



Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Generosity of Society Members and Benefactors



John M. Hughes

The Mineralogical Society of America undertakes many outreach activities in the broad area of mineral sciences. In addition to our well-known and widely respected publications, which rank among the most visible publications in the Earth sciences, we carry out outreach activities that may not be as visible to those members of the Society who regularly read this column in *Elements*. Among those activities is our support of young scientists by way of the MSA Grant for Research in Crystallography, the two Mineralogical

Society of America Grants for Student Research in Mineralogy and Petrology, and the MSA Undergraduate Prize awarded to the top student in mineralogy at any institution who is nominated by an MSA member.

The Society also links with mineral collectors via the Collector's Corner website, and our award-winning Mineralogy 4 Kids website receives millions of hits every year from K–12 students and educators around the world. Our listserv, MSA-Talk, keeps Society members in touch with each other regarding employment opportunities and all "matters mineralogical." The American Mineralogist Crystal Structure Database, maintained through the Herculean efforts of Professor Bob Downs at the University of Arizona, has achieved hundreds of millions of downloads since its inception and provides a model for databases for all of science. The Society also supports general public outreach through its Ask a Mineralogist website, and its Lecture Program supports the travel of distinguished lecturers throughout North America and Europe. Although I have been a member of the Society for more than 30 years, I continue to be amazed as I learn of the many outreach efforts of the Society; they are indeed commendable.

How do such efforts come about? They happen largely because of the generous support of MSA members and benefactors, both in the form of financial support and through the generous contributions of the donors' time and effort. Such activities as outlined above are important and not inexpensive; the regular dues of Society members go to cover costs of membership, but the extraordinary outreach efforts are enabled by the generous support of members and benefactors. As a Society, we are privileged to have a model for philanthropic support: Colonel Washington A. Roebling, the noted civil engineer and mineral collector, graciously gave the Society a gift of \$45,000 in bonds in 1926, which has become the Roebling Fund and has grown to over \$1.5 million today. We also receive many hundreds of gifts from members throughout the year, gifts that go to support various aspects of the Society. I have been honored to sign hundreds of thank-you letters this year, in which I express my gratitude to our generous donors for their support of MSA programs and people.

In addition to individual member-donors, several corporations and foundations (listed here) choose to support the Society and its efforts. These benefactors are listed on the back cover of every issue of *American Mineralogist* and also on the MSA website. These benefactors provide generous annual support for Society activities, for which I am grateful. If you see representatives of any of these corporations or foundations at a meeting, please take the time to thank them for their support—it is greatly appreciated.

During the summer, MSA often makes a special request to members to support particular aspects of the Society. This summer, the Society is planning a special appeal to members to support student activities within the Society, such as those outlined in an earlier President's Letter. With

Mineralogy of Society of America Benefactors

Bruker AXS	Cargille Laboratories, Inc.	Excalibur Mineral Corp.
Exxon/Mobil Upstream Research	Gemological Institute of America	Hudson Institute of Mineralogy
Microtrace, LLC	R.T. Vanderbilt Company, Inc.	Vulcan Materials Company
W.R. Grace & Co.	W.W. Norton & Company	

a record number of student members, it is important that we give some thought and support to attracting the next generation of mineral scientists to the Society. When you receive that appeal, I do hope that you will continue the generosity that is so evident in this Society.

With my sincere thanks for your support of the Society,

John M. Hughes (jmhughes@uvm.edu)
2013 President, Mineralogical Society of America

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

■ MSA will use electronic balloting for the 2013 election of MSA officers and councilors. The slate of candidates for the 2013 MSA Council election follows – president: David J. Vaughan; vice-president: Ian Parsons and Steven B. Shirey; secretary: Andrea Koziol; councilors (two to be selected): Cameron Davidson, Edward S. Grew, Philip S. Neuhoff, and Wendy Panero. Howard W. Day continues in office as treasurer. Continuing councilors are Christine M. Clark, Kimberly T. Tait, Isabelle Daniel, and Kirsten P. Nicolaysen.

MSA members will be sent a message with voting instructions to their current e-mail address in April. 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 responsibility for all MSA members.

■ A new Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry (RiMG) volume is described in an accompanying ad. It is volume 75, *Carbon in Earth*. There are three unique aspects to this volume: full color is used throughout the print and electronic versions, several figures in the electronic version are animations or movies (watch the erupting carbonate magma of the Lengai volcano, East African Rift, Tanzania), and the volume is an Open Access publication. Open Access is sponsored by the Deep Carbon Observatory, and readers may obtain free downloads of the entire book or of individual full texts, chapters, supplements, or videos.

