PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL KECK RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM IN GEOLOGY

April 2014
Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

Dr. Robert J. Varga, Editor
Director, Keck Geology Consortium
Pomona College

Dr. Michelle Markley
Symposium Convener
Mt. Holyoke College

Carol Morgan
Keck Geology Consortium Administrative Assistant

Christina Kelly
Symposium Proceedings Layout & Design
Office of Communication & Marketing
Scripps College

Keck Geology Consortium
Geology Department, Pomona College
185 E. 6th St., Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 607-0651, keckgeology@pomona.edu, keckgeology.org

ISSN# 1528-7491

The Consortium Colleges  The National Science Foundation  ExxonMobil Corporation
2013-2014 PROJECTS

MAGNETIC AND GEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF IN SITU OBSIDIAN, NEW MEXICO:
Faculty: ROB STERNBERG, Franklin & Marshall College, JOSHUA FEINBERG, Univ. Minnesota, STEVEN SHACKLEY, Univ. California, Berkeley, ANASTASIA STEFFEN, Valles Caldera Trust, and Dept. of Anthropology, University of New Mexico
Students: ALEXANDRA FREEMAN, Colorado College, ANDREW GREGOVICH, Colorado College, CAROLINE HACKETT, Smith College, MICHAEL HARRISON, California State Univ.-Chico, MICHAELA KIM, Mt. Holyoke College, ZACHARY OSBORNE, St. Norbert College, AUDRUANNA POLLEN, Occidental College, MARGO REGIER, Beloit College, KAREN ROTH, Washington & Lee University

TECTONIC EVOLUTION OF THE FLYSCH OF THE CHUGACH TERRANE ON BARANOY ISLAND, ALASKA:
Faculty: JOHN GARVER, Union College, CAMERON DAVIDSON, Carleton College
Students: BRIAN FRETT, Carleton College, KATE KAMINSKI, Union College, BRIANNA RICK, Carleton College, MEGHAN RIEHL, Union College, CLAUDIA ROIG, Univ. of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, ADRIAN WACKETT, Trinity University,

EVALUATING EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE IN CONNECTICUT RIVER FLOODPLAIN ENVIRONMENT:
Faculty: ROBERT NEWTON, Smith College, ANNA MARTINI, Amherst College, JON WOODRUFF, Univ. Massachusetts, Amherst, BRIAN YELLEN, University of Massachusetts
Students: LUCY ANDREWS, Macalester College, AMY DELBECQ, Beloit College, SAMANTHA DOW, Univ. Connecticut, CATHERINE DUNN, Oberlin College, WESLEY JOHNSON, Univ. Massachusetts, RACHEL JOHNSON, Carleton College, SCOTT KUGEL, The College of Wooster, AIDA OROZCO, Amherst College, JULIA SEIDENSTEIN, Lafayette College

Funding Provided by:
Keck Geology Consortium Member Institutions
The National Science Foundation Grant NSF-REU 1062720
ExxonMobil Corporation
A GEOBIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING DOLOMITE FORMATION AT DEEP SPRINGS LAKE, CA
Faculty: DAVID JONES, Amherst College, JASON TOR, Hampshire College,
Students: KYRA BRISON, Hampshire College, KYLE METCALFE, Pomona College, MICHELLE PARDIS,
Williams College, CECILIA PEASO, Amherst College, HANNAH PLON, Wesleyan Univ., KERRY STREIFF,
Whitman College

POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF WATER-LEVEL CHANGES ON ON ISLAND ECOSYSTEMS: A GIS SPATIOTEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF SHORELINE CONFIGURATION
Faculty: KIM DIVER, Wesleyan Univ.
Students: RYAN EDGLEY, California State Polytechnical University-Pomona, EMILIE SINKLER, Wesleyan University

PĀHOEHOE LAVA ON MARS AND THE EARTH: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF INFLATED AND DISRUPTED FLOWS
Faculty: ANDREW DE WET, Franklin & Marshall College, CHRIS HAMILTON, Univ. Maryland, JACOB BLEACHER, NASA, GSFC, BRENT GARRY, NASA-GSFC
Students: SUSAN KONKOL, Univ. Nevada-Reno, JESSICA MCHALE, Mt. Holyoke College, RYAN SAMUELS, Franklin & Marshall College, MEGAN SWITZER, Colgate University, HESTER VON MEERSCHEIDT, Boise State University, CHARLES WISE, Vassar College

