

August 31st, 2011

Dear Mr. Threet,

I would very much like to take this opportunity to thank you greatly for your support in the AAPG Foundation and directly contributing to my R.E. McAdams Grant in Aid of \$3000 this past spring.

Let me take a few moments to describe my project. I am currently in my last year of my Masters, conducting a sedimentological and stratigraphic investigation of the late Cretaceous Muskiki and Marshybank formations in southern Alberta. The mudstone dominated rocks are in part equivalent to the lower portions of the Niobrara shale in southeastern Alberta, Saskatchewan and south of the border in the United States. Since the early 1990s, when my supervisor first worked on these shales in northwestern Alberta, nobody, industry or academic, has looked at these rocks in detail. This is partly due to the lack of prolific hydrocarbon reservoirs, and also due to these rocks being stratigraphically located between the Cardium and Medicine Hat sandstone formations, both of which currently hold much higher industry interest.

My project required detailed analysis of core, for which part of the AAPG grant was used. I have also returned from three weeks of field work in southern Alberta and northern Montana, for which the rest of the grant was used. Costs such as truck rental, fuel and food, and the purchase of some field books added up very quickly!

As I near the end of my masters, I realize what a fantastic opportunity this project provided me with, allowing me to gain experience in the study of mudstones, as well as giving me the opportunity to travel to conferences, and conduct field work in the beautiful west.

Thank you very much for your support, it has meant a lot to me to receive the AAPG grant. Please find attached a copy of my abstract for which the grant was for.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meriem Grifi', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Meriem Grifi
MSc. Candidate, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy
The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada
mgrifi@uwo.ca