



Mineralogical Society of America



web

www.minsocam.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Pamela Burnley

This is my first letter as Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) President. Before I write about my goals for the MSA, please allow me to briefly introduce myself. I am a college professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (USA). My research focus is primarily in high-pressure rock deformation, a discipline that lives at the intersection of structural geology, geophysics, metamorphic petrology, and mineral physics. With that description of my disciplinary orientation, one might wonder why I am a member of

the Mineralogical Society of America, let alone serving as its president. The short answer is that I like the MSA, have been a member since I was an undergraduate, and I see the study of Earth materials (what I do) as very much in the main line of what the MSA is about. The long answer will be woven throughout the rest of this letter, and I suspect the rest of my letters as MSA President.

During my time as MSA Vice President, I started to observe the issues confronting the MSA and had the goal of determining how I could best serve as its next president. Several things immediately caught my attention. Foremost among them is that, despite the MSA's many services to the community—including running a flourishing publishing house; hosting important community resources (e.g., databases, Mineralogy4Kids); making prestigious awards that promote the careers of young scientists; recognizing the contributions of mid-level and more senior scientists—the society's membership has been in various states of decline since the 1980s and in a sharp decline since 2010. This is an alarming trend, because a quick extrapolation predicts that the society will be empty somewhere between 2040 and 2070. This is not a particularly compelling argument for becoming a member of the MSA; one might argue that all things have their day in the sun and that that day has passed for the MSA. But I would argue that the demise of a high-functioning scientific society is not a good outcome for anyone: at a minimum, why waste a perfectly good endowment? In other words, the MSA belongs to the scientific community, and we should make the best use of it.

A century ago (weirdly, also on the heels of a global pandemic), the MSA was founded essentially as a mutual aid organization, so that mineralogists and those in “allied sciences” could support each other and better facilitate their science. To get the word out about the important insights that the study of mineralogy and its allied sciences could offer to the rest of science, the founders built a metaphorical house (MSA) in which to function and seeded an endowment to guarantee its future. They took on the stewardship of a journal, *American Mineralogist*, in which to publish their work and to set standards for what constitutes good mineralogical science. The activities and scientific questions that constituted “mineralogy” in that day look a lot like what we teach in undergraduate mineralogy class but are very different from what, today, constitutes cutting-edge science. Professionally, I am surrounded by people who synthesize minerals, study how their surfaces weather, who work on how best to extract various isotopes from a single mineral grain, or who study how minerals respond to shock loading. But none of these colleagues consider themselves to be mineralogists, and many don't belong to the MSA or publish in *American Mineralogist*. As our science advances, grows, and expands, the number of scientists occupying our MSA “house” is shrinking. I am sure the founders never meant for the MSA to become a mausoleum devoted to the memory of the science of their day: they envisioned the MSA to be hosting the science of the moment, full of young scientists and new ideas.

At this point, you might be thinking that I am being somewhat alarmist. Maybe you are seething with indignation: “Mausoleum! How dare she!?” I hope you will take this emotional energy and channel it into thinking about where the MSA is headed. Why is our membership declining at a time when the number of geoscientists is increasing? Is all this okay or not? My answer is that it is not okay. We need MSA for same reason it was created: to support our science and to help us get the word about as to why it is important. The MSA is a structure through which we can address today's challenges: from the need to encourage the inclusion of underrepresented peoples in science, to maintaining standards in the rapidly evolving publishing world. These things are not going to happen if we don't all pitch in and participate. Consider sponsoring student members, nominating your students for the MSA Undergraduate Prize, and encouraging your colleagues to join or renew their memberships. The MSA needs a wide variety of views to guide its activities. It can only be what its members make it. This is part of why I am a member of the MSA and am willing to serve as its president. I hope over the course of 2022 to hear from you about why you are an MSA member, or perhaps why not, where you think MSA should be going, and how you think we should get there.

Pamela Burnley
2022 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA 2022 membership renewals are underway, with notices sent electronically, followed by several electronic reminders, before a paper copy is sent to those who have yet to renew.
- Members and Fellows who are in the senior, honorary, and life categories are sent renewal notices. They need not pay dues, but are sent notices as the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly of mail and e-mail addresses

CONTRIBUTIONS

Many members contribute to the MSA by including a contribution with their annual dues and/or by responding to special appeals. Depending on the wishes of the member, the money is deposited with the principal of the MSA Endowment, the J. Alexander Speer Outreach Fund, the MSA Mineralogy/Petrology Fund, the J. B. Thompson Fund, the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund, the F. Donald Bloss Fund, the General Operating Funds, or the new Peter R. Buseck Lecture Fund. The income from these funds is used to support the MSA's research grants in crystallography, mineralogy, and petrology; the MSA Undergraduate Prizes; the Mineralogical Society of America Award; the Distinguished Public Service Award, the Dana Medal, and the Roebling Medal; the website; and the Distinguished Lecturer program. If you have not done so previously, please consider contributing at the next opportunity.

