



Mineralogical Society of America

www.minsocam.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ut Prosim

If MSA ever adopted a motto, it might be that of Virginia Tech, "*Ut Prosim*," which can be translated as "That I may serve." Each year, I am impressed by the number of MSA members who volunteer and contribute their valuable time to MSA activities. Involvement may occur at many levels, from exchanging knowledge through MSA-listserv, submitting a position statement, or serving on a committee, special interest group or council, to organizing an MSA short course or serving as an MSA lecturer. The editors of *American Mineralogist* play an especially important role in promoting MSA by ensuring that the journal maintains its high level of quality and encompasses the breadth of mineral sciences. Bob Dymek has faithfully served in this role for 10 years and is stepping down as editor of *American Mineralogist* in December 2008. We have been fortunate to have someone as dedicated as Bob, and we thank him for his many years of superlative service to the society.

We are pleased that Jenny Thompson has agreed to succeed Bob. She has been working with Bob through the transition to January 2009 when she will officially join editors Dana Griffen and Bryan Chakoumakos. Jenny is a professor of geology at Eastern Washington University and specializes in mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry. Her research has involved the study of partial melting at granulite facies conditions in New England, the contact metamorphic aureole

of the Stillwater complex, and rare tourmaline in the granulite facies terrain of south-central Massachusetts. Many thanks go to past president Peter Heaney for spearheading this successful search. Special thanks also go to Andrew Locock, who is stepping down as technical editor of crystal structure data for *American Mineralogist* in December. I am delighted to announce that Ron Peterson of Queen's University has agreed to take on this important role.

As mentioned in the August 2008 issue of *Elements*, Tony Kampf replaced Pete Dunn as MSA representative and the United States's voting member on the International Mineralogical Association's Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature, and Classification (CNMNC), after serving sixteen years as MSA representative on the IMA's Commission on Mineral Museums. We are pleased that Carl Francis, curator of the Harvard Mineralogical Museum, has agreed to replace Tony on the Commission on Mineral Museums. Those of you who follow the dialogue on MSA-talk are aware of the widespread concern about proposed actions by the CNMNC to change long-standing mineral names. Past president Peter Heaney began a dialogue with Professor Takamitsu Yamanaka, President of IMA, expressing the concerns of the community and I will continue this discussion.

Among other society news, John Brady has agreed to chair a newly formed standing committee to consider MSA involvement with existing and proposed electronic databases. The committee would be charged with oversight of our current database commitments, assessment of databases proposed to MSA, and investigation of existing or developing databases of interest to the community.

Looking forward to 2009, MSA will play a prominent role in a number of events and meetings. The MSA-GS short course entitled Minerals, Inclusions and Volcanic Processes, in San Francisco, California (13–14 December 2008), and organized by Keith Putrika and Frank Tepley, has attracted a record level of more than 200 participants. If you attend the 2009 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (12–15 February 2009), be sure to stop by the MSA booth. Upcoming meetings featuring MSA include the AGU-GAC-MAC joint assembly in Toronto, Canada (24–27 May 2009), and the 19th V.M. Goldschmidt Conference in Davos, Switzerland (28–30 June 2009). I encourage you to be proactive in organizing special sessions at meetings such as these. Let us strive to have a range of topical sessions running throughout these meetings that showcase the mineral sciences and attract a large number of participants.

Your active involvement in these and the other activities of MSA is what makes the society so strong, so serve on!

Nancy Ross
2009 MSA President



2009 MSA president Nancy Ross receiving the MSA presidential gavel from 2008 MSA president Peter Heaney

MSA 2009 ELECTION

The slate of candidates for the MSA Council elections follows:

President – **John B. Brady**

Vice President (one to be selected)
– **David L. Bish, David M. Jenkins**

Secretary – **Mickey Gunter**

Councillors (two to be selected) – **Wendy A. Bohrsen, Sumit Chakraborty, Abby Kavner, Mark David Welch**

Darrell Henry continues in office as treasurer. Continuing councillors are **Peter C. Burns, Carol D. Frost, Penelope L. King, and Marc M. Hirschmann**. Election materials will be available to MSA members in April, in time for the voting deadline of August 1, 2009.

IN MEMORIAM

SHOHEI BANNO – Fellow 1968

STANLEY H.U. BOWIE – Life Fellow, 1950

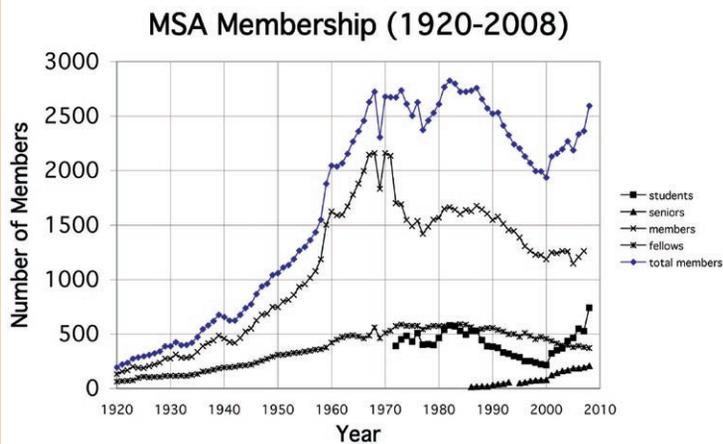
BENJAMIN F. LEONARD – Senior Fellow, 1945

