



# AGS NEWSLETTER

ARIZONA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC., TUCSON, ARIZONA

DECEMBER 2007

## DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

M. Lee Allison, State Geologist and Director

Arizona Geological Survey, Tucson

**Intelligent Design and the Attack on Science**

December 4, 2007

Kansas became the national test bed for the political and philosophical movement called Intelligent Design, intended to “defeat [scientific] materialism” as represented by evolution, “reverse the stifling materialistic world view and replace it with a science consonant with Christian and theistic convictions” and to “affirm the reality of God.”

Intelligent Design (ID) is the belief that certain aspects of the universe and of living things are directed by an intelligent designer, not a naturalistic or seemingly undirected process such as evolution by natural selection. ID advocates regularly describe the Intelligent Designer as their personal interpretation of a Christian God but publicly assert that the Designer could even be aliens from other planets or other supernatural causes.

The movement’s internal document titled “The Wedge Strategy” states that “The objective is to convince people that Darwinism is inherently atheistic, thus shifting the debate from creationism vs. evolution to the existence of God vs. the non-existence of God. From there people are introduced to ‘the truth’ of the Bible and then ‘the question of sin’ and finally ‘introduced to Jesus.’ The wedge strategy is carried out by the Discovery Institute headquartered in Seattle.

In Dover PA, a federal district court judge ruled in 2006 that intelligent design is not science and that it “cannot uncouple itself from its creationist, and thus religious, antecedents.” Thus, he concluded promoting ID in the classroom violated the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

One of the ID strategies in Kansas is to redefine science in public school curriculum by replacing the use of “natural” explanations with “adequate” explanations, thus allowing the teaching of supernatural explanations for the natural world.

The Kansas fight over replacing teaching evolution with an ID-inspired agenda, grew out of the State Board of Educations (SBOE) imposition in 1999 of an openly creationist science curriculum in the schools, a move that gained international notoriety, but that was overturned by

*ABSTRACT—Continued on page 2*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 6, 2008—ERIC FORCE, U.S. Geological Survey: *Chaco Canyon*
- February 5, 2008—ALYSON THIBODEAU, University of Arizona: *The Strange Case of the Earliest Extraction of Silver by European Colonists in the New World*
- 03-04-2008—MARK BARTON, University of Arizona: *Iron Oxide Copper Gold Deposits: A Cordilleran Perspective*

### Dinner Meeting Information — Inn Suites, 475 North Granada, Tucson

To reserve your place for dinner, call 520-663-5295 before 5 pm, Friday, November 30, 2007.

**AGS CAN NO LONGER GUARANTEE DINNER SEATING FOR THOSE WHO SHOW UP WITHOUT A RESERVATION.**

Cost: Members \$24, Guests \$26, Students \$10.

Cash Bar @ 6 pm

Dinner @ 7 pm

Talk @ 8 pm

For dinner selection, indicate if a low-salt or vegetarian meal is required. Please cancel if you are unable to attend.

## Announcements

The Arizona Geological Society is pleased to announce that the J. Harold Courtright Scholarship has been awarded this year to Joshua Coyan, Arizona State University, in support of his PhD studies. The title of his proposal is *Structural Controls of Gold Mineralization around San Antonio, Baja California Sur*. The award is \$2,000 and will be used to offset argon-dating costs for samples Mr. Cohan collected during field studies in Baja.

Harold Courtright had a life-long interest and career in mining and geology. He honed his field mapping skills and porphyry copper exploration techniques in the Northern and Southern Cordillera and is credited with discovering some of the better known porphyry copper deposits in Arizona and Peru. The scholarship fund, set up after his death in 1986, was designed to promote graduate research in all fields, with special emphasis on field geology, economic geology, and the study of ore deposits.

Mr. Cohan has been invited to attend the December membership meeting as AGS's guest, where he will receive his prize.

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Bob Williamson, a teacher at Presidio Schools, announced that the school is having a Science Fair in February 2008 and needs one or two additional scientists to be judges. Volunteers would need to put in 3 or 4 hours, probably in the morning. The school already has physicists, biologists, and astronomers, and needs one or two geologists. Interested persons can contact Bob on his cell (271-7061) or by email [bobw3@comcast.net](mailto:bobw3@comcast.net).

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### *ABSTRACT—Continued from page 2*

gained international notoriety, but that was overturned by voters a year later. In 2004 creationists took back control of the SBOE, and in 2005 put evolution and Darwin on trial in a kangaroo court setting where the guilty verdict had been publicly announced beforehand. The scientific community organized a successful boycott of the event, eliminating the intended drama that would attract news media attention. The SBOE also took the position that one cannot believe in both God and evolution, effectively denying other religions that view God as working through natural processes. In 2006, pro-science forces with support from the mainstream religious community, won control of the SBOE and voided their anti-science actions designed to sneak a state-endorsed religion (ID) into Kansas schools.

The battle in Kansas is expected to be refought in 2008 as ID/creationists try to once again wrest control of the state school board from the political moderates.

