

**Report from the 18th annual V.M.
Goldschmidt Conference - "from Sea to
Sky"
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I am much obliged to the Geochemistry Group for their financial support which facilitated my participation in the 2008 Goldschmidt conference in Vancouver. At this conference I presented a talk entitled "*Calcite Growth Orientation and Trace Metal Uptake: Implications for Biomineral Proxies*" in a session discussing new insights into palaeo-climate proxies. During my talk I presented data from my PhD project, which focuses on elucidating the fundamental controls over trace metal incorporation into biomineralised carbonates, in order to further the development of palaeo-environmental proxies used to reconstruct past ocean conditions.

Goldschmidt 2008 is the first international conference that I've attended, and I found it an enormously enjoyable and informative experience. The conference was held at the University of British Columbia, set against spectacular scenery. We were fortunate enough to have glorious weather, and the organisers had thoughtfully provided lunch outdoors so attendees could make the most of the sun!

The sessions that I attended were varied, revealing, and often lively. The opportunity to attend the talks of eminent scientists, experts in their fields, was very exciting. Perhaps even more stimulating was the chance to discuss and explore the current research of other groups, and exchange ideas with fellow geochemists. The experience of giving a talk in front of such an audience, in spite of the inevitable nerves, was invaluable. I received much positive feedback and advice, and was able to establish new links with researchers in my field. The entire event has left me feeling inspired, and looking forward to any future international conferences that I'll be lucky enough to attend.

Many thanks, again, to the Geochemistry Group for enabling this wonderful experience.