

## New Staff: INTRODUCING NORIKO KITA

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Noriko Kita joined the Department last September as Director of WISC-SIMS, The Wisconsin Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer, more popularly called the Ion Microprobe Lab. We are fortunate to have her. Dr. Kita is internationally recognized for the excellence of her research on the early Solar System. In addition to her many SIMS duties, she will continue her responsibilities as Councilor for the Meteoritical Society and as Associate Editor for Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, the most prestigious journal for meteorite research.*



Noriko Kita, Director of the Ion Microprobe Laboratory.

For the last ten years, I have worked at the Geological Survey of Japan (GSJ) and spent most of my time in developing the high precision isotopic analyses using a large radius SIMS, CAMECA IMS-1270. I used this instrument to analyze small grains in meteorites for studying the evolution of the early Solar System. I also helped other SIMS users at the GSJ working on volcanology, mineral resources, and environmental studies. Here, in Madison, I will set up a new SIMS CAMECA IMS-1280, similar to the one in Japan with improved capabilities. Many people tell me that I am "very lucky" to see the installation of the large SIMS twice in my life.

I started my research career on meteorite chronology

using ion exchange column techniques and thermal ionization mass spectrometer. I worked as a post-doctoral fellow in USGS (Denver, CO) under Dr. Tastumoto, who was famous for an ultra-clean Pb-free laboratory. I obtained the position at GSJ who were purchasing one of the first CAMECA 1270 ion microprobes. No one knew if the instrument could be used for high precision isotopic analyses. After years of struggles, we achieved sub-permil (=0.1%) precision in isotopic analyses of various elements. Recently, I have become interested in extending the usage of the instrument for a variety of

research fields. However, it was difficult at GSJ to find good collaborators who have motivation to use new and complex instrumentation. Fortunately, I could join the Department of Geology and Geophysics as a Director of the Ion Microprobe Laboratory. Here we will push analytical ability for the isotopic analyses to new levels. It will be interesting to do "technology transfer" of SIMS from geochemistry and cosmochemistry to non-geology research, such as environmental, industrial and even medical sciences.

My husband, Barry, who is from the US, has been living in Japan for ten years and he is pleased to move back here. We have one young daughter.

---

## NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS 2004-05

Mark Ciardelli, BS UW-Eau Claire, Geochemistry—Sahai  
Michael Cobb, BA Cornell University, Hydrogeology—  
Anderson

Laura Craig, BS UC-Davis, Hydrogeology—Bahr  
Amalia Doebbert, BS Carleton College, Sed/Strat—Carroll  
Danica Dralus, BS Lawrence University, Geophysics—Wang  
Justin Gosses, BS Franklin and Marshall, Sed/Strat—Carroll  
Rachel Greve, BS UW-Eau Claire, Hydrogeology—Bahr/  
Anderson

Jacque Kelly, BS Northland College, Geochemistry—Valley  
Matt Kuchta, MS UW-Madison, Paleontology—Geary

Nathaniel Meyer, BS St. Norbert College, Geophysics—Thurber  
Jennifer Nielsen, BS San Diego State University,

Paleoceanography—Kelly

Jeremy Pesicek, BS University of North Carolina, Geophysics—  
Thurber

Kurt Refsnider, BA University of Minnesota-Morris,  
Quaternary—Mickelson

Paul Riley, BS Franklin and Marshall, Structural—Goodwin  
Kathleen Staffier, BS University of Massachusetts-Amherst,  
Structural—Goodwin

Mei-mei Tang, BS Rice University, Sed/Strat—Simo