



# Mineralogical Society of America



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

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Carol Frost

### *MSA: Celebrating the Past; Anticipating the Future*

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) in Phoenix (Arizona, USA; held 22–25 September 2019) may have spotted the above slogan accompanying the Mineralogical Society of America's (MSA's) Centennial logo on the doors to the Phoenix Convention Center. There has been much celebration over the past year, with a highly successful Centennial Symposium in

Washington DC (USA) in June and Centennial sessions at meetings throughout the year, including a full day of presentations by past MSA presidents at the GSA meeting. (If you missed them, you can access videos of Centennial Symposium presentations on the MSA website.) It is clear from these events that the fields of mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, and petrology are as vibrant and relevant today as they were in 1919.

During the coming year, I will use this forum to review the strong foundation on which MSA launches its second century and to discuss some of the upcoming challenges faced by MSA. By building on our strengths and addressing change, we can set our society on a firm course and take advantage of opportunities to become an even more effective international leader in promoting our science. So, let's start by reviewing MSA's accomplishments in its first century.

**The MSA is the premier professional society for mineralogy and petrology, internationally.** It may not be obvious for a society named the Mineralogical Society of America, but the MSA is truly an international organization. Half of its members reside outside of the US, and its committees are composed of members from around the world. Our MSA Lecturers include experts from outside North America, and they make at least one international tour each year. The MSA Fellows and medalists come from across the globe. Our international reach establishes us as a global leader in providing expertise in natural materials.

**The MSA promotes mineralogy and petrology by recognizing outstanding fundamental research and public service.** The society's highest honor is the Roebling Medal, awarded for lifetime scientific achievement. The Dana Medal recognizes outstanding contributions by mid-career scientists, and the MSA Award goes to scientists who have published outstanding work prior to their 35<sup>th</sup> birthday. The society also recognizes appropriate individuals with a Distinguished Public Service Medal. With its awards, MSA promotes important discoveries to the world.

**The MSA publishes scholarly research in mineralogy, crystallography, petrology, and geochemistry, broadly defined.** *American Mineralogist*, the international journal of Earth and planetary materials, was established in 1916 and has published some of the most important advances in these fields. *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* provide a concise and comprehensive review of 85 different subject areas to date. The MSA was a founding society of *Elements*. In addition, MSA publishes textbooks and other monographs, including the *Handbook of Mineralogy*. Society publications like ours are critical: they are both well respected and accessible.

**Activities by the MSA promote scientific literacy and support the next generation of mineralogists and petrologists.** Our society provides educational opportunities for all ages, but many activities are targeted to students. MSA Lecturers visit with undergradu-

ates and graduate students on campuses around the world. Students and professionals alike attend MSA workshops and short courses. The MSA hosts educational materials on the web, which are available to all. Students are eligible for Kraus Crystallography and Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grants and also benefit from special membership rates. Activities like these are essential to the future of our discipline.

**The MSA is a model organization.** If you've interacted with MSA headquarters, you know that MSA is excellently managed. For the past 25 years, Alex Speer, our Executive Director, has kept us on track, organizing the membership and the daily work of the society, while, at the same time, transitioning to new practices and building new collaborations. We will miss him dearly and wish him the very best on his retirement at the end of December.

As the summary above suggests, MSA is in a strong position because of the actions of its members over the past 100 years. In the next issue, I will address some of the challenges facing professional societies like ours.

**Carol Frost**

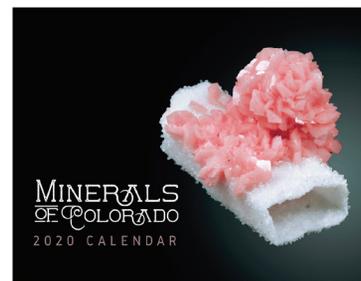
2020 MSA President

## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- The MSA Council decided on the 2020 award recipients at its Fall Council Meeting in Phoenix (Arizona, USA). The Roebling Medal is awarded to **Andrew Putnis**, University of Münster (Germany) and Curtin University (Australia); the Dana Medal to **Daniela Rubatto**, University of Bern (Switzerland); the MSA Award to **Jin Liu**, HPSTAR (Beijing, China). Newly elected fellows are **Luca Bindi**, **Craig Schiffries**, **Melissa Lane**, **Frank Brenker**, **Clive Neal**, **Alan Woodland**, **Rajdeep Dasgupta**, **Guoyin Shen**, **Kimberly Tait**, **James Gardner**, **Zhu Mao**, and **Marian Holness**.
- All 2018 and 2019 MSA members have been contacted by mail, electronically, or both about renewing their memberships for 2020. If you have not renewed your MSA membership, please do so. If you have not received a notice by the time you read this, please contact the MSA Business Office. You can also renew online anytime.

