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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Michael Brown

Indispensability

Maybe no one is truly indispensable, but sometimes it surely seems like it. As many of you know, Alex Speer, Executive Director of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA), will retire at the end of 2019 after 25 years at the helm, and with 50 years as an MSA member. When Alex joined MSA as, what was then termed, a "Scientific Administrator" things were very different than today. How different? Although the digital revolution and the information age had both started

much earlier, in 1995, MSA was not connected to the Internet and computers barely impacted the lives of the staff. The MSA Business Office was located in Washington DC, the Editorial Office in Ann Arbor (Michigan) and limited off-site storage was rented in Gaithersburg (Maryland). Now the MSA Business and Editorial Offices are both located in Chantilly (Virginia) in space that is 50% larger, together with more than enough available storage (although with the change to digitally printing just the number we need means that we will no longer store hard copies of the *American Mineralogist* and the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry volumes for 20 years).

Compared to 1995, membership is up only slightly. But submissions to the *American Mineralogist* are one-third higher and the number of published pages has doubled; one-third of these pages now use color, whereas color was not realistically available to authors in 1995. Importantly, the number of subscribers to the *American Mineralogist* is nearly 25% higher. In 2005, MSA entered into a nonexclusive publishing agreement with GeoScienceWorld, a positive development for the society that was initiated by Alex Speer. On the financial side, our turnover today is twice that in 1995 and our Fund balance is three times greater. From the beginning of the century, MSA has awarded the Dana Medal (in addition to the Roebling and Public Service Medals, the MSA Award, and the MSA Undergraduate Prize), has increased from two to three the number of Distinguished Lecturers, and has increased from one to three the number of research grants awarded annually. Finally, our Internet services, which did not exist in 1995, have become important for members and for outreach. Now, all past and current MSA publications are posted on the MSA website and are searchable by anyone using Google; MSA-talk has around 3,000 subscribers; and "Mineralogy4Kids" had 3.26 million page views in 2017. Today, MSA offers a wider range of enhanced services to its members, the staff is larger to deal with the increased workload, and the workplace is largely electronic.

This is the background to my major task as the 2018 MSA President. We have begun the process of searching for an Executive Director to join MSA in January 2019, which will allow the appointee to overlap with Alex during his final year. After the spring meeting of the MSA Council, I will establish a search committee of past presidents whose charge it will be to recommend a shortlist of candidates for interview to the Executive Committee. We plan to advertise in the early summer, complete the review of applicants by the late summer, and conduct interviews in October.

What can you do to help? Two things. First, you can pass on information about the position to potential candidates. Second, you can nominate candidates: simply email me a name with a brief paragraph of support, and I will pass on your suggestions to the search committee. Changes of this magnitude are made only rarely by "Learned Societies," but getting the right outcome is hugely important to the future and longevity of the MSA.

For sure, things will be very different after 2019!

Michael Brown, 2018 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- Balloting for the 2018 election of MSA officers and councilors is underway. The slate of candidates now follow. President: Mickey E. Gunter, University of Idaho (USA); Vice President (one to be selected): Carol D. Frost, University of Wyoming (USA), and Kimberly T. Tait, Royal Ontario Museum (Canada). Treasurer: Thomas S. Duffy, Princeton University (USA). Councilors (two to be selected): Aaron Celestian, Los Angeles County Natural History Museum (USA); Vincent van Hinsberg, McGill University (Canada); Mark Caddick, Virginia Polytechnic and State University (USA); and Adam Simon, University of Michigan. Bryan C. Chakoumakos, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Tennessee, USA), continues in office as Secretary. Continuing Councilors for 2019 will be Sarah K. Carmichael, Appalachian State University (USA); Sarah C. Penniston-Dorland, University of Maryland (USA); Jay J. Ague, Yale University (USA); and Donna L. Whitney, University of Minnesota (USA). Members of the MSA should have received voting instructions to their current e-mail addresses. Those who do not wish to vote online can request a paper ballot from the MSA Business Office. The voting deadline is 1 August 2018.
- At the GSA Meeting in Indianapolis (Indiana, USA), to be held 4–7 November 2018, MSA will have its Awards Lunch; Awards Lectures; MSA Presidential Address; Joint Reception of the MSA, the Geochemical Society, and the GSA's Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (MGPV) Division; Annual Business Meeting; MSA Council Meeting; and breakfasts for the Past Presidents and Associate Editors. The exhibit hall will be open Sunday (2–7 PM), Monday–Tuesday (10 AM–6:30 PM), and Wednesday (10 AM–2 PM).

