



Mineralogical Society of America



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PRESIDENTS' LETTER

This letter is being collaboratively written by the 2025 and 2026 MSA Presidents to highlight MSA's commitment to improving continuity during the annual change in leadership. As we look both backwards and forwards, this has been an exciting year for MSA with several new initiatives coming online; the coming year promises to be equally if not more exciting! Last academic year, MSA piloted the MSA student club program. The program has engaged both graduate and undergraduate students in mineral-related activities such as mineral trivia, learning about gem cutting, mineral-focused field trips, career paths, and more! We are moving forward this year to develop more MSA student clubs to expand the opportunities to engage students with mineralogy and MSA! MSA publications continue to provide top-quality venues for contributions to the mineralogical sciences. There are changes afoot at *American Mineralogist*, as Hongwu Xu is stepping down as editor and Fabrizio Nestola will take his place. We thank Hongwu for his service and welcome Fabrizio to our editorial team. We are also excited that Mainak Mookherjee has agreed to join the *American Mineralogist* editorial team as a Special Publications Editor.

MSA has also adopted a new membership category: the Mineral Enthusiast member. We are excited to expand our engagement with the community of mineral collectors and enthusiasts. To that end, we look forward to the inaugural MSA annual meeting to be held in Tucson, AZ, USA, following the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. This meeting will allow our members to gather and share exciting science. It will also be an opportunity for the MSA community to experience the Tucson Gem and Mineral show and to engage with mineral collectors and dealers. MSA will launch its new membership category at this meeting.

Interest in the inaugural MSA meeting in Tucson has exceeded our most hopeful and ambitious expectations. As of October 31, 2025, 113 abstracts had been submitted for the inaugural meeting in Tucson, demonstrating the desire of the mineralogical community to organize a stand-alone meeting and to expand our partnerships with the broader mineral enthusiast and gemological communities. The large number of abstracts has led us to extend the meeting by one-half day, with oral presentations and posters starting with a keynote address and reception on Monday evening, February 16, and continuing through noon on Thursday, February 19. We look forward to joining our many colleagues in Tucson for this momentous event.



Sarah Penniston-Dorland
2025 MSA President



Robert J. Bodnar
2026 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- Renewal Season!** It is time to renew your 2026 memberships and subscriptions to MSA's publications. Member dues are: Regular Members and Fellows (\$90); Early Career Members (\$50); Student Members (\$20); Senior Members (\$0); Mineral Enthusiast Members (brand-new category – \$40); Sustaining Members (\$240 – membership plus a \$150 contribution to support MSA's many activities). You can renew on MSA's website: www.msaweb.org. At that time, we hope you will also consider contributing to one or more of MSA's funds to support our student research grants, lecture series, websites, education and outreach activities, awards, and much more.

UPCOMING EVENT IN TUCSON

In addition to the MSA Inaugural Annual Meeting described in the Presidents' Letter in this MSA Society News, there will also be a special event for mineral enthusiasts on the last day of the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show (TGMS). This new event – Breakfast with a Mineralogist – will be on Sunday morning, February 15, 2026, from 10 to 11 AM at the Tucson Convention Center. The event is to provide those who love minerals with a chance to grab a bit of breakfast and visit with mineralogists stationed around the room. The mineralogists will have displays and be prepared to answer questions and demonstrate the properties of their favorite minerals. As the event draws nearer, there will be information about exact location on the MSA website: www.msaweb.org. Watch that space!

MSA STUDENT CLUBS

Over the course of the last academic year, MSA piloted a new program for colleges and universities: MSA Student Clubs. The goal of the program is to encourage both undergraduate and graduate students to pursue mineralogical studies and to spread the word about the importance of the mineral sciences to all. To form a club, an institution needs at least one faculty sponsor, as well as three students willing to serve as officers. The officers receive complimentary student membership in MSA for one year, which makes them eligible for student research grants, as well as discounts on publications and conference/short course registrations. MSA can also provide up to \$500/year/club in grant funds to support club activities. Drs. Laura Breitenfeld and Steven Jaret, as well as Past Presidents Sarah Penniston-Dorland and Donna Whitney, are guiding this effort. For more information on this new program, contact Ann Benbow at abenbow@minsocam.org.



Members of the University of Maryland MSA Student Club on a field trip to Charlottesville, VA, USA.

MSA EVENTS AT THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA) CONFERENCE

At the recent GSA Conference in San Antonio, TX, USA (October 19–22, 2025), MSA held its Awards Luncheon to honor its 2025 awardees, Awards Lectures, and Presidential Address by 2025 President Sarah Penniston-Dorland, and Joint Reception with the Gemological Institute of America (all on October 21). MSA also had a booth in the Exhibit Hall, and a number of sponsored sessions.



Roebing Medalist
Melinda (Darby)
Dyar



Distinguished
Public Service
Medalist Kerstin
Lehnert



Dana Medalist
Elizabeth Rampe



MSA Awardee
Priyadarshi
Chowdhury