THE GEOMORPHIC FOOTPRINT OF MEGATHRUST EARTHQUAKES: A FIELD INVESTIGATION OF CONVERGENT MARGIN MORPHOTECTONICS, NICOYA PENINSULA, COSTA RICA
Faculty: JEFF MARSHALL, Cal Poly Pomona, TOM GARDNER, Trinity University, MARINO PROTTI, OVSICORI-UNA, SHAWN MORRISH, Cal Poly Pomona
Students: RICHARD ALFARO-DIAZ, Univ. of Texas-El Paso, GREGORY BRENN, Union College, PAULA BURGI, Smith College, CLAYTON FREIMUTH, Trinity University, SHANNON FASOLA, St. Norbert College, CLAIRE MARTINI, Whitman College, ELIZABETH OLSON, Washington & Lee University, CAROLYN PRESCOTT, Macalester College, DUSTIN STEWART, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, ANTHONY MURILLO GUTIÉRREZ, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA)

HOLOCENE AND MODERN CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE HIGH ARCTIC, SVALBARD NORWAY
Faculty: AL WERNER, Mt. Holyoke College, STEVE ROOF, Hampshire College, MIKE RETELLE, Bates College
Students: JOHANNA EIDMANN, Williams College, DANA REUTER, Mt. Holyoke College, NATASHA SIMPSON, Pomona (Pitzer) College, JOSHUA SOLOMON, Colgate University

Funding Provided by:
Keck Geology Consortium Member Institutions
The National Science Foundation Grant NSF-REU 1062720
ExxonMobil Corporation
MAGNETIC AND GEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF GEOREFERENCED OBSIDIAN SAMPLES FROM FOUR SOURCE AREAS IN NEW MEXICO  
Faculty: ROB STERNBERG, Franklin & Marshall College  
M. STEVEN SHACKLEY, Geoarchaeological XRF Laboratory, Albuquerque, NM,  
JOSHUA M. FEINBERG, Institute for Rock Magnetism, University of Minnesota  
ANASTASIA STEFFEN, Valles Caldera Trust, and Dept. of Anthropology, University of New Mexico

OBSIDIAN ARTIFACT PROVENANCE STUDY OF THE PIEDRAS MARCADAS PUEBLO, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO  
ALEXANDRA FREEMAN, The Colorado College  
Research Advisor: Christian M. Schrader, The Colorado College

MAGNETIC PROPERTIES OF CERRO TOLEDO OBSIDIAN  
ANDREW GREGOVIICH, Colorado College  
Research Advisors: Christian M. Schroder, Colorado College and Joshua M. Feinberg, University of Minnesota

GEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE MULE CREEK OBSIDIAN, NEW MEXICO  
CAROLINE HACKETT, Smith College  
Research Advisor: Mark Brandriss

MAGNETIC CHARACTERISTICS OF OBSIDIANS IN MULE CREEK, NM  
MICHAEL BABATUNDE HARRISON, California State University, Chico  
Research Advisor: Todd J. Greene

BASIC PALEOMAGNETIC PROPERTIES OF OBSIDIAN FROM THE MOUNT TAYLOR REGION OF NEW MEXICO  
MICHAELA KIM, Mount Holyoke College  
Research Advisor: Michelle Markley

HYSTERESIS AND LOW-TEMPERATURE MAGNETIC PROPERTIES OF MOUNT TAYLOR OBSIDIAN  
ZACH OSBORNE, St. Norbert College  
Research Advisor: Joshua M. Feinberg, University of Minnesota - IRM

EFFECTS OF WILDFIRE ON FLOAT OBSIDIAN CLASTS FROM THE VALLES CALDERA, NEW MEXICO  
AUDRIANNA POLLEN, Occidental College  
Research Advisor: Dr. Scott Bogue

INTRA AND INTER-SOURCE MAGNETIC PROVENANCING OF MULE CREEK REGIONAL SOURCE OBSIDIAN  
MARGO REGIER, Beloit College  
Research Advisors: James Rougvie, Beloit College and Joshua M. Feinberg, University of Minnesota

