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Funding

Clare Bond and **Rob Butler** are the Co-Is on a new JIP - the Fold-Thrust Research Group — which began in September. **Hannah Watkins** is the postdoctoral research fellow employed on the project. With funding for three years from InterOil, Oil Search and Santos, the project will have a strong focus on exploration in PNG.

Alex Brasier is the PI on a new project - Recreating Habitable Environments of the Early Earth: Understanding Ancient Processes and Detecting Ancient Life. Funded by a Royal Society Research Grant, with £15k for geobiochemical laboratory equipment.

Enrique Gomez-Rivas has been awarded a small grant (€1,700) for a research visit from the Microdynamics of Ice international research network, funded by the European Science Foundation (ESF): "Deformation microstructures, fracturing and fluid flow through salt rocks: insights from the Cabanasses mine (Ebro Basin, Barcelona, NE Spain)".

Dave Healy has secured £358k from NERC for a new project – Quantifying the Anisotropy of Permeability in Stressed Rock. This is a joint project with University College London (UCL) with Dr Tom Mitchell and Prof. Phil Meredith, with a total value of £838k (~£1m fEC). Aberdeen is the Lead Organisation. UCL will complete a novel deformation cell capable of applying truly triaxial stresses to large (50 mm) rock samples and simultaneously measure their permeability in 3 directions. A 3-year PDRA at Aberdeen will quantify the evolution of porosity and permeability with stress, and model the consequences for fault stability and seismic activity, with Prof. Fred Cappa in Nice.

Ben Kneller reports that Petrochina and BP have both confirmed their participation in Ben Kneller's JIP PRAX-2 - Predicting Reservoir Architecture in Deep-water Systems, joining Statoil and Det Norske.

Conferences, Presentations

Bas Buddendorf, PhD student in the hydrology group, supervised by **Chris Soulsby** and **Josie Geris** presented on his work on hydropower impacts on the connectivity of aquatic ecosystems at the 9th Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences in Geneva, Switzerland.

Bourhane A., Cordier E., Join J-L., Ibrahim K., **Comte J.C.** 2015. Groundwater vulnerability to seawater intrusion in volcanic islands inferred from harmonic decomposition of hydrogeological time series, AQUA 2015 - 42nd Annual Congress of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, Rome, 13th-18th Sept.

Members of the **Deep Water Systems** research group gave presentations at the annual BG research forum, including **Guilherme Bozetti**, **Matheus Sobiesiak**, **Amanda Santa Catharina**, **Thisiane Dos Santos**, **Qun Liu**, **Dugmar Mendez Fermin**, and **Larissa Hansen**.

Enrique Gomez-Rivas attended the 15th Bathurst Conference of Carbonate Sedimentologists in early July, where he gave a talk entitled "Stylolite networks as a primary control on the geometry of massive diagenetic alterations", and presented a poster on "Fluid flow and the formation of massive hydrothermal alterations in carbonates".

Conferences, Presentations (continued...)

Enrique Gomez-Rivas attended the 20th International Conference on Deformation Mechanisms, Rheology and Tectonics (DRT), in Aachen (Germany), where he gave talk on 11th September entitled: "Can stylolite networks control the geometry of hydrothermal alterations?"

Dave Healy gave a talk at the EAGE Faults & Top Seals conference in Almeria (20-24th September) entitled 'Permeability Anisotropy in Faulted Sandstone - Implications for Fault Seal' (co-authored by **Natalie Farrell**). **Roberto Rizzo** presented a poster 'Permeability Estimation in a Multi-fractured Top Seal'. **Sarah Weihmann** presented a poster 'Predicting Hydraulically Conductive Fractures - A Comparison of Methods'.

Chris Soulsby gave a seminar to the Department of Environmental Systems Science at ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

Esteem

Rob Butler gave an invited keynote talk: at the 12th Emile Argand Alpine Workshop, Montgenevre, September 2015: Geological inheritance and Alpine Tectonics: implications for the temporal evolution of orogens.

Luca De Siena gave three invited talks at (1) the University of Salerno, (2) the INGV - Osservatorio Vesuviano, and (3) the RIISC Lab., University of Napoli (Italy) in the frame of a new cooperation funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh-Academia dei Lincei bilateral travel grant.

Luca De Siena gave an invited talk at the University of Münster (Germany) in the frame of a new cooperation funded by the COPS Santander Mobility Award.

Enrique Gomez-Rivas chaired a session on "Fault Processes, Fault rock evolution and Seismicity" at the 20th International Conference on Deformation Mechanisms, Rheology and Tectonics (DRT), in Aachen (Germany) on 11th September.

Nick Schofield won the DG Roberts/Peter Ziegler prize for Best Paper at the 8th Petroleum Geology Conference of Northwest Europe, for his presentation 'Intrusive and extrusive sequences and their interactions with hydrocarbon systems - a key geoscience challenge?'

