



# Mineralogical Society of America



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[www.msaweb.org](http://www.msaweb.org)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



MSA is moving ahead rapidly with arrangements for the Inaugural MSA Annual Meeting on February 16–18, 2026 in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The meeting will follow the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and will feature a field trip on Monday, February 16, followed by a welcome reception that evening. On February 17 and 18, there will be a series of talks and poster sessions in the Turquoise Room of the Pima County Historic Courthouse in downtown Tucson. This is also the location of The University of Arizona's Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum, so a museum tour will be part of the activities. An evening reception in the Courtyard of the Courthouse on Tuesday, February 17, will be included with registration, as will breakfast and lunch on both days of the meeting. A room block is reserved at the Hampton Inn/Home2 Suites by Hilton - Tucson Downtown, which is within walking distance from the meeting venue. Registration will be through the MSA website at [www.msaweb.org](http://www.msaweb.org). For any questions and additional information, contact Ann Benbow at [abenbow@minsocam.org](mailto:abenbow@minsocam.org).

We are also excited to announce a new membership category for MSA: Mineral Enthusiast! This category was voted through by the MSA Membership, and will be available for \$40/year, beginning with the October renewal season for 2026. Members in this new category will receive *Elements Magazine*, but will also have access to special benefits such as webinars, workshops, and publications designed for those who enjoy minerals and want to learn more about them. More details about the membership will be posted on the MSA website.

**Sarah Penniston-Dorland**

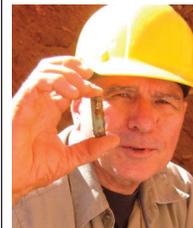
## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- 2026 Renewal Season!** MSA will start its 2026 renewal season in October. Dues are the same as in 2025: Regular Members and Fellows (\$90); Early Career Members (\$50); Mineral Enthusiast Members (\$40); Student Members (\$20); Senior Members (\$0); Sustaining Members (\$240 – 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](http://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.

## NEW MSA COUNCIL MEMBERS

The results of the 2025 MSA Election for new MSA Council Members are now official:

### 2026 MSA President



**Robert Bodnar**, Virginia Tech

### 2026 MSA Vice President



**Marc Hirschmann**,  
University of Minnesota

### 2026 MSA Councilor I



**Cara Santelli**, University of Minnesota

### 2026 MSA Councilor II



**Lars Stixrude**, University of California,  
Los Angeles

Cont'd from page 370

clinopyroxenite mass within a serpentinite mélange of the Kurosegawa Belt in Misato Machi, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan. Michitoshiite-(Cu) is a mineral that, in the ideal formula  $\text{Rh}(\text{Cu}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x)$   $0 < x \leq 0.5$ , can adopt ordered crystal structures such as bcc-type, CsCl-type, or Heusler-type. No natural occurrence of a material corresponding to this mineral had previously been confirmed, nor had it been known from synthetic experiments. Due to its rarity, its description was carried out using both field-collected specimens and synthetic samples obtained through laboratory experiments. In recognition of his significant contributions to mineralogy and ore deposit study, the mineral was named michitoshiite-(Cu) in honor of Professor Michitoshi Miyahisa of Ehime University (1928, Oita Prefecture – 1983).

## DID YOU KNOW?

MSA has vibrant social media presence, thanks to the efforts of the MSA Communications Committee chaired by Dr. Andrea Koziol. The Communications Committee also includes Thomas Hale, Rachelle Turnier, Clem Hamelin, Reto Giere, Sarah Mazza, and Chenguang Sun. We are on Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and now on Bluesky. Two social media campaigns that the committee has launched include #MineralMonday and Thin Section Thursday. We also have a number of videos on our YouTube Channel that feature topics such as careers in mineralogy, mineral photography, Martian mineralogy, gemology, mineral evolution, awards speeches, and much more. The link to the YouTube channel is <https://www.youtube.com/@mineralogicalsocietyofamer6947>. Check it out!