Funding Provided by:  
Keck Geology Consortium Member Institutions  
The National Science Foundation Grant NSF-REU 1062720  
ExxonMobil Corporation
GEOCHEMICAL VARIABILITY OF OBSIDIAN IN WESTERN NEW MEXICO WITH LABORATORY-BASED PXRF
KAREN ROTH, Washington and Lee University
Research Advisor: Jeffrey Rahl

Funding Provided by:
Keck Geology Consortium Member Institutions
The National Science Foundation Grant NSF-REU 1062720
ExxonMobil Corporation
MAGNETIC AND GEOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF GEOREFERENCED OBSIDIAN SAMPLES FROM FOUR SOURCE AREAS IN NEW MEXICO

ROB STERNBERG, Franklin & Marshall College
M. STEVEN SHACKLEY, Geoarchaeological XRF Laboratory, Albuquerque, NM,
JOSHUA M. FEINBERG, Institute for Rock Magnetism, University of Minnesota
ANASTASIA STEFFEN, Valles Caldera Trust, and Dept. of Anthropology, University of New Mexico

INTRODUCTION

There are a number of geologic sources of archaeological obsidian in the Greater Southwest (Figure 1) and the goal of this Keck project was to further characterize the magnetism and geochemistry of a small but important subset in order to explore intra-flow variability. In the summer of 2013, we sampled four obsidian source areas in New Mexico: Mule Creek, Mt. Taylor, Obsidian Ridge, and Cerro del Medio (we have sometimes lumped the last two together as “Jemez/Valles Caldera”). In each area, we collected samples from multiple localities. One of these localities in the Mule Creek area, here called west Antelope Creek (sometimes called Danny Welch), had not previously been known. Over 3,000 unoriented samples, the majority of which were georeferenced, were collected from all localities. Some samples were pried in situ from perlitic matrices; the majority were marekanites. Some field measurements of magnetic susceptibility were made, but samples were primarily brought back for laboratory analyses of geochemical, paleomagnetic, and rock magnetic properties. We also attempted to provenance archaeological artifacts from two archaeological sites. The pilot studies in obsidian magnetism pursued in this project are an important contribution towards increasing the global utility of obsidian studies.

PROVENANCE HYPOTHESIS

The idea of provenance in archaeology allows the tracing back of raw materials to a geologic source. Wilson and Pollard (2001) summarize the components of the “provenance hypothesis”:

1. Some property of the geologic raw material is maintained as the material is transformed into the finished object, or artifact;
2. Potential sources of the raw material have characteristic “fingerprints,” i.e., they can be discriminated from each other by suitable measurements, because inter-source variability of the property considered is greater than intra-source variability;

3. Raw materials are not mixed (or the result of doing so can be estimated);

4. Post-depositional processes do not obscure the fingerprint.

In addition, these authors stress the importance of being able to use the information acquired to help interpret human behavior, such as the patterns of procurement of the raw material. Lithics such as obsidians are particularly suitable for provenance studies in that, unlike ceramics or metals, there is essentially no chance for different raw material to be mixed in producing the final object. Sometimes groups can be discriminated via simple bivariate plots, although multivariate statistics are often employed.

OBISDIAN GEOCHEMISTRY STUDIES IN THE SOUTHWEST

The availability of obsidian for production of artifacts and now provenance studies in the Southwest is due to silicic volcanism peculiar to this part of the North American plate (Goff 2009). Studies by Boyer and Robinson (1956) in northwestern New Mexico, including Valles Caldera, and by Jack (1971) and Schreiber and Breed (1971) in the San Francisco Volcanic Field represent the earliest attempts to chemically characterize Southwestern obsidians for archaeological problems. By the late 1980s, archaeological obsidian studies in the North American Southwest had come of age (Hughes, 1988; Shackley, 1988; Stevenson et al., 1990), although only five or six sources of archaeological obsidian had been chemically fingerprinted. Now, over 55 sources and source groups in the region have been mapped and chemically characterized (Shackley, 2005; see Figure 1). This database has allowed for more nuanced studies of Southwestern prehistory, including inferences of exchange, social identity, migration, and long-term social change (Arakawa et al., 2011; Duff et al., 2012; Mills et al., 2013). Archaeological obsidian provenance studies are now part of normal science in Southwestern archaeological research.

