



# Mineralogical Society of America



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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Steven B. Shirey

### *Learning Mineralogy by Topical Workshop or School — An "Educational Field Trip"*

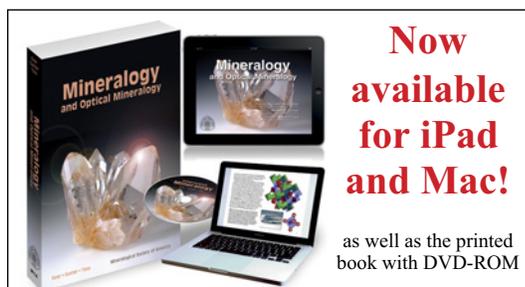
Twice this past year, I had the pleasure of participating in what could be a wave of the future in mineralogy education: the dedicated, small-size topical workshop, short course, or school. More informal and perhaps less focused than the traditional short course "with an accompanying RiMG monograph," and more accessible than a Gordon

Research Conference, the new-style workshops/schools provide education on the latest research and techniques (much of it not yet in print) at modest cost and in an inspiring manner. They are organized expressly so that information flows across different levels of expertise, and there is ample of time for discussion. It is almost as though one were on a field trip of an educational nature.

At the Fall 2014 Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting in Vancouver (Canada), there was the workshop/short course '**Carbon through Deep Time**' sponsored by MSA, GSA, and the Deep Carbon Observatory (DCO). In January 2015, there was the '**2<sup>nd</sup> International Diamond School**' held in Brixen-Bressanone (Italy) and sponsored by the Gemological Institute of America, the Italian Society of Mineralogy and Petrology, and the DCO. Both meetings were attended by an exciting mix of students, postdocs, professionals, and teachers. These meetings were wildly successful because of the lively discussions and the wide range of subjects covered. In particular, at the Diamond School (where we were brought together by a single mineral!), topics as diverse as crystallography, geothermobarometry, morphology, inclusion identification, spectroscopy, geochronology, host lithology, exploration, kimberlite volcanology, mine development, experimental petrology, and stable isotopes were discussed by students and scientists from academic, industry, and government sectors. Such depth and diversity of content would have been impossible at a normal scientific meeting.

MSA stands ready to help organize and support future topical workshops and schools through its topical workshop coordinator, MSA past-president David Vaughan ([david.vaughan@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:david.vaughan@manchester.ac.uk)) and the MSA business office ([jaspeer@minsocam.org](mailto:jaspeer@minsocam.org)).

**Steven B. Shirey**, MSA President  
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**Now available for iPad and Mac!**

as well as the printed book with DVD-ROM

*Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy* by Melinda Darby Dyar and Mickey E. Gunter is specifically designed to take full advantage of digital media technology. Each chapter in the digital series is available separately on iBooks for the iPad and Mac, allowing instructors to pick and choose only those chapters needed for their specific course.

See [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org) for more information about the textbook, and how to purchase individual chapters in the digital series, or the print version. The "Mineral Database" app is also available.

## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA will have electronic balloting for its 2015 election of MSA officers and councilors. The slate of candidates is as follows: *president*: Rebecca A. Lange (University of Michigan); *vice president* (one to be selected): Mickey E. Gunter (University of Idaho) or George E. Harlow (American Museum of Natural History); *secretary*: Brian Chakoumakos and Jacob Lowenstern; *councilors* (two to be selected): Aaron Celestian, Rasdeep Dasgupta, Francis McCubbin, and/or Peter Nabelek. The treasurer will continue to be Howard Day. Continuing councilors will be Edward S. Grew, Wendy Panero, Abby Kavner, and Matthew J. Kohn. MSA members will be sent a message to their current e-mail address with voting instructions in April. Make sure MSA has your most recent e-mail address! Those who do not wish to vote online can request a paper ballot from the MSA business office. As always, the voting deadline is August 1. Individuals elected to office decide on the direction of the society. Voting is an important job for all MSA members.
- MSA members who subscribed to the online version of the *Reviews* now have access to the entire *Reviews* series, volume 1 to 79 (1974–2014) on the MSA website at [www.msapubs.org](http://www.msapubs.org), and will have access to the 2015 volumes as they become available. If you did not subscribe to the series when you renewed, you can subscribe to this, or any journal offered through MSA, at any time through the "member reduced rate journal subscriptions" link under "Publications" menu item of the MSA home page. In-print copies are always available, and electronic or print versions of entire volumes of the out-of-print *Reviews* are available at [www.minpubs.org](http://www.minpubs.org). Single chapters of the *Reviews* can be purchased as electronic files or print-on-demand copies at [www.minpubs.org](http://www.minpubs.org) as well.

**J. Alex Speer**, MSA Executive Director  
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## **VOTE** 2015 MSA ELECTIONS

### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2015/2016 AWARDS

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 1, 2015

The **Roebling Medal** (2015) is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The **Dana Medal** (2016) is intended to recognize continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the midst of their career.

**Mineralogical Society of America Award** (2015) is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to 35th birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** (2015) is presented to an individual who has provided outstanding contributions to public policy and awareness about mineralogical topics through science.

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.

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

## APPLY FOR STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS


**The Mineralogical Society of America**  
 2016 Grants for

**Research in Crystallography**

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 and the quality, innovativeness, and scientific significance of the research as judged from a written proposal and the likelihood of success of the project. There will be up to three US\$5000 grants with the restriction that the money be used in support of research. Application instructions and online submission are available on the MSA website, <http://www.minsocam.org>. Completed applications must be submitted by June 1, 2015.