The MSA Awards Lunch is Tuesday, 6 November 2018, at which the Roebling Medal will be presented to **E. Bruce Watson**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (New York, USA); and the Dana Medal to **Joerg Hermann**, University of Bern (Switzerland). The 2017–2018 MSA Distinguished Lecturers will also be recognized: **Zachary D. Sharp**, **Clara S. Chan**, and **Jon Blundy**. The MSA Awards Lectures, the Presidential Address, and the Annual Business Meeting session are later in the day at the Indiana Convention Center. The Roebling Lecture will be given by E. Bruce Watson 3:00 PM; the Dana Medal Lecture by Joerg Herman at 3:40 PM, and the MSA Presidential Address by Michael Brown at 4:20 PM. The MSA Annual Business Meeting is at 5:00 PM and the MSA/GS/MGPV Joint Reception follows, from 5:45 PM to 7:30 PM. The 2018 MSA Awardee is **Laura Nielsen Lammers**, University of California, Berkeley (USA). Presentation of her award and her MSA Award Lecture is delayed until 2019.

Topical sessions have been proposed for awardees:

- T136.** "Tick Tock in the Rock: Elucidating the Time Scales of Geologic Processes and Honoring the Contributions of Bruce Watson, 2018 Roebling Medalist." ORGANIZERS: Frederick J. Ryerson, Mark Harrison, Julia E. Hammer, Sumit Chakraborty, and Calvin F. Miller
- T139.** "Work on the Zircon, Highlight the Apatite: Wielding the Power of Accessory Minerals and Honoring the Contributions of Bruce Watson, 2018 Roebling Medalist." ORGANIZERS: Calvin F. Miller, Mark Harrison, Sumit Chakraborty, Frederick J. Ryerson, and Julia E. Hammer
- T140.** "Frontiers in Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochronology: A Session in Honor of Dana Medalist Jörg Hermann." ORGANIZERS: Bradley Hacker, Marc M. Hirschmann, and Hugh St.C. O'Neill

VOTE
2018 MSA ELECTIONS

There are also sessions in honor of a Past MSA President (2013), and of the MSA itself:

- **T114.** "Apatite, from Magma to Medicine: In Honor of John M. Hughes." ORGANIZERS: John Rakovan and Jessica J. Barnes
- **T115.** "Mineral Evolution and Ecology: Potential Directions for the Next 100 Years with the Mineralogical Society of America." ORGANIZERS: Edward S. Grew and Robert M. Hazen
- **T142.** "Metamorphic Petrology Past, Present, and Future: Preparing for the Next 100 Years with the Mineralogical Society of America." ORGANIZERS: John M. Cottle, Sarah Penniston-Dorland, and Mark J. Caddick

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
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25-YEAR AND 50-YEAR MSA MEMBERS

The following individuals will reach 25 or 50 years of continuous membership in the Mineralogical Society of America during 2018. Their long support of the society is appreciated and is recognized by this list and by 25- or 50-year pins mailed this year. If you should be on this list and are not, or have not received your pin, please contact the MSA Business Office.