At the Valles Caldera National Preserve (VCNP) in particular, obsidian studies are a central research component of the cultural resources management program. Geochemical analyses have been used to produce systematic elemental characterizations for, thus far, two of the Jemez Mountains obsidian-bearing source deposits, the Cerro Toledo and the Valles Rhyolites. The focus is on evaluating potential intra-source variation rather than inter-source distinctions, providing not only a more detailed consideration of geographical distributions of obsidian composition but also a more nuanced treatment of the role of glass composition for obsidian hydration dating. VCNP research projects are exploring, among other questions, how Jemez Mountains obsidian artifacts were used in prehistory across North America (Steffen and LeTourneau, 2007).

MAGNETIC STUDIES OF OBISDIANS

Past research on the magnetic properties of obsidian has varied in focus and scale. Although obsidian typically exhibits many of the rock magnetic properties that would be considered ideal for a traditional paleomagnetic study (e.g., high coercivities and remanence ratios), such studies are few and far between because obsidian blocks are rarely found in the same position that they were in during cooling. Thus, a paleomagnetic direction cannot be recovered from the obsidian’s magnetization, although there have been several recent studies that have used obsidian as a recorder of the paleointensity of the geomagnetic field (e.g., Ferk et al., 2011).

Rock magnetic studies of obsidian are more common and are typically conducted within an archaeological context, where researchers try to discern populations of obsidian that originated from different flows. McDougall et al. (1983) demonstrated that individual obsidian sources created discrete distributions of magnetic parameters on simple bivariate plots, and suggested that such patterns could potentially be used to determine the provenance of unknown samples. Geochemical provenancing of obsidian has since matured considerably, and field-based portable
X-ray Fluorescence (pXRF) instruments allow rapid characterization of an obsidian artifact’s geologic source. Thus, to continue to be useful, the magnetic analysis of obsidian must provide some additional information about an artifact’s origin that geochemical characterization cannot.

Recent work by Frahm and Feinberg (2013a, 2013b, 2013c) has demonstrated several ways in which magnetic information can continue to be useful to obsidian sourcing studies. First, there are some instances where two separate obsidian flows may have virtually identical geochemistry, and a different kind of characterization is needed to differentiate whether an artifact originated from one or the other flow. Second, an analysis of obsidian artifacts from Tell Mozan, Syria, revealed that ancient knappers were carefully selecting obsidian with low concentrations of very fine-grained crystallites. When compared to an assortment of obsidian samples collected from the same eruptive centers, the archaeological obsidian had notably lower magnetic susceptibilities and saturation magnetizations, and significantly higher coercivities and remanence ratios (see also Gregovich, this volume). Third, the magnetic properties within an individual obsidian flow vary in such a way that they can potentially be used to source obsidian objects to discrete quarry sites within the flow. In this way, the rock magnetics studies in this Keck project aim to test or further expand upon the models set out in Frahm and Feinberg (2013a). The existing obsidian geochemistry framework in the American Southwest established through decades of research provides an ideal backdrop for such rock magnetic research.

PROJECT OVERVIEWS

As summarized in Table 1, over 3000 samples were collected. Other than the samples at west Antelope Creek, which were only georeferenced into two groups on different terraces, most samples were either individually georeferenced, or georeferenced along with a group of nearby samples.

Students on the project (Figure 2) selected research problems based on their interests, the expertise of the advisers at their home institutions, availability of instrumentation, the research goals of the overall project, and logistics of sharing samples. Table 2 classifies the projects by general type of analysis and by location. For each of the three source areas, there was one paleomagnetic project, one rock magnetic project, and one geochemistry project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of samples</th>
<th>Mule Creek</th>
<th>Mt. Taylor</th>
<th>Jemez/Valles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N. Sawmill Creek</td>
<td>232</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antelope Creek</td>
<td>648</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>west Antelope Creek</td>
<td>143</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Ridge</td>
<td>459</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horace Mesa</td>
<td>575</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Jara Mesa</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Peter’s Dome</td>
<td>487</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obsidian Ridge</td>
<td>143</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerro del Medio</td>
<td>626</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotals</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>1103</td>
<td>1256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3382</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Michael Harrison and Michaela Kim measured basic paleomagnetic properties of magnetic susceptibility, strength of the natural remanent magnetization, and alternating field demagnetization from Mule Creek and Mt. Taylor, respectively. Median destructive fields were inferred from the demagnetizations. Previous work by Sternberg et al. (2010) suggested that susceptibility, NRM, and MDF had some ability to discriminate sources. Audrianna Pollen used thermal demagnetization on samples from Jemez/Valles to see if re-heatings and remagnetizations related to the forest fires that have occurred in this region (Steffen, 2002) could be inferred. Sternberg et al. (2013) made additional paleomagnetic measurements on samples from Mule Creek.

