Geological Sciences will act as the Cordilleran Section partner and are working with the USU team to develop a banner slate for the Technical Programs and Field Trips. A Great Basin theme is being discussed. Contact John ([john.shervais@usu.edu](mailto:john.shervais@usu.edu)) directly with questions.

**Section Officer Nominations Needed:**

We are actively soliciting names for the next Vice-Chair (a 1-year term). Nominations can be forwarded to Nominating Committee Chair Luca Ferrari via email at [luca@geociencias.unam.mx](mailto:luca@geociencias.unam.mx).

The current Management Board are Karen Grove (Chair; [kgrove@sfsu.edu](mailto:kgrove@sfsu.edu)), Luca Ferrari (Vice-Chair; [luca@geociencias.unam.mx](mailto:luca@geociencias.unam.mx)), Rod Metcalf (Secretary-Treasurer; [rod.metcalf@unlv.edu](mailto:rod.metcalf@unlv.edu)), and Andrew Meigs (PastChair; [meigsa@geo.oregonstate.edu](mailto:meigsa@geo.oregonstate.edu)).

Plates was written by Andrew Meigs.