

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Dear Bill and Jean Crain,

It has been over five months since I received the William E. and Jean Crain Named Grant through the AAPG Grants-in-Aid program. Although the money from this grant has recently been fully spent, my research is still continuing. The money from the grant was used in integral parts of my research including buying supplies in order to do lab work, and paying for fees for core sampling and using a microprobe. The funds from the grant have been used to sample and isolate 18 different tephra layers from three different cores taken from Lake Malawi in eastern Africa. These layers have been geochemically characterized using EMP-WDS and are in the process of being correlated. This ability to obtain quality geochemical data has been a huge contribution to my thesis and research. With increased characterization of tephra layers in the Lake Malawi cores, stratigraphic correlations between cores using tephra is becoming more significant.

Recently, I was able to attend the Geological Society of America's annual meeting which was held in Minneapolis, MN this year. At this meeting I was able to present some of my research as a poster presentation. It was only with the funds from the William E. and Jean Crain Named Grant that I was able to have conducted such valuable research and able to present it at such a distinguished level (note that no funds were used in travel, registration, or other direct meeting costs).

Within the coming months I will be completing my geochemical characterization of the tephra layers in the Lake Malawi cores. This will lead to an increase in stratigraphic correlation between cores in the northern and central basins of the lake at depths of 18-50 mblf. These correlations will provide the main support for my thesis.

I would like to thank you, along with the AAPG Foundation Board of Trustees again for giving me the opportunity to conduct such important research. As I continue my research on correlating Lake Malawi tephra layers, I will not forget the financial assistance and encouragement the AAPG Grants-in-Aid program and the William E. and Jean Crain Named Grant directly has given me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Chorn". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Benjamin Chorn  
University of Minnesota, Duluth  
Geological Sciences Master of Science student