The RiMG series has spanned several generations of publishing technologies since its inception almost 40 years ago. In its earliest days, handwritten manuscripts were scrupulously typed and typewriters were the cutting edge. For years, Paul Ribbe painstakingly cut, positioned, and pasted figures and tables onto paper. Thankfully, the late 1980s and the 1990s brought the advent of personal computers and desktop publishing. The publishing world went digital, and so did RiMG. Since 2003, RiMG has been produced electronically, and volumes are now readily available in both print and electronic formats. This newest volume breaks ground as an Open Access publication.

J. Alex Speer (jaspeer@minsocam.org)
MSA Executive Director



VOTE

2013 MSA ELECTIONS

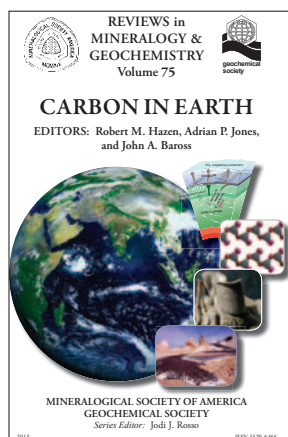
INVITATION TO REQUEST A 2013–2014 MSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

The Mineralogical Society is again offering a program of Distinguished Lecturers for the 2013–2014 academic year. Under this program, the MSA will pay travel expenses of the Distinguished Lecturers and the host institutions will be responsible for local expenses, including accommodation and meals. The program will include 3 Lecturers, one of whom resides in Europe. Depending on the response, one or more lecture tours will be arranged outside North America.

The 2013–2014 Distinguished Lecturers are Linda T. Elkins-Tanton, Nita Sahai, and Richard Wirth. Their lecture titles 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. Timothy W. Grover, Castleton State College, Dept. of Natural Sciences, Jeffords Center, 233 South St., Castleton, VT 05735-0001, USA; e-mail: tim.grover@castleton.edu; tel.: +1 (802) 468-1289; fax: +1 (802) 468-1170. The Distinguished Lecturer program is designed to run from September 2013 through April 2014. Lecturer requests received by May 4, 2013, 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 Lecturer schedules will be assembled), (3) contact e-mail addresses and phone numbers, (4) flexibility on Lecturer preference, and, for schools outside the U.S., (5) the starting and ending dates of the academic terms. Because of travel and schedule constraints, it is normally not possible to satisfy requests for tightly constrained dates, such as seminar days.

NEW TITLE REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY & GEOCHEMISTRY

Mineralogical Society of America and Geochemical Society



Volume 75: **Carbon in Earth**, Robert M. Hazen, Adrian P. Jones, and John A. Baross, Editors. i-xv + 698 pages. ISBN 978-0-939950-90-4

Carbon in Earth is an outgrowth of the Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO), whose mission is to understand Earth through the deep carbon cycle. More than 90% of Earth's carbon may reside in the planet's deep interior, but past consideration of the global carbon cycle has focused primarily on the atmosphere, oceans, and shallow environments. DCO's overarching goal is to understand the complete carbon cycle—beyond surficial and shallow environments—to include the entire planet (<http://dco.ciw.edu>). Hundreds

of researchers from 6 continents, including all 51 coauthors in this volume, are now engaged in the DCO effort. This volume serves as a benchmark for our present understanding of Earth's carbon—both what we know and what we have yet to learn. Ultimately, the goal is to produce a second, companion volume to mark the progress of this decadal initiative.



This is an Open Access publication. For more description and a table of contents, with links for the free download of the entire book or of individual full texts, chapters, supplements, or videos, go to <http://ring.geoscienceworld.org>. If you would like a print version instead, order online at www.minsocam.org or contact the Mineralogical Society of America.

MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY

SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Thermodynamics of Geothermal Fluids

23–24 August 2013 (prior to Goldschmidt 2013)

Florence, Italy

CONVENORS

Andri Stefánsson, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

Thomas Driesner, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Pascale Bénézeth, CNRS, Toulouse, France

Crustal fluids play a fundamental role in the chemical and physical processes in the Earth system, and our understanding of their geochemical behavior and reactivity is largely based on thermodynamics. In the short course and accompanying Reviews volume, the thermodynamics of aqueous fluids over a wide range of temperatures and pressures and spanning scales from molecular to macroscopic will be summarized, revealing the power of thermodynamics for quantifying geochemical and geological processes in the Earth's crust.

Information and registration: <http://www.minsocam.org>

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2014 AWARDS

The **Roebling 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 their career.

The **Mineralogical Society of America Award** is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to the 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.

Society Fellowship is the recognition of a member's significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member with two members acting as cosponsors.

Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA's home page: www.minsocam.org. Nominations must be received by June 1, 2013.

THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

2014 GRANTS FOR

Research in Crystallography

from the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund
with contributions from MSA members and friends

Student Research in Mineralogy and Petrology

from an endowment created by MSA members



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 online submission are available on the MSA website, www.minsocam.org. Completed applications must be submitted by June 1, 2013.