



# Mineralogical Society of America

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### To-Do List

A half-year into my presidential term I am continually struck by the extraordinary efforts made by MSA friends and colleagues on behalf of the Society. Scientific societies cannot survive without the help and support of their members, and the Mineralogical Society of America is no exception. It is remarkable to see how the dedicated efforts of hundreds of MSA committee members, authors, reviewers, contributors, and other volunteers keep the Society vibrant and healthy.

Everyone can help. Here's a top-ten list of things you can do to support the Mineralogical Society of America.

- ❶ Encourage your professional colleagues to join the Society, which is dollar for dollar one of the best deals in science. You get *American Mineralogist*, *Elements*, discounts to meetings and publications, and more. It's easy to join too. Just visit our website at [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org).
- ❷ Update your collection of *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* volumes. These comprehensive and authoritative books are among the best bargains in all of science publishing. What's missing from your shelf?
- ❸ Make sure that your institution subscribes to *American Mineralogist*. Institutional subscriptions include *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*, as well as *Elements*.
- ❹ Nominate your students for an *American Mineralogist* undergraduate award. Each successful nominee gets an MSA student membership, which includes subscriptions to *American Mineralogist* and *Elements*. That's the best MSA deal of all, because it's free!
- ❺ Nominate a colleague for one of MSA's awards: the Dana Medal, the Public Service Medal, the Mineralogical Society of America Award, and the Roebing Medal.
- ❻ Encourage a student to apply for one of our research grants—the Kraus Crystallography Grant and the Min-Pet Grant. It is a great opportunity for students to hone their proposal-writing skills, and it's a great recognition for the exceptional winners.
- ❼ Submit your best research articles to the Society's publications (and, if accepted, help out by paying page charges, which allows MSA to charge libraries less).
- ❽ Check out our new electronic publishing venture, GeoScienceWorld, which is a consortium of 22 Earth science societies and publishers. All the periodicals of GSA, MSA, and other key organizations are available for electronic, full-text searching. Extensive reference linking will allow you to move seamlessly from the citations in each paper to the full text of those articles in other journals and to GeoRef abstracts. To check it out, log on to <http://geoscienceworld.org>. And, if you like what you see, talk to your institutional librarian about obtaining a site license.

- ❾ Organize a special MSA session at one of our national meetings. And, if you're really ambitious, think about organizing an MSA short course. Some of the most original collaborative efforts in mineralogy begin with this kind of meeting.
- ❿ Make annual charitable contributions to one or more of MSA's important funds. Your Society depends on these contributions to maintain its many professional and educational programs.

Every member of MSA counts; every member can help us achieve our common goals and become a stronger Society.

Robert M. Hazen, MSA President  
[r.hazen@gl.ciw.edu](mailto:r.hazen@gl.ciw.edu)

## NOTES FROM WASHINGTON

✂ MSA will attempt electronic balloting for the 2005 election of 2006 MSA officers and councilors. The candidates are listed in the nearby table. If all works out, MSA members will receive an electronic message at their current e-mail addresses in May that will contain voting instructions. **Make sure MSA has your most recent address.** Those who do not wish to vote online can request a paper ballot from the MSA business office. Members without e-mail addresses will receive instructions about balloting by regular mail. Members with over-zealous spam-blockers will need to keep watch on the MSA website for when balloting becomes available. As always, the voting deadline is August 1. The individuals elected to office decide on the direction of the Society. Voting is an important job for all MSA members.

✂ Thus far this year, the MSA booth was at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Tucson, AZ, February 10–13, 2005. By the time you read this, MSA's attendance at the Goldschmidt Conference, Moscow, ID, May 20–25, 2005 will be in the past. MSA will have a booth at the meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA), in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 16–19, 2005. The MSA-GS short course on thermochronology precedes the GSA meeting, and MSA is cosponsoring at least two topical sessions ("Geology and EarthScope" and "High-Pressure Mineral Physics: to Honor Ho-Kwang Mao, Roebing Medalist"). During the week, MSA will also hold its Awards Lunch, MSA Presidential Address, Joint MSA-GS Reception, Annual Business Meeting, Council Meeting, and breakfasts for the past presidents and associate editors. More

information is available through the MSA website.