## 2015 STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT WINNERS



**Elias Nakouzi** (Florida State University) received the 2015 Grant for Research in Crystallography funded by the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund for his proposal, "Understanding and controlling the non-classical crystallization pathways of silica-carbonate biomorphs." The proposal is centered on understanding and controlling the morphogenetical mechanisms of silica-carbonate biomorphs. The fundamental insight gained from this representative system will significantly expand the toolbox of crystallization methods and allow the rational design of biomimetic materials with controlled properties.



**Huan Cui** (University of Maryland) received one of the 2015 Grants for Student Research in Mineralogy and Petrology for his proposal, "Linking authigenic carbonate mineralization in marine sediments to the largest carbon isotope excursion in Earth history." The most profound negative carbon cycle anomaly recorded in Earth history is known as the Shuram Excursion (with

$^{13}\text{C}$  values consistently around  $-10\%$ ), named after a unit in Shuram, Oman, where the anomaly was first recognized (Ediacaran Period, ca. 580 Ma). Mr. Cui will test his hypothesis that there was a global authigenic mineralization event during the Ediacaran Period. This event may have been caused by an enhanced flux of oxidants, such as sulfate or ferric iron, into the ocean, possibly triggered by the Neoproterozoic Oxygenation Event during the middle Ediacaran Period.



**Emily Hernandez Goldstein** (University of Texas at Austin) received one of the 2015 Grants for Student Research in Mineralogy and Petrology for her proposal, "Trace element systematics of serpentinization". Her research will systematically investigate serpentinites from diverse tectonic settings to assess how seawater interaction, peridotite composition, and subsequent  $P$ - $T$  processing

partition trace elements in serpentine-group minerals and what role serpentinites play in the global cycling of elements. While many previous serpentinite studies have recorded location-specific (single ophiolite complex or ODP Leg) or element-specific (REE, HFSE, LILE) variations in serpentinites, only a limited number of studies have investigated samples in terms of tectonic setting. Knowing the differences between serpentinites formed during seafloor alteration at mid-ocean ridges, at hyperextended margins, and in subduction zones will serve to quantify the importance of geodynamic setting on the role of serpentinites as major elemental reservoirs and as transport agents into subduction zones.

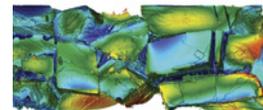
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 AND GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY

## SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pore-Scale Geochemical Processes**

ORGANIZERS: Carl Steefel, Simon Emmanuel,  
 and Larry Anovitz

15–16 August 2015, Design Elephant Hotel,  
 Prague, Czech Republic

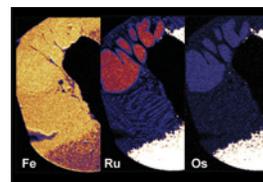


This short course will review recent research on the pore-size dependence of reaction rates; thermodynamic and kinetic factors that influence geochemistry in nanoconfined pores; and the experimental characterization, and modeling advances in our understanding of pore-scale geochemical processes. Characterization approaches include X-ray synchrotron techniques, small-angle neutron scattering (SANS), backscattered electron (BSE) mapping, and focused ion beam scanning electron microscopy (FIB-SEM) mapping of pore structure. Experimental studies include those that make use of micromodel and/or microfluidic approaches to quantify geochemical or coupled geochemical transport processes.

**Siderophile and Chalcophile Elements**

ORGANIZERS: Jason Harvey and James Day

11–12 December 2015, Scripps  
 Oceanographic Institute,  
 San Diego, CA, USA



The strongly chalcophile (sulfur-loving) elements include Se and Te, whereas the highly siderophile (iron-loving) elements include the platinum-group elements Re, Au, Pt, and Os, within which are the following long-lived isotope systems based on the decay of Re and Pt to isotopes of Os ( $^{187}\text{Re}$ - $^{187}\text{Os}$  and  $^{190}\text{Pt}$ - $^{186}\text{Os}$ , respectively). As a result of the strong partitioning of siderophile and chalcophile elements into metals, alloys, and sulfides, the study of the distribution and behavior of the siderophile and chalcophile elements, and the phases that host them, provides a unique perspective on how the major geochemical reservoirs of the Earth, and other rocky planets, formed and evolved.

Description and registration online at [www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org) or contact Mineralogical Society of America, 3635 Concorde Pkwy Ste 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-1110 USA phone: +1 (703) 9950 fax: +1 (703) 652-9951.

**American Mineralogist**
**Call for Letters: Short Papers of Interesting Intel**

Letters are designed to be a rapid means of communication of articles, generally for short articles of a newsworthy flavor. "Newsworthy" is a term open to interpretation, but, where possible, we encourage authors to submit manuscripts that will be of interest to a broad readership.

Letters have a rapid submission-to-publication time. Restrictions on length and major revisions help to ensure rapid review and more rapid placement in the journal.

(a) There is a page limit of four journal pages; authors may choose to deposit some additional background material, but if extensive deposits are required, we recommend considering a regular article in which more space is allowed to make a coherent argument.

(b) Letters do not normally allow for major revisions. If it is judged to need additional work, a Letter manuscript will usually be rejected; in essence, for publication, the manuscript should be close to the final version that will appear in the journal. However, in such a case, we encourage resubmission at a later date once the additional work or revisions are completed.



We encourage MSA members and others with articles that can be briefly expressed and are likely to be of interest to others in the broader community to consider submitting a Letter to *American Mineralogist*.

Submit papers at

<http://minsocam.alltrack.net>.

Detailed information on manuscript preparation available at <http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/AmMin/Instructions.html>