



Mineralogical Society of America



web

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MSA: Mineral Sciences for All



Donna Whitney

Over the years, I have had a like-hate relationship with strategic planning. The planning process can be interesting and constructive—or the opposite. In academia, many things can and do change during planning or soon after a beautifully crafted plan is unveiled, making the plan obsolete before it can be implemented. As a department head, I found myself quoting former U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower with alarming frequency: something along the lines of “plans are worthless, but planning is everything”.

More than a year ago, the 2022 MSA President, Pamela Burnley, realized that the Society did not have a good track record of effective planning. In cases in which plans had been developed after considerable time, effort, and creativity by MSA members, the plans tended to languish until, at some later time, the process started again. It is with confidence and optimism that I confirm that this has changed. Pamela launched a strategic planning task group that met regularly for about a year and produced a report that 2023 President Jeffrey Post, Executive Director Ann Benbow, and I distilled into a concise and actionable plan, which is on the MSA website in the About section (www.msaweb.org). This plan was approved by the MSA Council in October.

Implementation has already begun. One initiative that I am particularly excited about is the inception of a program of **MSA Student Chapters**. In this new program, students will meet regularly to explore their interests in the mineral sciences and related fields, learn more about mineral-related topics through a variety of activities, and meet other students and professionals in the many and various mineral-related employment sectors. The groups will be student-led, with assistance from a sponsoring professional who is a member of MSA. The program will run initially for a three-year trial, with some funding provided to support chapter activities such as field trips or visits to museums, labs, or businesses. Dr. Adrian Castro of Wellesley College, USA has agreed to head up this effort on behalf of MSA, for which we are very grateful. If you are interested in starting such a group, either as a sponsoring professional or participant, please contact the MSA Business Office at business@minsocam.org. Another way to support student chapter activities is with a donation to the MSA Annual Fund with a designation that your donation be used for student chapter support. Those funds will then be used in the next year to provide small grants to student chapters.

Donna Whitney
2024 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- **Renewal Season!** It is time to renew your memberships for 2024, as well as subscriptions to MSA's publications. Member dues are: Regular Members and Fellows (\$85); Early Career Members (\$45); Student Members (\$20); Senior Members (\$0); Sustaining Members (\$135 – membership plus a \$150 contribution to support MSA's many activities). You can renew via the home page of MSA's website: www.msaweb.org. At that time, we hope that you will also make a contribution to one or more of MSA's funds. These funds support our student research grants, lecture series, websites, education and outreach activities, awards, and much more.

2023 MSA FELLOWS

MSA is pleased to announce the new Fellows for 2023. Fellows are MSA members who have contributed significantly to the advancement of mineralogy, crystallography, geochemistry, petrology, or allied sciences and whose scientific contributions used mineralogical studies or data. They are designated as Fellows upon proper accreditation by the Committee on Nomination for Fellows and election by the MSA Council. This year's Fellows are:



Matteo Alvaro,
Università di Pavia, Italy



Janne Blichert-Toft,
École Normale Supérieure
de Lyon, France



Michel Cuney,
Université de Lorraine, France



Laurence Galois, UPMC-
Sorbonne Université, France



Sang-Heon Dan Shim,
Arizona State University, USA



Carl Spandler, The University
of Adelaide, Australia



Marco Scambelluri,
Università di Genova, Italy



Hidenori Terasaki,
Okayama University, Japan



Max Wilke,
Universität Potsdam, Germany



Anthony Withers,
Universität Bayreuth, Germany

25- AND 50-YEAR MSA MEMBERS

MSA wishes to acknowledge and thank its members who have reached the 25- and 50-year marks of continuous membership. They are:

50-Year MSA Members

Hubert Barnes
Mark Barton
Lawrence Bernstein
Nabil Boctor
Ernst Burke
Kenneth DeNault
Stephen Guggenheim
Roderick Hill
Toshisuke Kawasaki
Paul Kraatz
Philip Kyle
Theodore Labotka
Takeshi Mori
Yoshihiro Nakamuta
George Rossman
Douglas Smith
Paul Tambuyser

25-Year MSA Members

Jaime Barnes
Rachel Beane
Florie Caporuscio
Christine Clark
Dennis Eberl
John Emmett
Yingwei Fei
Charles Fipke
Reinhard Fischer
Matthew Goring
Christopher Herd
Astrid Holzheid
Jannick Ingrin
Janusz Janeczak
Brian Joy
Shun-Ichiro Karato
Tatsuhiko Kawamoto
Daniel Kile
Takahiro Kuribayashi
Jade Star Lackey
Viktoras Liogys
Andrew Elwood Madden
Tomoaki Matsui
Laurence Mutti
Brent Owens
Burkhard Schmidt
Ulrike Troitzsch
Chin Ho Tsai
Murielle Wolthers
Michael Zieg

EVENTS

Geological Society of America Annual Meeting: This conference took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA on October 15–18, 2023. MSA had its Awards Luncheon there on Tuesday, October 17, as well as the Awards Lectures and a joint reception at the Carnegie Museum of Nature and Science with the Gemological Institute of America that same day. There were also a number of MSA-sponsored presentations.



Citationist Gordon Brown, Roebbling Medalist Georges Calas, MSA President Jeffrey Post.



Citationist Wendy Panero, Dana Medalist Razvan Caracas, MSA President Jeffrey Post.



Citationist Jon Arthur, MSA President Jeffrey Post, holding the Distinguished Public Service Medal awarded to Sharon Tahrkeli.



Citationist Robert Hazen, MSA Awardee Shaunna Morrison, MSA President Jeffrey Post.

42nd FM-TGMS-MSA Tucson Mineral Symposium: The symposium is held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, and will take place on Saturday, February 10, 2024. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical

Society of America. The symposium theme is “Pegmatites: Crystals Big & Beautiful”. An audience of avocational and professional mineralogists and geologists is expected. Further details and the call for papers are on the Friends of Mineralogy website (<http://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/>).

MINERALS DAY 2023

This annual event, which began in 2020 as part of Earth Science Week (American Geosciences Institute), was held on Monday, October 9, 2023. The theme this year was **Critical Minerals in our Lives**. MSA created an interactive poster on critical minerals. Clicking on the poster images took visitors to pages of resources describing the critical minerals that make up each of the objects in the image. In observance of Minerals Day, there was also a webinar on the GemKids Project from the Gemological Institute of America.