## THE 2020 MSA CALENDAR

The 2020 sixteen-month calendar has the title *Minerals of Colorado*. The calendar is published by Lithographie, LLC, in cooperation with the Mineralogical Society of America, Martin Zinn Expositions, Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Fine Mineral Shows, Denver Area Gem & Mineral Show, and Rocky Mountain Gems & Minerals. The calendar is available on the MSA website at [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org).



## IN MEMORIAM

- MANUEL BASS (1961 – Fellow)  
 H. STANTON HILL (1936 – Life Member)  
 EDWARD JOBBINS (1961 – Senior Member)  
 J. DONALD RIMSTIDT (1975 – Senior Fellow)  
 SHEILA SEAMAN (1986 – Member)  
 BRIAN SKINNER (1958 – Fellow)

## 2019 MSA AWARDEES

At its annual meeting, the MSA presented the following awards:

### Roebbling Medal



**Peter R. Buseck** of Arizona State University (USA) received the 2019 Roebbling Medal in recognition of his outstanding and pioneering contributions in mineralogy using transmission electron microscopy (TEM). Dr. Buseck's contributions have included, among many others, aerosol particle research, extensive work in meteoritics, and his investigations of biomineralogical questions. Through his efforts, Dr. Buseck established Arizona State University as an international

center for high-resolution TEM. He has been inspirational as a mentor to a great number of students and colleagues throughout his career. Many of his students have gone on to stellar careers of their own, a testament to Dr. Buseck's influence, support, and stature as a scientist and visionary.

### Dana Medal



The 2019 Dana Medal was awarded to **Matthew J. Kohn** of Boise State University (Idaho, USA) in recognition of his sustained outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences. Dr. Kohn is cited for his stellar body of work in such widely varying fields as paleoclimatology and metamorphic petrology. He is known as a broad and deep thinker whose primary focus is on addressing the major unresolved problems in mineralogy, petrology,

and geochemistry. Dr. Kohn is also celebrated for developing new tools for analysis, which have changed the scope of what can be studied in the mineralogical sciences. In addition, he has a strong record of service to the community, by editing journals, organizing workshops and symposia, and chairing technical sessions at academic meetings.

### Distinguished Public Service Medal



The MSA has awarded **Rodney C. Ewing** of Stanford University (California, USA) its 2019 Distinguished Public Service Medal in recognition of unequalled contributions to public policy, particularly in the area of nuclear waste management. As Chair of the US Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, he was instrumental in ensuring that the nation's nuclear waste policies were informed by solid science and concern for the environment.

Dr. Ewing was the driving force behind the genesis of the highly successful *Elements* magazine, which first appeared in 2005 and now has 18 participating societies. The content of *Elements* is designed to appeal to members of the geoscientific community across a wide variety of occupations and settings. Dr. Ewing was responsible for overseeing the preservation of the Harding Pegmatite in New Mexico when he chaired the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department at the University of New Mexico. His efforts allowed the site to continue to be available to both the public and students for study and exploration. In addition, Dr. Ewing secured the funding that saved the mineral collection at the University of Michigan (USA).

### MSA Award



The 2019 MSA Award went to **Olivier Namur** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) in recognition of his wide-ranging contributions to mineralogy and for linking these to the large-scale evolution of the Earth, Moon, and Mercury. Dr. Namur has made new and insightful discoveries in the field of layered intrusions. He is known for his excellent fieldwork combined with careful laboratory experiments. Dr. Namur's hallmark is his meticulous collation of geochemical data,

which are then subjected to detailed numerical analysis. In addition, he provides mentorship for both graduate and undergraduate students, sharing his knowledge and his creative ways of formulating and investigating complex research problems in petrology and mineralogy.

## AWARD NOMINATIONS

### Nominations Sought for 2021–2022 Awards

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 1 JUNE 2020.

The **Roebbling Medal** (2021) is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The **Dana Medal** (2021) is intended to recognize continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of his or her career.

**Mineralogical Society of America Award** (2021) is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to 35<sup>th</sup> birthday or within seven years of the PhD.

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** (2022) 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. Form required; contact committee chair or MSA home page.

Mineralogical Society of America

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

## RESEARCH GRANTS

### The Mineralogical Society of America 2020 Grants for

#### RESEARCH IN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY

from the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund  
with contributions from MSA membership and friends

#### STUDENT RESEARCH IN MINERALOGY AND PETROLOGY

from an endowment created by MSA members



Selection is based on the qualifications of the applicant; the quality, innovativeness, and scientific significance of the research of a written proposal; and the likelihood of success of the project. There will be up to three US\$5,000 grants, with the restriction that the money be used in support of research.

Application instructions and online submission are available on the MSA website, <http://www.minsocam.org>. Completed applications must be submitted by 1 March 2020.