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Gaea Launches International Corner

Debbie Hanneman

AWG has members in 24 countries, including Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, England, Germany, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Russia, Switzerland, South Korea, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, and Zambia. Beginning with this issue of *Gaea*, we are launching a newsletter section devoted to our international members with the hope of increasing their contact with other AWG members.

We've had occasional requests for AWG contacts from our international members so that they could communicate with other geosciences professionals. To address these requests we decided to try three new venues: 1) feature writings from international members in each *Gaea* issue, 2) a page at the AWG

website for international members, and 3) designated contact people for our international members.

Our main AWG contact liaison is Debbie Hanneman (hanneman@jeffersonvalley.net). Kholoud Mahamed Ali (kholoudmalii@yahoo.com) from the Institute of African Research and Studies at Cairo University, Egypt has also volunteered to be a contact point for international members. If you're interested in being a contact person for our international members, please e-mail Debbie Hanneman with your contact information.

As our first writing from an international member, we are pleased to have an essay from our newest international member, Kholoud Mahamed Ali (below on page 1).



Kholoud Mahamed Ali is a Research Assistant in the Department of Natural Resources at the Egypt Institute of African Research, Cairo University.

Geology Is Not Only an Important Science but Also Is Interesting, Exciting and Understandable

Kholoud Mahamed Ali

The title to this essay was my motto in my work, when I was teaching minerals and rocks to post-graduate students who were not geology majors. I used to tell them these words often during my lectures. It made me very happy when I met one of my Sudanese students and he told me that when he returned to Sudan he recognized all the rocks and minerals in his country! So I think that my teaching affected him positively, and that I succeeded in making him fall in love with geology.

I fell in love with geology myself during my first year in college. I found that geoscientists have a completely different view of the world than other scientists. Before studying geology, I visited a lot of places and saw many geologic

features. After becoming a geologist, I visited the same places, but I found out that my eyes had changed and my mind, too. For this reason I wish to tell AWG members a little about my work and the geology of Egypt.

I work at Cairo University in the Institute of African Research and Studies. This place is really amazing because it offers courses on all the African countries

in all fields of resources, politics, history, and anthropology.

My colleagues and I have different specializations. Some work on water resources, others on animal resources, while I work on mineral resources. Being female I decided to work on gold because gold is a good friend to any woman. I work on gold exploration in the eastern desert—a favorite place of

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will pursue a master's degree in geology. Her career goal is to become a professor of sedimentary geology and continue conducting field-based research in this discipline. We wish Anya all the best, and we are sure that she will continue to contribute to the earth sciences.



Anya Hess, Bucknell University, is the 2007 Brunton Award Winner.

AWG Brunton Award

The AWG Brunton Award promotes the future of field mapping and data acquisition for the upcoming generation of women geoscientists. It is awarded to a female geoscience student at the senior level or beginning their graduate studies who has been a summer intern, excelled at field camp, or performed field data collection that will lead to a senior or graduate thesis.

The award is funded by Brunton Inc. The application deadline is **October 31** each year. For information on applying visit: www.awg.org/eas/brunton.html.

Louise Pellerin is the AWG Brunton Award coordinator.

mine. I am aiming to extend this work after finishing my master's degree.

While working at the Institute of African Research and Studies I have gone on many field trips. I traveled much of Egypt, so I'll take you with me—summarizing my trips so you can know my country.

In western Egypt there is a desert with sand dunes and flattened areas that contain some depressions and oases. Geologists consider this desert a big aquifer because of a thick layer of limestone below the surface sands, which appears in some regions and is hidden in others.

In Egypt's geographic middle is the Nile Valley. You should take the trip up the Nile Valley yourself—it is a remarkable trip starting from the south in Aswan where there is fresh granite and basement rocks. My trip to Aswan should be written as a separate essay because Aswan is full of interesting scenes with ancient beauty and geology. Heading north from Aswan the sedimentary sections increase until reaching the top of the geologic column. You can recognize the complete Eocene-Miocene section, which is called the Mokattam Formation, in the center of Cairo.

Along the two shoulders of the Nile Valley I can recognize almost all the sedimentary section of Egypt (except for some sedimentary strata that are present only in the Sinai Peninsula). Most of Egypt is covered by limestone, and



beneath it are sandstones which are good aquifers for either water or oil.

Finally, to the north, there is the Nile Delta that has the most fertile soil in Egypt. Don't forget while you are on the Nile cruise that the oldest civilization in the world existed here, using all kinds of rocks for its building stones.

In Egypt's eastern desert is the Arabo-Nubian shield. This is my favorite place where all the basement of Egypt is exposed. Even the volcanics which occurred with the opening of the Red Sea appear there. This desert is a mirror image to the western side of Saudi Arabia and Yemen that lie on the other side of the Red Sea. Wow—what amazing geology!!

And last but not least, there is the Sinai Peninsula. The Sinai is divided. To the north, Egypt's sedimentary section is completed. The central part of Sinai contains basement rock and the great ring complex of Saint Catherine (syenites) and granitic intrusions. In the extreme south is the Ras Mohamed peninsula which is full of fossiliferous coral reefs deposited since the Tertiary. It is also considered as the triple junction of the Gulf of Suez, Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea.

This is a summary of my field trips in Egypt. I don't want to lengthen my essay, but I would really like to thank AWG for giving me the chance to write.

2008 ISEF

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Judging requirements: ISEF's Special Award Judges must have either a PhD, MD or equivalent or a minimum of six years teaching or research experience at a university or at the industrial level. They should be actively engaged in the field being judged.

Judging categories: behavioral and social sciences, biochemistry, cellu-

lar and molecular biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, engineering (materials and bioengineering), engineering (electrical and mechanical), energy and transportation, environmental analysis and management, mathematical sciences, medicine and health sciences, microbiology, physics and astronomy, and plant sciences.