✂ If you have thought about acquiring a complete set or an individual volume in hardcopy of the *Handbook of Mineralogy* by John W. Anthony, Richard A. Bideaux, Kenneth W. Bladh, and Monte C. Nichols, you might consider doing so in the very near future. The book inventory is getting low and the books are unlikely to be reprinted. The plan is to make the mineral descriptions, with updates, available online at the MSA website. This was a generous gift by the authors to MSA.

J. Alex Speer,  
 MSA Executive Director  
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## ELECTIONS 2005

The slate of candidates for the MSA Council elections is as follows:

PRESIDENT: **John W. Valley**

VICE PRESIDENT  
 (one to be selected):  
**Harry Y. (Hap) McSween Jr.,  
 Barbara L. Dutrow**

SECRETARY: **George E. Harlow**

COUNCILLORS  
 (two to be selected):  
**Jay D. Bass, Roberta L.  
 Rudnick, Edward Stolper,  
 and Simon A.T. Redfern**

**John M. Hughes** continues in office as Treasurer. Continuing councillors are **Mickey E. Gunter, David London, Ross John Angel, and Robert T. Downs.**

Election materials will be available to MSA members in April in time for the voting deadline of August 1, 2005.

## RECENTLY IN AMERICAN MINERALOGIST

Variety is one goal of *American Mineralogist*, perhaps our chief goal. Because this brief article cannot tell you about every paper, to ensure you don't miss a paper in your field of interest please see the tables of contents posted on the MSA website ([www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org)) or, for those of you with GSW access, at the address <http://ammin.geoscienceworld.org>

Not to be missed in the May/June issue is the Presidential Address by Douglas Rumble.

"A mineralogical and geochemical record of atmospheric photochemistry" explores unanticipated discoveries of new examples of natural phenomena, which punctuate the history of science with excitement and afford splendid opportunities for groundbreaking, systematic research. All geochemists, mineralogists, mineral physicists, and petrologists will want to join in investigating a geologic record of atmosphere photochemistry across the entire span of Earth's lifetime. Dr. Rumble gives a wonderful overview of these exciting discoveries and will quickly bring you up to speed.

The May/June issue of *American Mineralogist* also features a special section honoring Prof. W. Gary Ernst for his lifelong—and continuing—discoveries that relate the mineralogy and petrology of metamorphic rocks to plate tectonic processes. The papers are a sampling of the research presented at the MSA-sponsored "Ernstfest" held at the 2003 annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, a huge theme session that produced an immensely diverse outpouring of science linked to topics, localities, and concepts on which Ernst has worked. Papers gathered in *American Mineralogist* encompass studies of ultrahigh-pressure metamorphism; of ancient sub-

duction zones in Europe, Central America, and western North America; of the mantle beneath Hawai'i and of lavas at the islands' surface; and more.

The April issue featured a special section on monazite geochronology. Monazite, nominally  $\text{CePO}_4$ , is an ideal mineral for determining geological ages, as it incorporates Th and U but not Pb when it crystallizes. Thus, measured Th/Pb and U/Pb ratios provide chemical ages—hence geochronological information. These information-packed papers, ranging from the theoretical to the applied, provide a complex and thorough review of this topic.

