



Mineralogical Society of America



web

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MSA at 100: Professional Service



Mickey Gunter

In my last President's Letter, I noted the next three would deal with teaching, research, and service. And while all of us might not teach or do research, we all *should* be performing professional service. My former department chair once told me that for every paper I submit, I should review two to three. The above photo of a 13-year younger me was taken at the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference in Moscow (Idaho, USA) that I co-organized.

While it might be easy to determine how many papers we should review, I think it is harder to determine how many international meetings we should organize! Regardless, meetings don't organize themselves, nor do professional societies run themselves, nor do journals publish themselves: these all depend largely on the volunteer efforts by society/association members or by dedicated staff.

A major part of MSA's organization consists of 31 committees with some 148 individuals filling them. So, for a society of roughly 2,100 members, one can see that, at any one time, 7% of us are involved in the operation of the society. Most of these committees are filled on a three-year term, so much of the "memory" in our system resides in our Executive Director of going-on 25 years (yep, 25% of MSA's life!), Alex Speer. As many of you know, Alex will be retiring at the end of 2019 and, as Mike Brown promised in his last letter, I have the pleasure of announcing Alex's replacement: Dr. Ann Benbow. Ann comes to us most recently as the executive director of the Archaeological Institute of America, and before that she'd spent over a decade as director of geoscience education and public understanding (as well as the director of education, outreach, and development) at the American Geosciences Institute. Her official start date is 1 March 2019, so there will be a 10-month overlap with Alex.

There's been another important change in probably the second most important MSA undertaking: the editorship of the *American Mineralogist*. Keith Putirka will be stepping down from this role as editor as we return to a two-editor model to better cover the breadth of our membership. The new incoming editors have served as associate editors for many years: Don Baker of McGill University (Québec, Canada) and Hongwu Xu of Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico, USA). I would like to thank Keith for his tireless service and the creative ideas he has had over the past seven years. He leaves the journal in very good shape, especially with the recent increase in the impact factor. Thank you, Keith!

I've always viewed service as the most important role of an academic, or, as I stated at the outset, that all of us should give our most important commodity—our time. MSA clearly is a society run by dedicated volunteers, and I'd like to take this opportunity thank all of them and to encourage all of you to become more involved with MSA. Finally, along with giving time, giving money is also a good thing! As such, my major goal as president will be to establish a centennial fund so that MSA can fully fund its outreach activities (e.g., the lecture program, mineralogy for kids, MSA-talk). Much of this will be done in collaboration with our incoming executive director because Ann has had considerable experience in this area—so stay tuned for more on that. And, really finally, just in case you are wondering how often you should serve as President of the MSA, based on our current membership, it would be once in 2,100 years!

Mickey Gunter, MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA will have electronic balloting for the 2019 election of 2020 MSA officers and councilors. The slate of candidates is as follows: President: Carol D. Frost (University of Wyoming, USA); Vice President (one to be selected): Howard W. Day (University of California, Davis, USA) or Mark Ghiorso (OFM Research, Washington, USA). Secretary (one to be selected): Kim Tait (Royal Ontario Museum, Canada) or Razvan Caracas (École normale supérieure de Lyon, France); Councilor position 1 (one to be selected): Przemyslaw Dera (University of Hawaii, USA) or Mainak Mookherjee (Florida State University, USA). Councilor position 2 (one to be selected): Fangzhen Teng (University of Washington, USA) or Francis McCubbin (NASA Johnson Space Centre, USA). Thomas S. Duffy (Princeton University) continues in office as Treasurer. Continuing councilors for 2019 will be Jay J. Ague (Yale University, USA), Donna L. Whitney (University of Minnesota, USA), Mark J. Caddick (Virginia Tech, USA), and Adam C. Simon (University of Michigan, USA).
- All 2017 and 2018 MSA members have been contacted by mail, electronically, or both about renewing their membership for 2019. If you have not 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 anytime.
- In addition to nominating individuals for MSA awards described in the notice of this issue, consider other societies' awards and grants: GSA's Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology Division's (MGPV) Distinguished Geologic Career Award and the MGPV Early Career Awards; American GeoScience Institute's Ian Campbell Medal; and the GSA Graduate Student Research Grants, especially the Specialized Awards such as the Lipman Research Fund; and the GSA Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology Division research grants.

J. Alex Speer
MSA Executive Director

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations Sought for 2020 Awards

Nominations must be received by 1 June 2019

The **Roebling Medal** (2020) is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as represented by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The **Dana Medal** (2020) recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in the middle of their career.

Mineralogical Society of America Award (2020) is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to awardee's 35th birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** (2021) 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.

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