

The late Paleozoic Gondwanan Ice Age: Towards a more Refined Understanding of Timing, Duration, and Character

October 20–21, 2005 (GSA meeting is October 16–19)

Salt Lake City, Utah. Meeting to be held in conjunction with the 2005 Geological Society of America Annual Convention

Conveners: Christopher R. Fielding and Tracy D. Frank (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), John L. Isbell (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Co-sponsored by NSF-EAR, NSF-ANT, and the CHRONOS and GEOSYSTEMS initiatives of NSF

We invite you to participate in an NSF-sponsored workshop and associated GSA Topical Session focused on resolving the late Paleozoic Gondwanan Ice Age in time and space. The workshop is to be held in conjunction with the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America.

The main goal of this workshop is to facilitate research on questions concerning the timing, duration, and extent of the late Paleozoic Gondwanan Ice Age (LPGIA) and the event's influence on Earth's oceans, climate, and biosphere. However, our goals are not unique. They are shared by workers studying every ice age from the Precambrian to the Quaternary. Because of the nature of the stratigraphic record, even for the Cenozoic, the complexity of the interactions between the cryosphere and other global systems remains poorly understood. Therefore, lessons learned from the study of any of Earth's glacial periods should be tested and applied to problems pertaining to the other glacial intervals. *To this end, we encourage the participation of researchers working on Precambrian, Ordovician, and Cenozoic ice ages, so that an exchange of ideas might aid in addressing problems universal to glaciation in general.*

The workshop is limited to 50 participants. Funds are available to cover accommodation at the workshop venue (twin share basis) for 50 people. Funding to cover airfare is available on a limited and competitive basis, with preference given to graduate students and post-docs. Travel funding will be competitive, and applicants should specify whether they wish to be considered for travel funding, and on what basis. Because the workshop is to be held in conjunction with the Annual GSA Meeting, it is anticipated that most participants will have their airfare covered by other means. Although international participants are welcome to attend the workshop, the terms of NSF funding dictate that financial support for the workshop will be restricted to those affiliated with a US institution.

Further details are provided on the back of this page. We hope to see you in Salt Lake City.

Sincerely,
Chris Fielding (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
Tracy Frank (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)
John Isbell (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

FORMAT and REGISTRATION

1. GSA Session:

We will be conducting a session at the 2005 GSA annual meeting titled Resolving the late Paleozoic Gondwanan Ice Age in time and space: integration of southern and northern hemisphere records (Topical Session Number 70). This session aims to bring together stratigraphers, sedimentologists and geochemists who are working on the climate record of the Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, and Permian systems worldwide. Emphasis will be placed on integrating geochemical with lithostratigraphic archives. The abstract deadline is 12 July, 2005. We strongly encourage workshop participants to submit abstracts to this session so that participants can be introduced to problems associated with the late Paleozoic ice age. The session will also serve as a summary on the current state of research being conducted by the geological community on events that occurred during that interval of time.

2. Workshop:

The workshop will begin following the close of the GSA convention. On the first day, a small number of position papers will be presented by invited keynote speakers who will review key problems associated with Earth's ice ages and pose key research questions that need to be addressed by the scientific community. These reviews might include: 1) late Paleozoic glaciation as recorded in the Gondwana Sequence, 2) non-glacial earth systems influenced by the ice age, 3) the geochemical record contained within upper Paleozoic strata, and 4) the stratigraphic, biogenic and geochemical aspects of other glacial periods.

All workshop participants will be encouraged to submit abstracts and to display small posters summarizing their research. During the first day, time will be provided for viewing the posters and for discussion of the poster and position papers. Following this, groups interested in particular subplots will break out to discuss issues of mutual scientific interest and to compare data sets from different areas. These groups will then report to the larger audience on the afternoon of the second day to identify similarities and differences between data sets and to identify key areas and topics that need to be addressed by the community through future research.

Cinzia Cervato of CHRONOS will demonstrate the CHRONOSTRAT database to workshop participants as a means of encouraging researches to utilize this tool during the course of their work. CHRONOS' presentation will include hands-on demonstrations of manipulating datasets including the use of a popular technique called Constrained Optimization. This technique, which can be used to analyze complex biostratigraphic datasets, is generally available through the initiative's various web-based portals.

REGISTRATION:

Those wishing to attend this workshop should submit the following information to Dr Tracy D. Frank (tfrank2@unl.edu) **by September 1:**

1. name,
2. affiliation,
3. postal address,
4. email address,
5. research interest and specialization,
6. brief description of issues or topics of specific interest to the workshop,
7. topic for presentation at the Topical GSA Session, if appropriate.