Chris Soulsby gave a keynote talk at the annual meeting of the international EU COST action CONNECTEUR: Connecting European Connectivity Research, held at the University of Durham.

Doerthe Tetzlaff gave an invited talk at the "Frontiers in Ecohydrology and Freshwater Science" seminar series at the IGB Leibniz Institute in Berlin, Germany.

Field work & visits

Jean-Christophe Comte and Baptiste Marteau led a 4 day geophysical survey in River Ehen, in the Lake District National Park, NW England, using the School's new electrical resistivity tomography kit. The survey aimed to provide high-resolution imaging of the internal sedimentary structure of an alluvial fan located in the upper reaches of the Ehen. Survey data will be used to both help preliminary understanding of the lithological controls on flow and sediment dynamics in this ecologically important river and as pilot research for further funding application. The survey forms part of a wider river restoration project being undertaken in the Ehen, currently funded by the Environment Agency and United Utilities (the local water company) and directed by Chris Gibbins.

Jean-Christophe Comte visited at the end of August the Institute of Research for Development IRD and the Water Resource Directorate in Cotonou, Benin, as part of the EuropeAid/African Union research Grant GRIBA 'Groundwater resources in basement rock of Africa' (co-investigator). He delivered two seminars for PhD and MSc students in Hydrology and Geophysics of the University of Abomey Calavi and the hydrogeology staff of the Water Directorate; and also co-convened the GRIBA project closing workshop gathering Benin research partners and water stakeholders.

Dave Healy, Roberto Rizzo and **Enrique Gomez-Rivas** visited the Spireslack open-cast coal pit in Ayrshire to build a virtual outcrop model of fracture network data, using a well-exposed pavement of the Macdonald limestone (Carboniferous).

John Howell has been busy with field work: with Colm Pierce doing virtual outcrop work in Ireland 3rd - 8th August; with Dougal Jerram in Namibia 19th - 25th August; with Magda Chmielewska, James Mullins, Eva Zimmer, Luca Agostini and Mustafizur Rahman (and a group from Bergen), on the Yorkshire Coast 7th - 12th September; and with Colm Pierce in Arizona doing Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) 14th - 22nd September.

Ben Kneller spent three weeks at Ocean College of Zhejiang University (#3 in China) on a Chinese Government's High-End Foreign Experts Short-Term Recruitment Program. He also visited (with his PhD student **Pan Li**) China University of Geosciences at Wuhan, where he was made Visiting Professor. He and Pan visited the State Key Laboratory for Marine Science at Tongji University in Shanghai, where they discussed participation in a deep-water turbidity current monitoring program in the South China Sea, offshore Taiwan.

Matteo Spagnolo spent two weeks in the USA working with Prof. Shuster (University of California at Berkeley) on a project aiming to use cosmogenic noble gases on glacial deposits to reconstruct the climate of the past 25,000 years in the European Alps.

Outreach, training & media

Rob Butler ran a two-week training course for the NERC Oil and Gas CDT on Exploration in extreme environments, with Rod Graham in the French Alps (August-September 2015). Attended by 29 PhD students from throughout the UK and supported by Shell and Statoil.

Outreach (continued...)

John Howell gave a talk at the annual Tech Fest: Geology for Climbers and Walkers.

Nick Rawlinson's recent Nature paper (see Publications, above) made the front page of the Guardian newspaper (online) on September 15th:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/15/worlds-longest-continental-volcano-chain-discovered-in-australia}$

Other

Wu Jianan arrived from China with a China Scholarship Council grant, to start his PhD with **Ben Kneller** on deepwater system architecture.

The **Tectonics & Geophysics staff** will organise 21st International Conference on Deformation Mechanisms, Rheology and Tectonics (DRT) in Ullapool in May 2017. **Enrique Gomez-Rivas** coordinated and presented the UoA bid at the 2015 edition of this conference, in Aachen (Germany).

Enrique Gomez-Rivas and **John Howell** have a new PhD student: Shuqing Yao. She will work on "Improved understanding of fluid flow in partially dolomitised hydrocarbon reservoirs".

Dr. Juan Diego Martín-Martín (Lecturer in Sedimentary Petrology at the University of Barcelona) visited our department for one month, from 22nd June to 23rd July, to work with **Enrique Gomez-Rivas** on characterisation of hydrothermal dolomitisation fronts and their impact on reservoir quality distribution in carbonate reservoirs.

Dr. Albert Griera (Lecturer in Structural Geology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona) visited our department from 30th August until 9th September, to work with **Enrique Gomez-Rivas** on the development of a C++ code to simulate trace element diffusion with fractionation, and to couple it with deformation and dynamic recrystallisation processes. Albert came with a short exchange visit grant funded by the European Science Foundation (ESF).

John Parnell reports that we have been joined by **Liam Bullock** (PDRA) and **Joe Armstrong** (PhD), both working on the NERC TEASE project (tellurium and selenium in organic-rich sediments).