EVOLUTION OF MSA MEMBERSHIP

The MSA had 2595 members as of September 30, 2008. This is an increase from 2007 and is the highest number since 1988 (2658). The number of regular members has been relatively flat or decreasing since 1971, but has shown a slight upturn during the last 3 years. The number of fellows has been declining slowly. The total membership increase is a result of a jump in student members and, to a lesser degree, in senior members. The total of 741 students is the largest number ever and is a result of students joining to buy the Dyar, Gunter, and Tasa *Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy* textbook at the member price. These trends are illustrated in the accompanying plot, which reflects events both in the larger world and in the Earth sciences since the founding of the society. Dips in membership can be seen during both the Great Depression and World War II years. There was a tremendous increase in membership accompanying the government's focus on the physical sciences after the war, and then a steady drop from 1983 to 1998 as a result of changing spending priorities. The flat and erratic numbers at the top of the membership peak reflect the handling of MSA affairs by AGI (1969–1972) and AGU (1972–1985), before a separate MSA business office was established in 1985.

Forty-four percent of MSA members subscribed to the journal in some form in 2008. The 603 institutional journal subscriptions for 2008 is a decrease of 36 from 639 in 2007. The last time MSA had so few institutional subscribers was in 1950 when there were 632. The peak number of institutional subscribers was during the 1970–1980 period, with perhaps as many as 1350 institutional subscribers. There has been a steady decrease in the number of (paper) subscriptions since that time.

The total of 603 institutional subscribers does not include the 257 subscribers who, as of March 31, 2008, have access to the journal through GeoScienceWorld (GSW). Loss of some, but not all, institutional subscribers after 2005 can be attributed to the switch to electronic-only GeoScienceWorld because there has been a trend of attrition for some time. With the advent of GeoScienceWorld, we have gained (electronic) subscribers who may be new subscribers or returning subscribers from some time ago. Of the 257 current GSW subscribers, 23% are current (2008) MSA (paper + electronic) journal subscribers, 9% were subscribers in 2007, 11% were subscribers in 2006, 14% were subscribers in 2005, 11% subscribed some time before 2005 (before there was a GSW), and 33% were never MSA subscribers. Some, but not all, of the 2007 and 2006 subscribers cancelled because of GSW, and there is a good chance that most of the 2008 subscribers will eventually do so. The other 60% were lost as, or never were, *American Mineralogist*



subscribers for reasons unrelated to GSW. However, it seems that GSW is achieving its goal of reversing the loss of subscribers, even bringing new ones, though not to paper.

And finally, all 2007 and 2008 MSA members have been contacted by mail, electronically, or both about renewing their membership for 2009. If you have not yet renewed your MSA membership, please do so. If you have not received a notice by the time you read this, please contact the MSA business office. You can also renew online at anytime.

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 1, 2009

The **Roebbling Medal** is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

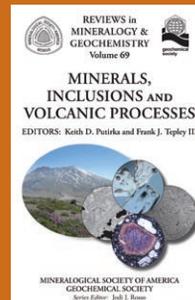
The **Dana Medal** recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of his or her career.

The **Mineralogical Society of America Award** is awarded for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to the awardee's 35th birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

Society **Fellowship** is the recognition of a member's significant scientific contributions. Nomination is undertaken by one member with two members acting as cosponsors. Form required; contact committee chair or MSA home page.

Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA's home page: www.minsocam.org

NEW TITLE – REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY & GEOCHEMISTRY



Mineralogical Society of America
and the Geochemical Society

Volume 69 – Minerals, Inclusions and Volcanic Processes

Keith D. Putirka and Frank Tepley III, EDITORS \$40

For more description and a table of contents of this book and to order online, visit www.minsocam.org or contact the Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1125, USA; phone: +1 (703) 9950; fax: +1 (703) 652-9951; e-mail: business@minsocam.org



The Mineralogical Society of America

2010 Grants for
**RESEARCH IN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY,
MINERAL PHYSICS OR CHEMISTRY,
AND MINERALOGY**

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

STUDENT RESEARCH IN MINERALOGY AND PETROLOGY

from an endowment created by MSA members

Selection is based on the qualifications of the applicant, the quality, innovativeness, and scientific significance of the research of a written proposal and the likelihood of success of the project. 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 forms are available from the MSA home page, www.minsocam.org, or the MSA office. Completed applications must be received by June 1, 2009.