



www.minsocam.org

Mineralogical Society of America

HIGHLIGHT MSA: MSA-TALK

Do you have a thorny mineralogical problem and don't know whom to ask for detailed advice? Are you struggling with an analytical technique that is new to you? Are you a college professor looking for new ways to present the sulfates in class? Are you looking for replacement parts for a universal stage microscope? Do you have a meeting or workshop you would like to announce? Posting an e-mail message to the hundreds of mineralogists on MSA-Talk may be your answer.

The MSA-Talk list is a forum created for members of MSA to discuss topics of interest in the general areas of mineralogy, petrology, and crystallography. All MSA members are invited to join. Non-members are welcome too. Go to www.minsocam.org/MSA/MSA_Talk.html for information.

To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message as follows:

To: requests@lists.minsocam.org

Subject: **subscribe MSA-Talk**

Body: **Any message here will be ignored.**

The list server software uses the e-mail address of your current account, so be sure to subscribe using the account that you wish to receive the messages. Soon afterwards you should receive an e-mail message confirming that you are subscribed to the list and including instructions for unsubscribing, etc.

All subscribers to the list will receive your messages. The most effective messages are those whose simple text content can be readily seen and understood in an on-screen window that does not require scrolling. If you have additional or more detailed information, include a link to where it can be found instead. No attachments please!

This is not MSA-Chat: the list is generally quiet until a topic of interest is introduced. Of course our children are wonderful and our pets are cute, but MSA-Talk is not the place to discuss them. Calls for abstracts or announcements of meetings are occasionally posted. Requests for obscure data, rare mineral samples, or specialized advice on certain minerals are welcome, but MSA-Talk is not a resource to have others do your library research. Perennial discussions of student or research microscopes, curriculum issues, or teaching tips are always informative.

Some postings have led to interesting discussions. One thread explored the reasons why some minerals tend to crystallize in certain forms but not others. A long discussion on the significance of hematite on Mars started with the initial results of the Spirit and Endeavor rovers on Mars. An infamous discussion was the sphene versus titanite debate, sparked by a simple question as to the origin of these two names.

Connect with others in your discipline and join MSA-Talk today.

Andrea Koziol
Society News Editor

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

■ MSA will use electronic balloting for the 2006 election of MSA officers and councilors. The candidates are Barb Dutrow for president; Jonathan Stebbins and Peter Heaney for vice president; John M. Hughes for treasurer; and Jay Bass, Klaus Mezger, Jean Morrison, and John Parise for the two councilor positions. Also on the ballot will be the addition of Sustaining Member and Sustaining Fellow Member as new member types. These are open to any new or continuing member or fellow. The cost of a sustaining membership will be the member dues plus an additional amount, to be determined by MSA Council. The additional amount will be a gift to the Society and will be placed in the Society's Endowment Fund.

MSA members will receive a message at their current e-mail addresses in May that will contain voting instructions. 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**. The individuals elected to office decide on the direction of the Society. Voting is an important job for all MSA members.

■ While no one wishes to receive yet more electronic mail, if you or your institution have an aggressive spam blocker and you have not been getting the announcements from MSA about new issues of *American Mineralogist* online, voting, your renewal, or confirmation of your online orders, you may wish to see about allowing such messages to reach you. Otherwise, you will need to keep watch on the MSA website for information about these matters.

J. Alex Speer
MSA Executive Director
j_a_speer@minsocam.org

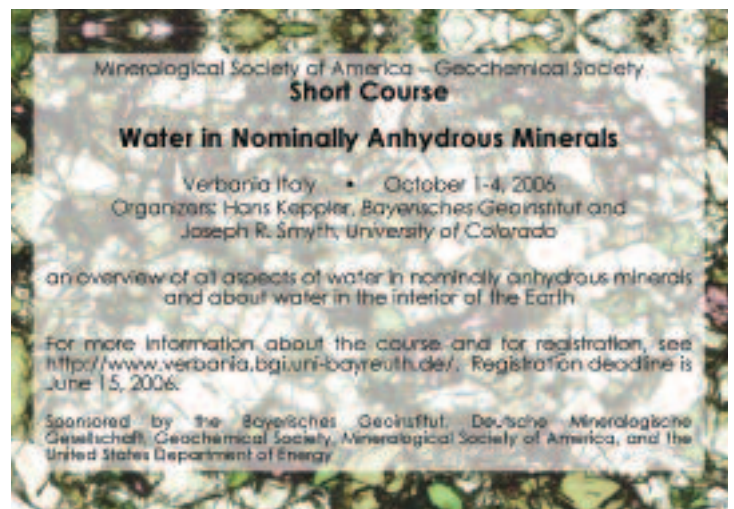
IN MEMORIAM

LAWRENCE V. BLADE
(Life member – 1953)

