



www.minsocam.org

Mineralogical Society of America

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sustainability

"Sustainability" permeates our culture. The word is typically used to implore us to become better stewards of the Earth's environment and resources now and for future generations. Maintaining a sustainable Earth will depend on advances in the sciences.

One of our greatest scientific challenges is to understand Earth's systems, its materials and processes, and our impact upon both. As they have in the past, MSA members work on critically important societal issues. Sustainability is also necessary for our scientific societies, for they organize our disparate interests into common themes. They promote, support, and validate our endeavors and they help to educate our policy makers and the public.

I'm thrilled to be part of MSA, a society that embraces the many aspects of mineral science and fosters advances that enrich other disciplines ranging from art to medicine and forensics to physics. *Elements*, the shared worldwide magazine, illustrates this in every issue. Yet for all the ways MSA sustains science, its own future is clouded by a need to sustain two critical, but fortunately renewable, resources: funds and the next generation(s) of mineral scientists.

Financial sustainability has already improved. Recent challenges by Past Presidents Hazen and Valley have been matched with generosity by other past presidents and by the characteristic generosity of members (as reported in the August issue of *Elements*). To all, thank you—your contributions have substantially helped move MSA toward a sustainable financial future. But we are not there yet.



There are many other ways that you can help balance the MSA budget, such as by

- ⇒ paying *American Mineralogist* page charges. The creation cost per page is ~\$250, yet our page charges remain at a relatively low \$68. Without this financial contribution, costs will soon require increases in paper and electronic subscriptions, our dedicated and hard-working staff cannot receive cost-of-living raises, and our prestigious journal may starve. Alternatively, increasing revenue could add more color to the journal.
- ⇒ directing colleagues requesting reprints to GeoScience-World's website (of course first asking if their libraries subscribe to GSW), where articles can be downloaded directly. MSA receives income for every *American Mineralogist* and *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* article downloaded from GSW.
- ⇒ renewing early and online. This helps MSA save postage and staff costs as well as paper (= trees).
- ⇒ becoming a "sustaining member." This provides a \$150 gift to the society along with your membership dues.

Our financial resources maintain our worldwide programs. Additional income could enable us to expand our lecture series further and improve our website. MSA is a lean operation. Our councilors, officers, and editors do not receive expense-paid trips to meetings. They donate their time, like many of you, and travel at their own expense to help the society function.

Ultimately, it is our members that make MSA sustainable. From the Society's beginnings in 1919, we have, and must continue to have, members from around the globe (see "Notes from Chantilly"). Our records indicate that MSA has one 80-year member, Dr. James Martens, who joined MSA in 1924, and six 70-year members. These colleagues embody MSA's sustainability! Today, MSA has 116 fifty-year members and 527 student (new generation) members!

Sustaining our numbers and ensuring that our young colleagues join may be a more difficult task

than giving a credit card number. Here are a few simple actions that you can take:

- ⇒ Consider giving student memberships (only \$10 in 2007) to your top students as departmental awards, to your graduate students, and at raffles.
- ⇒ Consider giving gift memberships to other students. For the last eight years, many members have discussed MSA with mineral science students at professional meetings, then offered those students \$5, an MSA pamphlet, and an MSA membership application (available on the website), with directions to the MSA booth. For 2007, the student membership fees will rise to \$10, but it's still a great value—for \$100, you and your enthusiasm for MSA could give the Society the potential gift of ten future members! I challenge you to sign up students. For every new student membership contributed from now until 1 March 2007, I will personally reimburse you for half of the cost. E-mail me at dutrow@lsu.edu for details.
- ⇒ Nominate outstanding undergraduates for the American Mineralogist Undergraduate Award. Winners receive a year's membership, a certificate, *Elements*, *American Mineralogist* online, and an MSA book publication of their choice! Get them hooked early. Some of us became members as students and have never wavered.

- ⇒ At meetings or mineral shows, offer to treat your favorite mineral dealer to a "friendship year" with MSA.
- ⇒ Students, encourage your peers to join.

Sustainability. As MSA nears its 100th anniversary as a terrific international society, it is now that we must act together to sustain MSA well into its next 100 years.

Please send your feedback, ideas, or insights to: dutrow@lsu.edu or president@minsocam.org. Or, if you wish anonymity, visit www.minsocam.org, where we have set up an anonymous comments page. I look forward to working with you.

