

April 15, 2011

AAPG Grants-in-Aid Committee
P.O. Box 979
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101-0979

Dear AAPG Foundation and Grants-in-Aid Committee,

I am graduating with an M.S. in Geology from Brigham Young University later this month. Part of the research funding for my thesis has come from the Horst and Jessie von Bandat Memorial Grant and the AAPG Foundation (2009). This letter is my final report upon completion of my project.

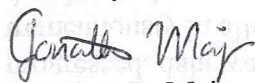
My thesis project addressed early arc-continent collision in the Banda Arc of Indonesia by focusing primarily on a small island located near the suture of Australian continental margin and the volcanic arc attached to Asia. The grant has specifically gone toward geochemistry and geochronology work, which tested the provenance of the metamorphic rocks found there. I confirmed previously obtained biostratigraphic age data with radiometric age data, and my research group is now trying to resolve the timing of metamorphism and cooling of these rocks to better understand the tectonic evolution of the emerging mountain belt.

My master's thesis has gone well and the research was very rewarding, although we found more new questions than answers. It arguably turned into a small dissertation as the research progressed, data was obtained, and new questions emerged. Adequate funding helped tremendously in allowing us to explore new paths as they opened. For example, we were able to develop and test a new technique for determining ages of giant clam shells found on uplifted coral terraces. The thesis project has helped advance research and understanding of the region and created new projects for other students at BYU in the near future.

My thesis has been approved and submitted to the university library. I am currently in the process of preparing two publications from the thesis work and planning a third. I am still waiting on a few items of lab work that I sent off many months ago. I will acknowledge the AAPG Foundation for funding the research in these publications and plan to inform the Foundation when they are accepted.

This grant and my project have helped prepare me for further research as I continue my academic career. I am starting a PhD this fall at University of Texas-Austin working in the FRAC research group at the Bureau of Economic Geology. I thank the AAPG Foundation for helping open up some truly amazing opportunities.

Sincerely,


Jonathan R. Major