



# Mineralogical Society of America



[www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### American (and All Other) Mineralogists



David Vaughan

Like many of the other learned societies that make up the 'Elements family', the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was established to enable scientists working in the area broadly defined as 'mineralogy' to publicise and to publish their work. In the case of MSA, the launch of the *American Mineralogist* journal actually preceded the formation of the Society by several years. That was almost 100 years ago, and since then many of the classic papers on what we now call 'Earth and planetary materials' have appeared in its pages. We publish a journal

that has a distinguished past, but what of its future? Last year my predecessor, John Hughes, outlined various positive changes in the journal in one of his President's Letters. These have involved new editorial arrangements as well as innovations in the content and style of this flagship publication.

The *American Mineralogist* aims to attract the very best papers in its field, and last year our editor, Keith Putirka, addressed the scientific community in an article entitled "Why you should publish your best papers in *American Mineralogist*" (see *Am. Min.* 98: 1377-1378 for detailed arguments). Certain key points made in this article are worth repeating, not least because they debunk some of the myths surrounding scientific publishing. For example, all authors want their work to be widely read and highly cited. Contrary to popular belief, this does not necessarily mean publishing in *Nature* or *Science* despite their high impact factors. These impact factors come from the papers such magazines publish in medicine, biology and materials sciences, not in Earth sciences. This has nothing to do with the quality of publications in these various fields; it is because disciplines such as medicine have many more research scientists, publishing many more papers in more journals, so leading to much greater opportunities for citations. It is clear that the best papers in 'mineralogy' will garner more citations if published in *American Mineralogist*. This publication choice also means that a paper will reach its intended audience via familiar databases such as Google or Web of Science, in which our journal is incorporated and which is now the route used by nearly all scientists researching a topic. Furthermore, papers will be actively promoted by MSA, for example, through distribution of summaries of notable papers to the members of networks such as MSA-Talk.

The world of scientific publishing continues to develop at extraordinary speed. Whether it is dealing with the demands of 'open access' publication or the latest in IT systems for the efficient handling of manuscripts, we intend to be in the forefront of these developments. Fortunately we have a talented and extremely hardworking editorial and production team making this possible. The parallel advances in style and content of *American Mineralogist: An International Journal of Earth and Planetary Materials* (to give our publication its full title) are aimed at attracting new readers and authors. But let me reassure our 'old' readers and authors, whether American mineralogists or (like me) from the international community, that there will always be a place in our journal for the best papers in the more traditional fields of mineralogy and crystallography.

**David J. Vaughan** ([david.vaughan@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:david.vaughan@manchester.ac.uk))  
2014 MSA President

## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA will use electronic balloting for the 2014 election of MSA officers and councilors. The slate of candidates follows. President: Steven B. Shirey (Carnegie Institution of Washington); vice president (one to be selected): Carol D. Frost (University of Wyoming) and Rebecca A. Lange (University of Michigan); treasurer: Howard W. Day (University of California–Davis); councilors (two to be selected): Barry R. Bickmore (Brigham Young University), Abby Kavner (University of California–Los Angeles), Matthew J. Kohn (Boise State University), and Donna L. Whitney (University of Minnesota). Andrea Koziol continues in office as secretary. Continuing councilors are Isabelle Daniel, Kirsten P. Nicolaysen, Edward S. Grew, and Wendy Panero.

MSA members will have received a message at their current e-mail address with voting instructions in April. Make sure MSA has your most recent e-mail address! Those who do not wish to vote online can request a paper ballot from the MSA business office. As always, the voting deadline is August 1. Individuals elected to office decide on the direction of the Society. Voting is an important job for all MSA members.

- There is now a single portal page ([www.msapubs.org](http://www.msapubs.org)) where you can access electronic versions of all MSA publications: *American Mineralogist*, *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*, open access publications, and *Elements*. Select the appropriate link there based on the type of subscription (individual member or institutional). If your institution subscribes to GeoScienceWorld (GSW), we ask that you preferentially use those links. You will also benefit from all the extra features of MSA publications on GSW.
- MSA's Special Papers from the 1960s have been scanned and posted online as open access publications on the MSA website. The topics are: (volume 1) Symposium on Layered Intrusions, Symposium on the Mineralogy of the Sulfides, as well as the General Session and the Third General Business Meeting of the IMA; (volume 2) Pyroxenes and Amphiboles: Crystal Chemistry and Phase Petrology; and (volume 3) Fiftieth Anniversary Symposia on (a) Mineralogy and Petrology of the Upper Mantle, (b) Sulfides, and (c) Mineralogy and Geochemistry of Non-Marine Evaporites.
- MSA members who previously subscribed to the online version of the *Reviews* only had access to volume 39 to the present on GeoScienceWorld. Now you have access to the entire *Reviews* series, volume 1 to 78, on the MSA website at [www.msapubs.org](http://www.msapubs.org). If you did not subscribe to the series when you renewed, you can subscribe to this, or any journal offered through MSA, any time at "MSA subscriptions." For those with more limited requirements, single chapters of the *Reviews* can be purchased as electronic files or print-on-demand copies at [www.minpubs.org](http://www.minpubs.org). You can also buy electronic or print versions of entire volumes of the out-of-print *Reviews* at [www.minpubs.org](http://www.minpubs.org).

