Rolling Rocks

Today’s Colloquium
Our very own Wesley Parker will be presenting the colloquium this week. His talk is titled: “Mollusk shells as environmental archives: Reconstructing paleo temperatures during aboriginal settlement in the Canary Islands, Spain”. It will be in Braunstein 300 started with refreshments at 4:30. Hopefully the University won’t be closed down due to the forecasted snowstorm.

More Grants
Yurena just got a National Geographic Society grant for $18,265.00 to work on "The stories shells hold: inferring ancient cultural and environmental history from mollusk middens in the Canary Islands." Well-done Yurena.

Lewis just got a grant for $17,000 from the Southern California Earthquake Center to work on OSL and TCN dating of active faults in Southern California.

New Papers
Here some more new papers:

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REVIEW
K-bentonites: A review

WARREN D. HUFF1,

1Department of Geology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221, U.S.A.

ABSTRACT
Pyroclastic material in the form of altered volcanic ash or tephra has been reported and described from one or more stratigraphic units from the Proterozoic to the Tertiary. This altered tephra, variously called bentonite or K-bentonite or tontstein depending on the degree of alteration and chemical composition, is often linked to large explosive volcanic eruptions that have occurred repeatedly in the past. K-bentonite and bentonite layers are the key components of a larger group of altered tephras that are useful for stratigraphic correlation and for interpreting the geodynamic evolution of our planet. Bentonites generally form by diagenetic or hydrothermal alteration under the influence of fluids with high-Mg content and that leach alkali elements. Smectite composition is partly controlled by parent rock chemistry. Studies have shown that K-bentonites often display variations in layer charge and mixed-layer clay ratios and that these correlate with physical properties and diagenetic history. The following is a review of known K-bentonite and related occurrences of altered tephra throughout the timescale from Precambrian to Cenozoic.

Keywords: K-bentonite, bentonite, tephra, explosive volcanism, volcanic ash, Review article

And

Please keep sending me your news.

Cheers,

Lewis