



Mineralogical Society of America



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MSA: Functioning in a COVID-19 World



Mark Ghiorso in New Zealand

I am writing this in early October 2020. The coronavirus is still significantly affecting our day-to-day lives, and there is no end in sight. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the US Geological Survey, the US Department of Energy, NASA, the US National Science Foundation, and other governmental organizations are making special efforts to support their constituencies; professional societies are testing novel, and sometimes innovative, ways to maintain professional engagement; and faculty

and students at academic institutions are struggling to function safely and effectively in a socially distanced world. For my first message to Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) members in *Elements*, I've decided to focus on something that has concerned me since the beginnings of the USA outbreak of the pandemic in March. I suspected from the onset that the essential health-related measures taken to prevent the spread of the virus would have the greatest impact on students and faculty. Most specifically here, there would be particular difficulties for early career scientists in their pursuit of employment, in their ability to interact with colleagues and make them aware of their scientific accomplishments and, importantly, in their ability to establish contacts in an increasingly collaborative work environment.

I want to offer some unsolicited advice to the large contingent of MSA members who are teaching at academic institutions, and especially to those who are early career. This advice comes from an aged boomer academic and former chair, so obviously can be justifiably ignored.

Some of you are struggling with the strange and unnatural process of teaching in a Zoom world. Learning, which is fundamentally a process of social interaction, is not performance art. It requires personal engagement, which is very demanding even under the best of conditions. Many of you are trying to figure out how to run classes that include instruction in hands-on technical abilities, such as mineral and rock identification, crystallography, optical mineralogy, the use of laboratory equipment, and geologic mapping. Those of you dealing with in-person educational activities are understandably distracted by precautions necessary for personal protection of yourself and your students, which is having a negative impact on classroom ambiance and, consequently, the learning process.

The world right now is not normal. Don't pretend that it is. Do what you can and stay healthy. And, most importantly, don't let university administrators convince you that it is up to you to carry out your teaching, research, and service as completely or as smoothly as you did in the pre-COVID world without providing additional support and resources to help you cope. In the modern university or college, there are a plethora of administrators all demanding that faculty and teaching assistants come up with solutions to problems involving remote instruction, scheduling, and other novel coronavirus-related issues. The reality is that resources are necessary to execute these solutions, and faculty (especially tenured faculty) have an obligation to demand that those resources become available. My advice to all academics in this time of uncertainty is to stop asking what you can do to help the institution and start demanding what the institution can do to help you.

Stay safe and stay healthy.

Mark Ghiorso
2021 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

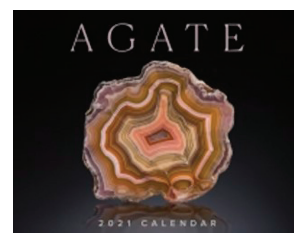
- Mineralogical Society of America 2021 membership renewals are under way, with renewal notices sent electronically, followed by several electronic reminders, before a paper copy is sent to those who did not renew online by the end of October 2020.
- Member subscription rates to the print version of the 2021 *American Mineralogist* will increase. The USA member print subscription price will be \$165 (currently \$150), and the foreign member print subscription price will be \$185 (currently \$165). The USA institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) will increase to \$1,300 (from \$1,200), and foreign institutional subscriptions will be raised to \$1,325.00 (from \$1,225.00). The institutional electronic-only subscription will increase to \$1,225 (from \$1,125). Included in the institutional subscription will be all current-year (2021) print issues of *American Mineralogist*, *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*, *Elements*, as well as access to the electronic version of these publications on the MSA website, starting with volume 1, number 1. GeoScienceWorld subscriber prices for *American Mineralogist* and the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* are \$270 and \$250 respectively.
- Members and Fellows who are in the senior, honorary, and life categories are sent renewal notices. They need not pay dues, but are sent notices as the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mail and e-mail addresses.
- If you subscribe to other journals through MSA, please **renew early**, as MSA needs to forward your renewal to those publishers before your subscription expires. These journals include: *Gems & Gemology*, *Journal of Petrology*, *Mineral News*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, *Mineralogy and Petrology*, *Rocks & Minerals*, and the *Journal of Gemmology*.

CONTRIBUTORS AND BENEFACTORS

Many members contribute to MSA by including a contribution with their annual dues and/or by responding to special appeals. Depending on the wishes of the member, the money is deposited with the principal of the MSA Endowment, the newly re-named J. Alexander Speer Outreach Fund, MSA Mineralogy/Petrology Fund, J. B. Thompson Fund, Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund, F. Donald Bloss Fund, or the General Operating Fund. The income of these funds is used to support MSA's research grants in crystallography, mineralogy, and petrology; the MSA Undergraduate Prizes; the Mineralogical Society of America Award; the Distinguished Public Service Award, plus the Dana Medal and the Roebling Medal; the website; and the Distinguished Lecturer program. If you have not done so previously, please consider contributing at the next opportunity. Here, we want to extend our gratitude to the individuals and organizations that have contributed to MSA between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020.

THE 2021 CALENDAR

The 2021 sixteen-month calendar has the theme *Agate*. The calendar is published by Lithographie, LLC, in cooperation with the Mineralogical Society of America, Martin Zinn Exposition, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Fine Mineral Shows, the Denver Area Gem & Mineral Show, and Rocky Mountain Gems & Minerals. The calendar is available on the MSA website at www.minsocam.org.



2021 AWARDEES

MSA is pleased to announce the awardees for 2021:

Roebling Medal: George R. Rossman, California Institute of Technology

Dana Medal: Sergey V. Krivovichev, St. Petersburg State University

MSA Award: Chenguang Sun, Rice University

Distinguished Public Service Medal: Denton S. Ebel, American Museum of Natural History

MSA Fellows:

Jeffrey Catalano (US)

Sylvie Demouchy (France)

Pupa Gilbert (US)

Jun-ichi Kimura (Japan)

Othmar Muntener (Switzerland)

Marc Norman (Australia)

Alison Pawley (UK)

Mark Rivers (US)

Ian Swainson (US)

Takashi Yoshino (Japan)

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations are sought for the 2022–2023 awards.

Nominations must be received by 1 June 2021.

- The Roebling Medal (2022) is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.
- The Dana Medal (2022) recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of his or her career.
- The Mineralogical Society of America Award (2022) is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to the 35th birthday or within seven years of the PhD.
- The Distinguished Public Service Medal (2023) 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 members' significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member, with two members acting as cosponsors. A form is required. Please contact committee chair or the MSA home page.

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



RESEARCH GRANTS

The Mineralogical Society of America
2021 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's website, <http://www.minsocam.org>. Completed applications must be submitted by 1 March 2021.

IN MEMORIAM

Irmgard Abs-Wurmbach (Member)
Alfred Anderson (Senior Member)
F. Donald Bloss (Senior Fellow)
Alden Carpenter (Senior Member)
Richard Dietrich (Senior Fellow)
Mark Feinglos (Member)
Tomas Feininger (Life Fellow)
Claren Frazier (Senior Member)
Volker Goebel (Member)
Ralph Kirkpatrick (Fellow)
Hideo Minato (Senior Member)
Antonio Arribas Moreno (Senior Member)
Edward Olsen (Fellow)
Zell Peterman (Senior Fellow)