Barb Dutrow
2007 MSA President



The Mineralogical Society of America

**2008 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

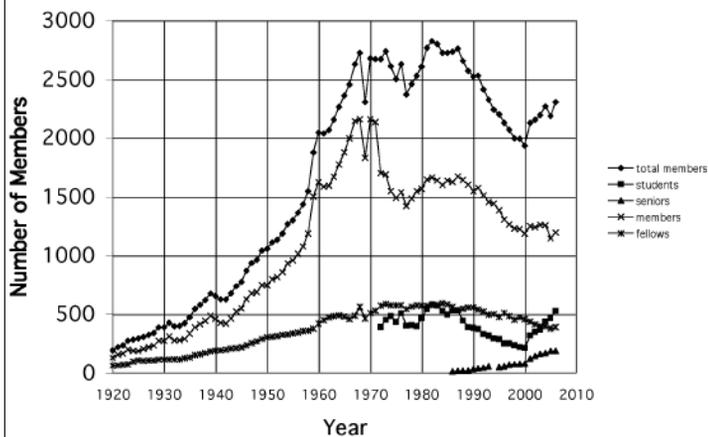
from an endowment created by MSA members

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, 2007.

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

On August 31, 2006, MSA had 2308 members, an increase from 2005 and the highest number since 1993 (2326). The number of regular members has been relatively flat or decreasing over the last ten years. The number of fellows has been declining slowly. The total membership increase is due to a jump in student members and, to a lesser degree, in senior members. This is illustrated in the accompanying plot of number of members per year.

MSA Membership (1920-2006)



Regular (non-life) members and fellows are important components of the membership because they comprise the financial base of the Society. Their loss is of concern. Students pay subsidized dues, but they are the future of the society. At 527, the number of student members in 2006 is the highest it has been since 1986 and 1987 when the numbers were 528 and 529. However, the percentage of student members is greater in 2006 (23%) than in 1986–1987 (19%).

The graph reflects events both in the larger world and in the Earth sciences. Dips in membership occurred during the Great Depression and World War II. There was a tremendous increase in membership as a result of the government's focus on physical sciences after the war, and then a steady drop from 1983 to 1998, brought on by changes in spending priorities. The flat but erratic pattern at the top of the membership peak reflects the handling of MSA affairs by AGI (1969–1972), then AGU (1972–1985), before a separate MSA business office was established in 1985.

Not plotted here is the change in the number of institutional subscribers over the same time period. What is interesting in that trend is the steady growth of institutional subscribers during the Depression years, from 199 in 1929 to 366 in 1939. Today it is often remarked that loss of institutional journal subscriptions is a result of tight budgets. The Depression trend would suggest that today's large-scale journal cancellations may be more a matter of priorities than lack of money. During the war years, the number of institutional subscribers dipped because most overseas subscribers were what was euphemistically referred to as "out of mail contact." Shipments of non-war materials overseas were prohibited in order to provide space for more critical materials. The numbers rebounded to 545 in 1946.

In 2006, 69% of MSA members subscribed to the journal in some form. This is little different from last year's 70%. There is a continuing trend in which increasing numbers of members purchase electronic access only.

year	% paper	% online	% no journal
1995	94		6
1996	94		6
1997	92		8
1998	89		11
1999	88		12
2000	90		10
2001	78		22
2002	67	12	21
2003	61	15	24
2004	42	24	34
2005	47	23	30
2006	41	28	31

What might the future be for member journal subscriptions? The newest members of MSA might give an indication. Of the 178 new members who joined in 2006, 86 (48.3%) elected not to get the journal in any form, 71 (39.9%) chose electronic access only, and 21 (11.8%) chose both paper and web access.

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2006–2007

MSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

The Mineralogical Society of America is pleased to announce that its Distinguished Lecturers and their lectures for 2006–2007 are:

Jane A. Gilotti

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA

Diamond and coesite: Forcing a new paradigm for continental collisions

Clues to high pressure melting of metasedimentary rocks deep in the heart of mountain belts

Tim K. Lowenstein

Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY, USA

Reviving ancient organisms in crystals: Jurassic Park or Fantastic Lark?

Tracking changes in the chemistry of ancient seawater: Mammal blood, salt, and sea shells

High pCO₂ in the Eocene greenhouse world from Green River Na-carbonates

Stephen W. Parman

Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom

The history of the Earth written in helium

Squinting at the Archean:

Komatiites and the thermal evolution of the Earth

The schedules of the Lecturers' tours are given on the MSA website (www.minsocam.org). Check to see if they may be at a location near you. MSA expresses its appreciation to these individuals for undertaking such a service to our science.