LOUISE S. STEVENSON
(Life member – 1939)

E. VOLKMAR TROMMSDORF
(Fellow – 1981)

WILFRED R. WELSH
(Member – 1975)



VOTE
2006 MSA ELECTIONS

INVITATION TO REQUEST A 2006–2007 MSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURER



Since its inception, the Distinguished Lecture Program of the Mineralogical Society of America has proven to be a great success. The varied and interesting lectures presented by MSA Distinguished Lecturers have been appreciated by students and faculty at many colleges and universities worldwide.

The Council of the Mineralogical Society is again offering the program for the 2006–2007 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 three lecturers, one of whom resides in Europe, and MSA encourages universities to request lecturers. Depending on the response, one or more lecture tours will be arranged outside North America.

Names of the 2006–2007 Distinguished Lecturers and their lecture titles are not yet available, but they will be posted soon 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. Cameron Davidson, Carleton College, Dept of Geology, 1 N College St, Northfield, MN 55057-0001, USA, e-mail: cdauidso@carleton.edu; tel.: (507) 646-7144, fax: (507) 646-4400. The Lecture Program is designed to run from September, 2006, through April, 2007. Lecturer requests received by May 12, 2006, will be given priority. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis.

In making your request please include (1) airport proximity from, and travel time to, your institution, (2) the name of a contact person at your institution for the months of May and June (when schedules will be assembled), (3) contact e-mail addresses and phone numbers, and (4) flexibility on lecturer preference. (5) Schools outside the United States should indicate starting and ending dates of academic terms. Please note that because of travel and schedule constraints it is normally not possible to satisfy requests for tightly constrained dates such as seminar days.

Nominations Sought

Nominations must be received by June 1, 2006

The **Roebing Medal** is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as demonstrated by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The **Dana Medal** recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in mid-career.

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

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** is awarded for distinguished contributions to public policy and awareness about mineralogical topics.

Society **Fellowship** is the recognition of a member's significant scientific contributions.

Mineralogical Society of America

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

AMERICAN MINERALOGIST UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The Society welcomes several exceptional students to the program's honor roll and wishes to thank the sponsors for enabling the Mineralogical Society of America to join in recognizing them. MSA's American Mineralogist Undergraduate (AMU) Award is for students who have shown an outstanding interest and ability in mineralogy, petrology, crystallography, or geochemistry. Each student is presented a certificate at an awards ceremony at his or her university or college and receives an MSA student membership, a *Reviews in Mineralogy* or *Monograph* volume chosen by the sponsor, student, or both. Past AMU awardees are listed on the MSA website, as well as instructions on how MSA members can nominate their students for the award.

DUSTY AEIKER

University of Maryland

Sponsored by Dr. Michael Brown

CORINE ARMSTRONG

Louisiana State University

Sponsored by Dr. Barbara L. Dutrow

ANNE KLAPHEKE

University of Dayton

Sponsored by Dr. Andrea M. Koziol

ERIK PERSON

Lafayette College

Sponsored by Dr. Guy L. Hovis

AMY SPOONER

Lafayette College

Sponsored by Dr. Guy L. Hovis

KAREN VAN WAGNER

University of Massachusetts

Sponsored by Dr. Sheila J. Seaman

The Mineralogical Society of America

2007 Grants for

RESEARCH IN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY, MINERAL PHYSICS OR CHEMISTRY, AND MINERALOGY

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 are three US\$5000 grants with no restrictions on

how the funds may be spent, as long as they are used in support of research. Application instructions and forms are available from the MSA home page, <http://www.minsocam.org>, or the MSA offices. Completed applications must be received by June 1, 2006.