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Mineralogical Society of America

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



A New Bond between MSA and GS

Scientific conferences are a perennial topic of discussion at MSA Council sessions. The problem is this: many subdisciplines of the geosciences have selected one meeting that serves as an annual watering hole to attract everyone who's anyone in the field. For geophysicists, it is the Fall AGU meeting, and for stratigraphers, it is the GSA meeting. Mineralogists, on the other hand, are enthralled in a many-decades-long diaspora. It is ironic to me that our field gets impugned as an outdated vestige of the geology core, when in fact we are so interdisciplinary that no single meeting seems able to accommodate all of our interests. Consequently, we market our product so broadly that we risk unraveling the threads that unite us as a community.

Some have suggested that MSA should attempt to organize its own meeting. Michael Carpenter and the Mineralogical Society have shown that it can be done. The "Frontiers in Mineral Sciences" conference held in June 2007 at Cambridge University attracted over 400 delegates, and the diversity of nationalities and of theme sessions made for one of the most stimulating meetings in memory. A number of us have encouraged Michael to repeat his success every year, but he has understandably made it clear that this was a once-in-a-career event for him.

At the last Council meeting, we briefly considered whether MSA should grasp the baton that Min Soc so ably carried. The worry is financial. Organizing meetings is a risky affair. While some societies have shown an ability to hold conferences that attract thousands of attendees year after year, there are many instances (usually not publicized) of societies that are left with a debt of tens of thousands of dollars. Often, the mistakes that led to these monetary disasters

were subtle misunderstandings of room rental or equipment fees that resulted from inexperience.

MSA tends to be very conservative in its financial policies because we have an extremely successful publications enterprise that we do not want to jeopardize. Consequently, the more logical route for us required the identification of a society that is expert at organizing conferences but might benefit from MSA's publishing strengths. Because of our complementary interests, the Geochemical Society (GS) seemed a perfect match.

MSA's dialogue with GS began in 1999, and as a first step in demonstrating the seriousness of our purpose, we invited GS to participate in the MSA Short Course series with its accompanying Reviews volumes. As readers will note, the RiM title became RiMG in 2000, and GS members have produced many superb volumes and short courses with the support of MSA since that time. In return, MSA has negotiated with GS for some role in the organization of the

Goldschmidt Conference. The discussions went slowly because the rules that govern the Goldschmidt meetings are more complex than quantum physics. For instance, the "ownership" of the Goldschmidt alternates each year between GS and the European Association for Geochemistry.

Finally, in December 2007, both organizations ratified a memorandum of understanding that is extremely generous in its encouragement of MSA participation. MSA members can register for Goldschmidt at a discounted rate. Equally important, future organizers of Goldschmidt Conferences are required to include MSA in the proposal of theme sessions. In other words, if the Goldschmidt

Conference does not offer a sufficiently broad palette of mineralogical topics, we will have no one to blame but ourselves. In my opinion, the memorandum is the most important thing that MSA has done since the Council provided substantial financial backing for a proposed magazine called *Elements*.

Many hands went into the making of this agreement, but by far the heaviest lifting and the greatest vision can be attributed to our past president, Barb Dutrow, and the past president of GS, Sue Brantley. If you see them in Vancouver, thank them for helping to build a beautiful friendship.

Peter J. Heaney
MSA President

50- AND 25-YEAR MSA MEMBERS

The following individuals will reach 50 or 25 years of continuous membership in the Mineralogical Society of America during 2008. Their long support of the Society is appreciated and is recognized by inclusion on this list and by the 25- or 50-year pins mailed in early January. If you should be on this list and are not, or have not received your pin, please contact the MSA business office.

50-Year Members

Dr. William A. Bassett
Dr. Richard W. Berry
Dr. Charles W. Blount
Ms. Ann Marie Brusewitz
Dr. Charles W. Burnham
Prof. Karl F. Fischer
Dr. Robert O. Fournier
Dr. Subrata Ghose
Dr. G.V. Gibbs
Dr. John C. Green
Dr. Frederick Charles Loughnan
Dr. Nobuo Morimoto
Dr. Charles T. Prewitt
Dr. Philip E. Rosenberg
Dr. Brian J. Skinner
Dr. Ewart A. Vincent
Dr. Charles E. Weaver
Dr. Peter J. Wyllie

25-Year Members

Mr. Reijo Alviola
Dr. Anne Argast
Dr. Michiaki Bunno
Prof. Moonsup Cho
Dr./Prof. Donald B. Dingwell
Prof. Steven R. Dunn
Ms. Marta J.K. Flohr

Dr. John Harold Fournelle
Prof. Tibor Gasparik
Mr. Thomas A. Gegan
Mr. Pedro Pablo Gil-Crespo
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Mr. Masahiko Hayashi
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Dr. Zdenek Z. Johan
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Mr. Yoshio Okada
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Dr. Kazuhito Ozawa
Prof. Mercedes Peinado
Dr. John A. Percival
Dr. Prof. Herbert Josef Poellmann
Dr. Francois R. Roethlisberger
Dr. Tracy Rushmer
Dr. Thomas G. Sharp
Prof. David Christopher Smith
Dr. Peter J. Treloar
Dr. Niklaus H. Waber

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM L. BROWN (Senior Fellow – 1959)
JOHN L. JAMBOR (Fellow – 1960)
JEAN N. PROTAS (Senior Member – 1968)
MICHEL P. SEMET (Member – 1969)
ROBERT F. SHURTZ (Life Member – 1949)

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

MSA will use electronic balloting for the 2008 election of MSA officers and councilors. The candidates are – president: Nancy L. Ross; vice president: John B. Brady and Craig E. Manning; treasurer: Darrell J. Henry and Jo Laird; councilors (two to be selected): John F. Rakovan, Penelope L. King, Marc M. Hirschmann, Mark Cloos. Mickey Gunter continues in office as secretary. Continuing councilors are Klaus Mezger, Jean Morrison, Peter C. Burns, and Carol D. Frost.

In addition to these races, there will be two proposed bylaw changes on the ballot. One is a recommendation to increase the cost of life membership, and the other concerns how vacancies that might occur in elected offices would be filled. These were described in detail in the February 2008 issue of *Elements* and will be in the ballot information.

Election materials will be available to MSA members in April. MSA members will be sent a message to their current e-mail addresses with 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.

If your institution or you have an aggressive spam-blocker, and you have not been getting announcements from MSA about new issues of the *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 these.

MSA members can register for the upcoming Goldschmidt Conference in Vancouver (July 13–18) at a discounted membership rate. The savings are significant. This new benefit is the result of an agreement brokered between past presidents Barb Dutrow of MSA and Sue Brantley of GS. We owe them thanks for reaching an agreement that will further strengthen the relationship between our two societies.

J. Alex Speer

MSA Executive Director (j_a_speer@minsocam.org)

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations must be received by June 1, 2008.

- 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 presented to an individual or organization 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 visit MSA home page.

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



VOTE

2008 MSA ELECTIONS

AMERICAN MINERALOGIST UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The Society welcomes the following 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 and a Reviews in Mineralogy or Monograph volume chosen by the sponsor, student, or both.

Past AMU awardees are listed on the MSA website, as are instructions on how MSA members can nominate their students for the award.

Christopher D. Althoff
University of Oklahoma
Sponsored by Dr. David London

Michael Cotter
Towson University
Sponsored by Dr. David Vanko

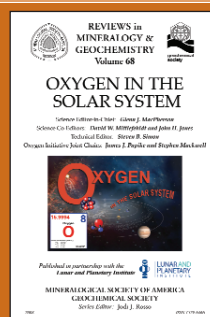
Nina Eileen Fitzgerald
Southern Utah University
Sponsored by Dr. Mark Colberg

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Mount Holyoke College
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Louisiana State University
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Kathryn M. Stack
Williams College
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NEW TITLE



Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry
Mineralogical Society of America and the
Geochemical Society

Volume 68
Oxygen in the Solar System

SCIENCE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Glenn J. MacPherson;

SCIENCE CO-EDITORS: David W. Mittlefehldt and
John H. Jones;

TECHNICAL EDITOR: Steven B. Simon;

Oxygen Initiative Joint Chairs: James J. Papike
and Stephen Mackwell. ISBN 978-0-939950-805, 1-xx, 598 pp.

For a description and table of contents of this book, and online ordering, visit www.minsocam.org or contact Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1125, USA; phone: +1 (703) 9950; fax: +1 (703) 652-9951; e-mail: business@minsocam.org



The Mineralogical Society of America

2009 Grants for

**RESEARCH IN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY,
MINERAL PHYSICS OR CHEMISTRY,
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*from the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund
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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, www.minsocam.org, or the MSA office. Completed applications must be received by June 1, 2008.