50-year Members

Hans Annersten
Gustaf O. Arrhenius
Philippa M. Black
George A. Desborough
G. Nelson Eby
Gerhard K. Hentschel
Lincoln S. Hollister
Carol M. Jantzen
R. James Kirkpatrick
W. John McLean
Arthur Montana
Yoshikazu Ohashi
Richard O. Sack
Samuel E. Swanson
Alan Bruce Thompson
Robert J. Tracy
David J. Vaughan
David J. Von Bargen
Hans-Peter Weber
James A. Whitney

25-year Members

Ivan K. Bonev
Claude Dalpe
Dolores G. Durant
Dori J. Farthing
Bruce Paul Gaber
Terrence M. Gerlach
Ben A. Grguric
R. Brooks Hanson
Dan G. Holtstam
Cliff Johnston
Ursula E. D. Kelm
Konstantinos Kitsopoulos
Ingrid M. Kjarsgaard
Jacob Teunis Kloprogge
Nikolaos Koukouzas
Keiji Kusaba
Claudio Mazzoli
Konstantin K. Podlesskii
Kevin M. Rosso
Hironao Shinjoe
Thomas C. Simonton
Richard Spiess
George H. Swihart
Yoshiharu Watanabe
Alan B. Woodland

MSA UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The MSA welcomes the following exceptional students to the program's honor roll and wishes to thank the sponsors for enabling the Mineralogical Society of America to join in recognizing them. MSA's Undergraduate Prize (MSA-UP) is for students who have shown an outstanding interest and ability in mineralogy, petrology, crystallography, and geochemistry. Each student is presented with a certificate at an awards ceremony at his or her university or college and receives an MSA student membership, which includes a subscription to *American Mineralogist*, *Elements*, and either a volume of the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry or an MSA Monograph chosen by the sponsor, or the student, or both.

Past MSA-UP awardees are listed on the MSA website, as well as instructions on how MSA members can nominate their students for the award.

- Antonia Ashauer, Goethe University (Frankfurt, Germany). SPONSORED BY Prof. Dr. Frank E. Brenker.
- Alexandra Ducatte, Towson University (Maryland, USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Wendy Nelson.
- Max Firkins, University of Oklahoma (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. David London.
- Spencer Fuston, Texas Tech University (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Callum J. Hetherington.
- Thomas Taylor Givens, University of Oklahoma (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. David London.
- Jesse Gu, University of Texas at Austin (USA). SPONSORED BY Prof. Jung-Fu Lin.
- Madeline Hill, University of Washington (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Fangzhen Teng.
- Jonas Kämpf, University of Freiburg (Germany). SPONSORED BY Prof. Dr. David Dolejs.
- Yijing Li, University of California-Santa Barbara (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Allison Price.
- Miles Lindner, Goethe University (Germany). SPONSORED BY Prof. Dr. Frank E. Brenker.
- Francesca M. LoVerde, George Washington University (Washington DC, USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Richard P. Tollo.
- Lauren M. Mitchell, George Washington University (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Richard P. Tollo.
- Madeleine E. Murphy, George Washington University. SPONSORED BY Dr. Richard P. Tollo.
- Timothy Nagle-McNaughton, Williams College (Massachusetts, USA). SPONSORED BY Prof. Reinhard A. Wobus.
- Mily Oseid, Indiana University (USA). SPONSORED BY Prof. David L. Bish.
- Laura Kate Penrose, University of Otago (New Zealand). SPONSORED BY Dr. J. Michael Palin.
- Nicholas Edwin Powell, Appalachian State University (North Carolina, USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Sarah K. Carmichael.
- Sarah K. Powers, University of Vermont (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Julia Perdrial.
- Catherine Sangster, University of Otago (New Zealand). SPONSORED BY Dr. J. Michael Palin.
- Emma Scanlan, University of Otago (New Zealand). SPONSORED BY Dr. J. Michael Palin.
- Cole Sitar, University of California-Santa Barbara (USA). SPONSORED BY Prof. Roberta L. Rudnick.
- Dylan Spence, University of British Columbia (Canada). SPONSORED BY Dr. James S. Scoates.
- Zachary D. Tomlinson, University of Oklahoma (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. David London.
- Jessica Ann Wheeler, Furman University (South Carolina). SPONSORED BY Dr. William A. Ranson.
- Jodie C. Wiltse, University of Victoria (Canada). SPONSORED BY Prof. Dante L. Canil.
- Caroline Cominey Wolcott, Furman University (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. William A. Ranson.
- Peiyu Wu, University of Washington (USA). SPONSORED BY Dr. Fangzhen Teng.