**J. Alex Speer** ([jaspeer@minsocam.org](mailto:jaspeer@minsocam.org))  
MSA Executive Director



# VOTE

## 2014 MSA ELECTIONS

## INVITATION TO REQUEST A 2014–2015 MSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

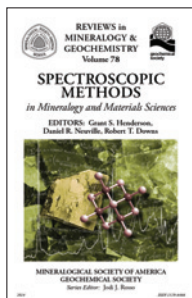
The Mineralogical Society of America is again offering a lecture program for the 2014–2015 academic year, with the arrangement that the MSA will pay travel expenses of the lecturers and the host institutions will be responsible for local expenses, including accommodation and meals. The program will include 3 lecturers, one of whom resides in Europe. Depending on the response, one or more lecture tours will be arranged outside North America.

The 2014–2015 Distinguished Lecturers are **Bethany Ehlmann** (Department of Geological and Planetary Science, California Institute for Technology, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, USA), **Colleen Hansel** (Department of Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA USA), and **Lutz Nasdala** (Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria). Their lecture titles are posted on the MSA website. If your institution is interested in requesting the visit of an MSA Distinguished Lecturer, check the website for lecturers and titles and e-mail your request to the Lecture Program Administrator, Dr. Timothy W. Grover, Castleton State College, Dept. of Natural Sciences, Jeffords Center, 233 South St., Castleton, VT 05735-0001, USA; e-mail: tim.grover@castleton.edu; tel.: +1 (802) 468-1289; fax: +1 (802) 468-1170. The lecture program is designed to run from September 2014 through April 2015. Lecturer requests received by May 4, 2014, will be given priority. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis. In making your request please include (1) the proximity of the airport and travel time to your institution, (2) the name of a contact person at your institution for the months of May and June (when lecturer schedules will be assembled), (3) contact e-mail addresses and phone numbers, (4) flexibility on lecturer preference, and (5), for schools outside the U.S., the starting and ending dates of the academic terms. Because of travel and schedule constraints, it is normally not possible to satisfy requests for tightly constrained dates such as seminar days.

## NEW TITLE

### Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry

Mineralogical Society of America and The Geochemical Society



**Volume 78: Spectroscopic Methods in Mineralogy and Materials Sciences, Grant S. Henderson, Daniel R. Neuville, and Robert T. Downs, editors. i-xvii + 763 pages. ISBN 978-0-939950-93-5**

Spectroscopy is the study of the interaction between matter and radiation, and spectroscopic methods measure this interaction by measuring the radiative energy of the interaction in terms of frequency or wavelength or their changes. In 1988 a *Reviews in Mineralogy* volume (volume 18) was published with the title *Spectroscopic Methods in Mineralogy*, edited by Frank Hawthorne. Since 1988 there have been many significant advances in both the technological aspects of these techniques and their applications to problems in Earth sciences in general, while the range and breadth of the techniques have greatly expanded since those formative years. The current volume complements the original volume and updates many of the techniques. In addition, new methods, such as X-ray Raman and Brillouin spectroscopy, and nonspectroscopic chapters, such as Transmission Electron Microscopy and Atomic Force Microscopy, have been added for completeness.

For a description and ordering online, go to [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org), or contact the Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1110, USA; phone: +1 (703) 9950; fax: +1 (703) 652-9951; e-mail: [business@minsocam.org](mailto:business@minsocam.org). Cost is \$45 (\$33.75 for members of MSA, GS, CMS).

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2015/2016 AWARDS

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 1, 2014

The **Roebling Medal** (2015) is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The **Dana Medal** (2016) recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of their career.

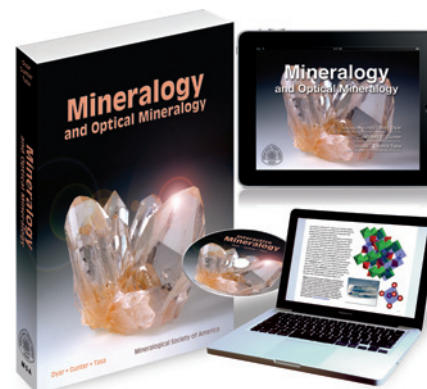
The **Mineralogical Society of America Award** (2015) is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to the 35<sup>th</sup> birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** (2015) is presented to an individual who has provided outstanding contributions to public policy and awareness about mineralogical topics through science.

**Society Fellowship** is the recognition of a member's significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member with two members acting as cosponsors. A form is required; contact the committee chair or visit the MSA home page.

*Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA's home page:*  
<http://www.minsocam.org/>

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This series of chapters differs in several ways from a traditional mineralogy textbook: (1) it promotes learning in a digital environment; (2) the authors use modern pedagogy; (3) each chapter in the series is available separately allowing the instructor to pick and choose only those chapters needed for their specific course; (4) it is written so that the more advanced chapters build on information learned in earlier chapters.

**To obtain a free sample portion of each chapter in the series:**

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- in iBooks on your iPad or Mac (OS X Mavericks): click the Store button, then search "Dyar Gunter"

Our "**Mineral Database**" app is also available on the App Store. For more information or to purchase the printed version of the textbook, "*Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy*" go to the Mineralogical Society of America at [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org)

For more information or to purchase the digital version of the "*Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy* series" go to [www.tasagraphicarts.com/minbooks](http://www.tasagraphicarts.com/minbooks)