Andrew Gregovich, Zach Osborne, and Margo Regier visited the Institute for Rock Magnetism at the University of Minnesota for their projects, to measure rock magnetic properties such as hysteresis loops on more specialized equipment not always available at other paleomagnetic laboratories. This is an extension of initial rock magnetic work on Southwestern obsidians by Sternberg et al. (2011).

Alexandra Freeman, Caroline Hackett, and Karen Roth carried out geochemical studies. Alexandra worked on artifacts from Piedras Marcadas, a pueblo besieged by Coronado during his 1540-1542 expedition that we visited during our field season, to provenance obsidians to their geologic sources.

Caroline used high-precision WXRF analyses to compare against non-destructive EDXRF analysis done on samples from the same locations. Karen worked on portable-XRF in a laboratory setting, to test the merits this would have as a field technique relative to benchtop XRF.

### FUTURE SYNTHESIS

The student projects focused on specific source areas, using geochemistry, paleomagnetism, or rock magnetism. Once their projects are complete, our goals include: comparing any complementary geochemical methods from the student projects and previous work; taking a closer look at the geospatial variability or lack thereof of the various properties across the various localities; comparing the ability of geochemical and magnetic properties to distinguish among localities; considering whether magnetics is useful for distinguishing quarries within localities; applying multivariate analysis within localities. We also made some in situ measurements of magnetic susceptibility in outcrop while in the field; those results have not been included in these student projects, so we will re-analyze and include those with results from the samples brought back to the labs. Students at F&M have also been measuring some basic paleomagnetic properties of obsidian artifacts from the Dinwiddie archaeological site (Archaeology Southwest, 2014) in southwestern New Mexico, and we will examine how successfully they can be provenanced against the source localities studied.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF EAR-1062720 to Keck/Varga), the Keck Geology Consortium, and ExxonMobil Corporation. The Howard and Mary Patton Geophysics Award at F&M provided funds for Ryan Samuels of F&M to join us as a teaching assistant. Thanks to Ryan for driving and other assistance. Christian Schrader of Colorado College and Tim Flood of St. Norbert College visited us in the field and helped greatly with geological insights and logistical support. Permits were provided by the Gila National Forest, Cibola National Forest, Santa Fe National Forest, and Valles Caldera National Forest.

### Table 2. Student projects by source area, and whether the project was geochemical (GC), paleomagnetic (PM), or rock magnetic (RM).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Area</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mule Creek</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>Caroline Hackett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Michael Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Margo Regier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>Karen Roth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Michaela Kim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RM</td>
<td>Zach Osborne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GC (+artifacts)</td>
<td>Alexandra Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM (+artifacts)</td>
<td>Audrianna Pollen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RM (+artifacts)</td>
<td>Andrew Gregovich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Taylor</td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>Caroline Hackett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Michael Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Margo Regier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>Karen Roth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Michaela Kim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RM</td>
<td>Zach Osborne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GC (+artifacts)</td>
<td>Alexandra Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM (+artifacts)</td>
<td>Audrianna Pollen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemez/Valles</td>
<td>GC (+artifacts)</td>
<td>Andrew Gregovich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Student projects by source area, and whether the project was geochemical (GC), paleomagnetic (PM), or rock magnetic (RM). Karen Roth did geochemistry on samples from two areas. Alexandra Freeman worked on artifacts from the Piedras Marcadas archaeological site in Albuquerque, which mostly sourced to Jemez/Valles courses, but in one case sourced to Mt. Taylor.
Preserve. Advisers of the participating students at their home institutions mentored them throughout the year. Special thanks to Laurie Brown (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Mike Jackson (Institute for Rock Magnetism, University of Minnesota), Mike Rhodes (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), and Ken Verosub (University of California, Davis) for hosting lab visits by students. Diane Kadyk at F&M provided much helpful assistance, including the shipment of hundreds of obsidian samples.

REFERENCES


Shackley, M.S., 2005, Obsidian: geology and archaeology in the North American Southwest:


