



Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Nancy Ross

New Partnership with GSA?

I attended the second annual Geological Society of America (GSA) Leadership Weekend on March 7–8, 2009, in Broomfield, Colorado. There was an in-depth discussion of how to enhance the participation of associated societies, such as the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA), in the GSA Annual Meeting and GSA section meetings. GSA is particularly interested in bringing back the core geoscience disciplines, including mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and volcanology (MPGV), whose presence has diminished significantly in

GSA. Disciplines such as these are largely dealt with by GSA within its division structure. However, GSA's list of 17 divisions (www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/divisions.htm) shows significant omissions in the areas of MPGV, unless one knows to search elsewhere for the associated societies.

Associated societies such as MSA are perceived and treated separately and differently from GSA divisions in terms of communications and organizational response. We are outsiders and rely heavily on a few individuals to promote MSA's involvement and visibility within GSA. MSA, however, has many of the same goals as GSA, namely, to increase the breadth, quality, and vitality of meetings, short courses, and publications and to promote the mineral sciences and geosciences overall. It has been suggested that divisions and associated societies should not be viewed as separate and different entities requiring different organizational responses from GSA; rather they should be viewed as entities with a similar function within GSA. The question then arises as to how divisions and associated societies should be organized within GSA. One solution is to have discipline-related entities within GSA that are populated and operated entirely by representatives of the related associated societies. However, GSA members who do not belong to one of the relevant associated societies would have limited opportunities within GSA to participate and advance their particular professional interests. The converse is also true. If this organizational plan was adopted, MSA would miss the opportunity to bring awareness of its activities to the GSA membership. For example, MSA runs many short courses of interest to GSA members, but MSA would have no way to advertise them to GSA members. We have this problem in the existing structure. Another solution that has been proposed is to start a new MPGV Division in GSA. However, starting a separate GSA division with duplicate programs within fields where there are already established societies, including MSA, The Clay Minerals Society (CMS), the Geochemical Society (GS), and the International Association of Geochemistry (IAGC), would be detrimental to MPGV. It would set up a structure in which the MPGV Division in the GSA would be competing with the existing societies for the same resources, not only for financial support but, more importantly, for members' time.

An alternative approach is to work within GSA's division framework to establish an entity that is a partnership between GSA members of a particular subject interest and associated societies with comparable interests. This "shell division" would have a different governance structure and scope of activities than existing GSA divisions. The governance structure would allow the formal participation of the associated societies in its activities. For its activities, the "MPGV shell division" would rely on the existing programs of the associated societies when feasible, rather than originate them on its own within GSA. The organizational details of the partnership would be defined in its bylaws and tailored to what each can bring to the partnership and to the needs for that subject discipline. MSA's executive director, Alex Speer, has taken the

lead in this initiative and has composed a draft set of bylaws that has been distributed to the associated societies who might be interested in being members of such a division. The concept was raised at the GSA Leadership Weekend, and the draft set of bylaws will be formally presented to GSA at its next Council meeting in May.

It should be stressed that formalizing MSA's role within GSA would recognize that associated societies such as MSA often have a higher percentage of international members; publications with different formats reaching different audiences; different styles of short courses and short course publications; and established lecture programs, medals, and awards, etc., that would not be duplicated by GSA. Such a structure would also promote greater cooperation between MSA and the other associated societies within this new "MPGV shell division," creating a more vibrant presence at the GSA Annual Meeting and GSA section meetings. Perhaps the greatest potential for increased participation is at the GSA section meetings, which offer a number of opportunities for involvement and exposure of undergraduate and graduate students to the fields of MPGV, as well as student support for travel, a mentoring program for students, field trips, and regional contacts with K–12 educators. I would be interested in hearing from MSA members who are actively involved in GSA section meetings. Many steps remain as we explore this new partnership with GSA, and I will keep you informed of its progress.

Nancy Ross
2009 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA will use electronic balloting for the 2009 election of MSA officers and councilors. The candidates are: for president, John B. Brady; for vice president, David L. Bish and David M. Jenkins; for secretary, Mickey Gunter; for councilor (two to be elected), Wendy A. Bohron, Sumit Chakraborty, Abby Kavner, and Mark David Welch. Darrell Henry continues in office as treasurer. Continuing councilors are Peter C. Burns, Carol D. Frost, Penelope L. King, and Marc M. Hirschmann.

In April, MSA members will be sent a message with voting instructions to their current e-mail address. 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. Individuals elected to office decide on the direction of the Society. Voting is an important job for all MSA members.

- The web page for the new Reviews volume, *Minerals, Inclusions and Volcanic Processes* (volume 69), now has downloadable files of the presentations made at the short course. If you could not attend the course, this is your opportunity. The site also has the book's description, table of contents, links to programs for doing calculations discussed in the book, and links to a collection of teaching activities on the topic, compiled in collaboration with the "On the Cutting Edge" program for undergraduate faculty development in the geosciences.

- If you or your institution has an aggressive spam blocker, and you have not been getting the few 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.

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
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50- AND 25-YEAR MSA MEMBERS

The following individuals reach 50 or 25 years of continuous membership in the Mineralogical Society of America during 2009. Their long support of the Society is appreciated and is recognized by this list and by 50- or 25-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

Walther M. Barnard
Marion E. Bickford
Carl J. Bowser
Alden B. Carpenter
Roy S. Clarke Jr.
Jose Marques Correia-Neves
W. G. Ernst
Raymond W. Grant
Tsu-ming Han
James R. Kramer
Michael J. Le Bas
Ludwig Lohmann
Robert G. Luedke
William C. Luth
Anthony N. Mariano
James J. Papike
Zell E. Peterman
Alan T. Prince
Paul H. Ribbe
Malcolm Ross
Ervin Slansky
Asahiko Sugaki
Allan C. Turnock
Bernhardt John Wuensch
Jack Zussman

25-Year Members

Gerald E. Adams
John C. Ayers
William D. Bischoff
Hylda Bracewell
Rebecca W. Carmody
Claudio Cermignani
Wen-An Chiou
Steve J. Chipera
Reid F. Cooper
Benedetto De Vivo
Richard M. Gottfried
Harry W. Green II
Lee A. Groat
Peter J. Heaney
Sang Hun Lee
Jerry F. Magloughlin
Pedro Jose Maiza
Ki Chang Na
Tadao Nishiyama
Hugh St. C. O'Neill
Geoffrey David Price
Carolyn R. Rebbert
Juergen Reinhardt
Jeffrey G. Ryan
Zachary D. Sharp
Jonathan F. Stebbins
Susan L. S. Stipp
Charles A. Weiss Jr.
Michael L. Williams

INVITATION TO REQUEST A 2009–2010
MSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

The MSA is again offering a program for the 2009–2010 academic year. The MSA will pay the 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. Depending on the response, one or more lecture tours will be arranged outside North America.

Names of the 2009–2010 Distinguished Lecturers and their lecture titles are not yet available but will be posted soon on the MSA website. If your institution is interested in welcoming an MSA Distinguished Lecturer, check the website for lecturers and titles and e-mail your request to the program administrator: *Dr. Cameron Davidson, Carleton College, Dept. of Geology, 1 N College St, Northfield, MN 55057-0001, USA; e-mail: cdavidso@carleton.edu; tel.: (507) 646-7144; fax: (507) 646-4400.* The Lecture Program is designed to run from September 2009 through April 2010. Lecturer requests received by May 12, 2009, 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. Schools outside the United States should indicate the starting and ending dates of academic terms. Because of travel and schedule constraints, it is normally not possible to satisfy requests for tightly constrained dates such as seminar days.



The Mineralogical Society of America

2010 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 from 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

Proposal submissions for the grant are to be made online. Instructions for application and submission of proposals are at <http://grants.minsocam.org>. Further information can also be obtained from the MSA business office. Completed applications must be received by June 1, 2009.



VOTE

2009 MSA ELECTIONS

IN MEMORIAM

KENZO YAGI
Life Fellow – 1940

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR
2010 MEDALS AND AWARDS

Nominations must be received by June 1, 2009

The **Roebing Medal** is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented 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 the midst of his or her career and who has not previously been recognized as a recipient of the MSA Award.

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

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** is presented to an individual who has provided outstanding contributions to public policy and awareness about mineralogical topics through science. The next award will be given in 2011.

Society **Fellowship** recognizes a member's significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member, with two members acting as co-sponsors. Form required; contact committee chair or visit MSA home page.

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