Congratulations to **Patricia Wiltshire**, who successfully defended her PhD thesis ('Developing Forensic Palynology').

Success for 6th "Aberdeen Catchment Science" Postgraduate Summer school at the Northern Rivers Institute: an advanced summer school on catchment science for PhD students and Post Docs was held for the fifth time in August at the **Northern Rivers Institute.** The 5-day short course was organised by **Professors Jeff McDonnell** (6th Century Chair), **Chris Soulsby, Doerthe Tetzlaff** and **Dr Josie Geris**. 30 students from 18 countries attended the workshop. The organisers were assisted by internationally-leading instructors Professor Keith Beven from the University of Lancaster (the World's most highly cited hydrologist) and Dr Rick Hooper, the Director of CUAHSI (Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science) in the US. This high-level course aimed to be a master-class for a selective group of

Other (continued...)

international students interested in a "hands-on" catchment science curriculum, focusing on northern catchments, runoff processes and combined hydrometric, isotope/chemical tracer and modelling techniques in catchment hydrology. Four days of lectures and exercises on data analysis and modelling were supported by a one day field trip in the middle of the week. The trip went to the River Dee and the experimental catchment of the Girnock Burn near Ballater. The course was enormously successful; feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive.

In his role as a member of the AGU (American Geophysical Union) Fellows Selection Committee, **Chris Soulsby** attended the annual selection meeting in Washington DC, US.

Dr. Pertti Ala-Aho, who received his PhD from the University of Oulu, Finland started his work as a postdoc in **Chris Soulsby**'s NERC funded "SIWA" project in August. Pertti's research aims to improve the understanding of integrated surface and subsurface hydrological processes in cold climate environments.

Matthias Sprenger, who received his PhD from the University of Freiburg, Germany, started his work as a postdoc in **Doerthe Tetzlaff**'s ERC funded project VeWa in September. Matthias expertise lies in using stable isotope tracers, in particular to understand and predict hydrological processes within the vadose zone.

Aaron Neil, who received his MSc and BSc at University of Durham, started his PhD under the supervision of **Doerthe Tetzlaff**, Norval Strachan and **Chris Soulsby**. Aaron's PhD is funded through the Scottish Government's HYDRONATION program and the topic is "Linking small-scale hydrological flow paths, connectivity and microbiological transport to protect remote private water supplies".

Doerthe Tetzlaff and **Chris Soulsby** spent two weeks at the Department of Environmental Systems Science at the ETH Zurich, Switzerland in September collaborating with Professor Jim Kirchner.

The Swedish Ambassador to The UK, HE Nicola Clase, visited the University on 8th September. Professor **Doerthe Tetzlaff** was asked to present an overview of hers and her team's research on "Resilience of water resources under climate change in northern regions" which was extremely well received leading to discussions on the topic of climate change and resilience.

Claire Tunaley, PhD student in the Hydrology group and supervised by Chris Soulsby and Doerthe Tetzlaff, attended a postgraduate summer school on Carbon Dynamics at SLU Umea, Sweden, which is held every two years. She combined her visit to also attend the annual Krycklan symposium at SLU Umea, Sweden.

And finally, **Clive Rice** has found gold. Literally. In his own words:

Honeaite: A new gold-thallium-telluride from the Yilgarn Craton

Clive Rice*, John Still*, Mark Welch**, Alan Criddle** and Chris Stanley**. *AU, **Natural History Museum, London.

Honeaite was discovered by the late Russell Honea, a consulting mineralogist, at the Karonie gold mine in the Eastern Goldfields province of Western Australia. He suspected it might be a new mineral but didn't have the time or equipment available to prove it. So, via a mutual acquaintance in Colorado, it arrived on my desk in 1999. John Still and I readily established the chemistry, petrography and some of the optics but the crystals were too small at <50 microns to extract for a structural analysis. There the matter rested until last year when we discovered a few larger c.90 micron grains, from which Mark Welch at the NHM carried out a full structural analysis.

Honeaite is bluish grey with a reflectance of about 50% in air. The formula is Au3TITe2. It is orthorhombic and has a unique structure with no synthetic analogues. It comprises corrugated {100} sheets of connected 6 membered rings of TeAu3 polyhedra. Thallium atoms form rows connecting adjacent corrugated sheets of TeAu3 polyhedra. The mineral has been approved by the Commission on New Minerals and a paper will appear in the Mineralogical Magazine.

The mineralization is late Archaean and amphibolite-hosted within a shear zone and probably falls into the orogenic gold category. However, the additional presence of molybdenite and bismuth tellurides suggest it may be intrusion-related instead. Mineral relationships show that the mineralization is post peak metamorphism and ductile deformation and is related to brittle structures. Thus, it was probably emplaced during late orogenic uplift and cooling. Work is continuing.

Next copy deadline: December 7th, 2015

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