## SYMPOSIUM WRAP-UP

December—Part 2

### “Ores and Orogenesis” a Big Success!

The four-day AGS symposium on “Ores and Orogenesis: Circum-Pacific Tectonics, Geologic Evolution, and Ore Deposits,” which honored the career of William R. Dickinson,” was a big success. The meeting was held at the Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort from Wednesday 26 September to Saturday 29 September. There were 869 registrants from 27 countries, including 85 students. The attendees represented 96 universities from 16 countries, 237 companies, and 22 governmental entities. The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), Society of Economic Geologists (SEG), the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME), and the Geological Society of Nevada (GSN) co-sponsored the meeting.

After the opening plenary session, there were three or four concurrent sessions, during which 168 talks were presented. The meeting also featured 84 posters, and the top three student posters in both the tectonics and ore deposits categories were awarded cash prizes. The main meeting was preceded by a one-day symposium on “Advances in the Understanding of Supergene Processes” sponsored by SEG on Tuesday 25 September, which drew 251 registrants, including 20 students.

Corporate sponsorships of over \$165,000 subsidized the meeting. Of this amount, more than \$60,000 was earmarked for students and supported attendance by 33 graduate students and 9 undergraduate students from several continents. We are grateful for a last-minute sponsorship at the Gold Level by ExxonMobil.

The conference also ran 12 pre- and post-meeting field trips that were attended by 262 people and 4 short courses that had 122 attendees. The exhibit hall contained booths of 28 vendors and organizations. The meeting featured well-attended luncheon talks by Bill Dickinson, Jack Thompson, and Douglas Silver, and a variety of social events, highlighted by the reception and banquet honoring Bill Dickinson.

The program with abstracts and field trip guidebooks were available at the meeting. The proceedings will be contained in Arizona Geological Society Digest 22, to be published in 2008, which will contain numerous color illustrations.

The symposium committee was gratified by the large attendance and positive response to the meeting. Bills are still being paid, so a future report will assess the financial results of the symposium. —Eric Seedorff, Symposium Chairman

## Ores & Orogenesis Symposium 2007 Organizers and Presenters



*Bruce Kilpatrick and Bob Kamilli*



*Bob Cummings*

*Peter McGaw and Tony Kuehn*



*Mike Alter*



*Lukas Zurcher*



*Claudia Stone and Keith Rodgers*

*Cori Hoag and Spence Titley*





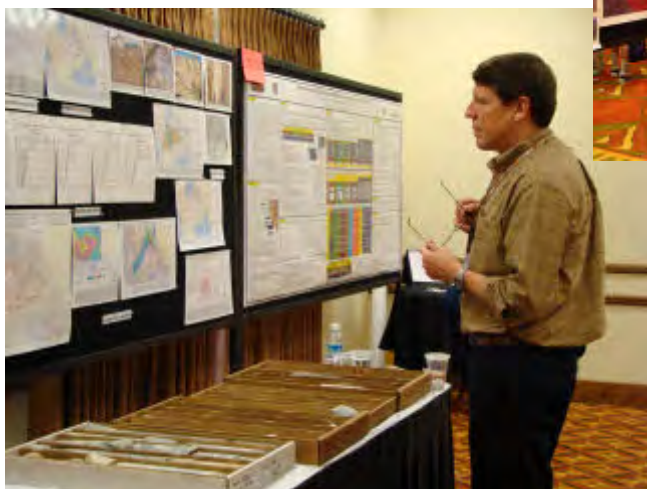
# Ores & Orogenesis Symposium 2007 Sponsors, Exhibitors, Posters, and Food



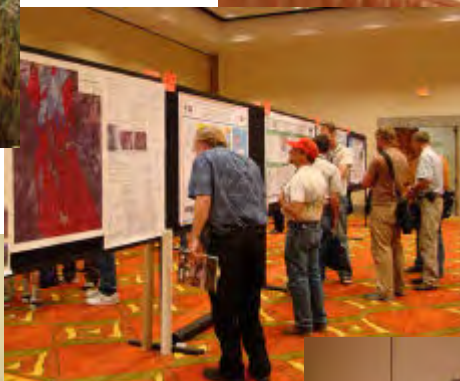
*Rio Tinto*



*Skyline Laboratories*



*Studying Posters*



*Lunch-time Buffet*



*SRK Consulting, Inc.*



*Lunch on the stairs of El Conquistador*





**Ores & Orogenesis Symposium 2007**  
**Field Trip 19—Core Complex Geology Along the Catalina Highway**





## ARIZONA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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AGS books and maps are sold at the monthly  
dinner meeting and by the  
Arizona Geological Survey. Visit the  
AZGS website [www.azgs.state.az.us](http://www.azgs.state.az.us)  
and click on Non-AZGS Publications

*As always, please keep us up to date as you move, change jobs, or change your e-mail address.*

### 2008 AGS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FORM

Please mail check with membership form to: Arizona Geological Society, P.O. Box 40952, Tucson, AZ 85717. Dues (circle one): 1 year: \$15; 2 years: \$30; 3 years: \$40. Full-time students receive free membership (E-mail only). However, a membership application form must be returned to AGS annually to remain on the membership list.

Renew before 2008 to take advantage of 2007 membership dues.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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State

Zip Code

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send the newsletter by E-mail only ☐ by regular mail only ☐ by E-mail AND regular mail ☐

If registered geologist or engineer, indicate registration number and state: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a \_\_\_\_\_ tax-deductible contribution to the J. Harold Courtright Scholarship Fund.