In the July issue, a paper entitled "A Synthesis of Systematic Mineralogy" puts the capstone on a huge body of existing mineralogical knowledge. The author, Bruce Railsback, presents several new diagrams that document previously unappreciated patterns and predictability in systematic mineralogy. Normally, in textbooks and classes, there is little explanation of the variation within chemical groups of minerals and little attempt to show relationships between these different groups. The series of diagrams in this paper places in context all those chemical formulae of minerals. For anyone who wondered why calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), olivine ( $\text{Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4$ ) and pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ) are common or why there are no  $\text{Si}(\text{CO}_3)_2$  or  $\text{MgS}_2$  minerals, this paper provides the answers to those questions, and to many more. For any academic or industrial researcher trying to determine the chemistry of a newly found substance, this paper will also provide guidelines for the likely compositions of new minerals.

Rachel Russell,  
Managing Editor

Highlight MSA:  
AWARDS CONFERRED BY THE SOCIETY

## The Roebling Medal

This is the highest award of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) for scientific eminence as represented primarily by scientific publication of outstanding original research in mineralogy. The science of mineralogy is defined broadly for purposes of the Roebling Medal. The recipient of the Roebling Medal receives a 2-inch-diameter, 14-carat-gold engraved medal and an identical one in bronze, and is made a Life Fellow of the Society. The 2005 Chair of the MSA Roebling Medal Nomination Committee (for the 2006 Roebling Medal) is David London, University of Oklahoma, School of Geology and Geophysics, 100 E Boyd St, Rm 810 SEC, Norman, OK 73019-0628, USA; tel.: (405) 325-3253, fax: (405) 325-3140, e-mail: [dlondon@ou.edu](mailto:dlondon@ou.edu). Details on the nomination process may be found on the MSA website at [www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/Roebling.html](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/Roebling.html)

## The Distinguished Public Service (DPS) Medal

This medal is awarded by the MSA Council to individuals who have made important contributions to furthering the vitality of the geological sciences, especially but not necessarily in the fields of mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, and crystallography. The recipient of the Distinguished Public Service Medal receives a 3-inch-diameter, sterling silver engraved medal. The 2005-2006 Chair of the MSA Distinguished Public Service Medal Nomination Committee (for the 2007 Distinguished Public Service Medal) is William D. Carlson, University of Texas at Austin, Dept. Geological Sciences, 1 University Station C1100, Austin, TX 78712-1101, USA; tel.: (512) 471-4770, fax: (512) 471-9425, e-mail: [wcarlson@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:wcarlson@mail.utexas.edu). Details on the nomination process may be found on the MSA website at [www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/Public\\_Service.html](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/Public_Service.html)

## The Dana Medal



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. For the purpose of this award, the term "mineralogical sciences" is defined in its broadest sense. The recipient of the Dana Medal receives a 3-inch-diameter, bronze engraved medal and gives a scientific presentation, which is published in *American Mineralogist*. The 2005 Chair of the MSA Dana Medal Nomination Committee (for the 2007 Dana Medal) is Barbara L. Dutrow, Dept. of Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4101, USA; tel.: (225) 578-2525, fax: (225) 578-2302, e-mail: [dutrow@geol.lsu.edu](mailto:dutrow@geol.lsu.edu). Details on the nomination process may be found on the MSA website at [www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/Dana.html](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/Dana.html)

## The Mineralogical Society of America Award

This award recognizes outstanding published contributions to the science of mineralogy by relatively young individuals or individuals near the beginning of their professional careers. Mineralogy is broadly defined and the candidate need not qualify as a mineralogist. Rather, her/his published record should be related to the mineralogical sciences and should make some outstanding contribution to them. The recipient of the MSA Award receives a certificate and is made a Life Fellow of the Society. The 2005 Chair of the MSA Award Nomination Committee (for the 2006 MSA Award) is Mickey E. Gunter, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-3022, USA; tel.: (208) 885-6015, e-mail: [mgunter@uidaho.edu](mailto:mgunter@uidaho.edu). Details on the nomination process may be found on the MSA website at [http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/MSA\\_Award.html](http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/MSA_Award.html)

## IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL T. HALBOUTY  
(MSA Life Fellow – 1938)

FREDERIC L. KADEY  
(MSA Life Member – 1948)