MSA 2022 DEADLINES

1 March 2022: This is the deadline for applications to the MSA's student research grants: the Edward H. Kraus Crystallography Grant (one grant for \$5,000), and the Mineralogy/Petrology Grant (two grants for \$5,000 each). Information about applying and an application template are on the MSA website under Grants & Awards: www.minsocam.org. For more information, contact Ann Benbow at the MSA Business Office: abenbow@minsocam.org

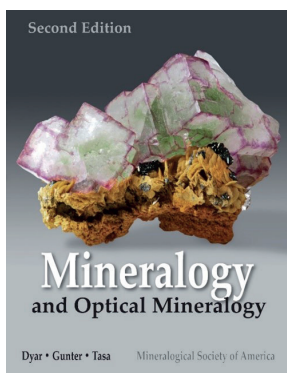
1 June 2022: This is the deadline for submitting nominations to the MSA's four awards: the MSA Award, the Distinguished Public Service Medal, the Dana Medal, and the Roebling Medal. For more information about the awards and how to submit, visit the MSA website under Grants & Awards: www.minsocam.org.

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MINERALOGY AND OPTICAL MINERALOGY

Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy, second edition, (Dyar D, Gunter M, and Tasa D) is now in full color. It is available in both hard copy through the MSA Bookstore, and as a pdf version (individual chapters and the entire text), through MinPubs.org. All the illustrations and animations that accompany the text are on the MSA website for free. You can find them at: http://www.minsocam.org/msa/DGT_Figures/. Please contact the MSA Business Office at business@minsocam.org for more information.



2022 CALENDAR



The 2022 calendar from Lithographie, Ltd. is entitled *Minerals of Mexico*. The 16-month calendar is available through the MSA Bookstore for \$12.

EVENTS

The MSA will share a booth with the Mineralogical Association of Canada at the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, which will be held 10–13 February 2022 in the Galleria area of the Tucson Convention Center (Arizona, USA). At that same show, MSA will be cosponsoring a symposium with the Friends of Mineralogy and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society.

The MSA will also have booths at the 2022 Northeastern Section Meeting (20–22 March in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, USA) and the Joint North-Central and Southeastern Section Meeting of the Geological Society of America (7–8 April in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA).

DID YOU KNOW?

The MSA's award ceremonies for 2020 and 2021 were both done virtually due to pandemic restrictions. The 2020 president, Carol Frost, and the 2021 president, Mark Ghiorso, presided over the ceremonies during their respective years. You can see recordings of both of these ceremonies on the MSA YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC43D1PLrmBkChtrsNi2y7YQ>).



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EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS INTERNATIONAL PLATINUM SYMPOSIUM 2022

5, 12, and 19 May 2022 – Virtual Edition

Abstract Submission: OPEN and will be until 1 March 2022. Download template from <https://magsul.laurentian.ca/magsul-international-platinum-symposia> and email to PlatinumSymposium2022@gmail.com. All submissions will receive an email to confirm receipt.

Abstract Process: Abstracts will be reviewed by a panel of experts in March, returned to the authors at the start of April, and then resubmitted at the end of April. The abstracts will be published in *Applied Earth Sciences* following the event!

Registration: For the event, as well as for pre- and post-conference workshops, registration will be available from **01 February 2022**.

Sponsorship: The IAGOD (<https://www.iagod.org/>) have kindly provided sponsorship for the event. This has allowed us to have awards for best regular and power presentations... and more!

Find us on Twitter (@PlatSymposium2022), Facebook (ECR Platinum Symposium 2022), and Instagram (@PlatSymposium2022).



Early Career Researchers 2022

International Platinum Symposium 2022

ECR Virtual Edition

5th, 12th and 19th May 2022






Abstract submission now OPEN. Submission deadline March 2022
(details on the MagSul website)

Pre- and post-conference online workshops
 Mineral Prospectivity Mapping in QGIS (Bijal Chudasama)
 Introduction to Micromine (Tom Pratelli)
 X-Ray Mapping and Multiple S Isotopes (Steve Barnes and Marco Fiorentini)
 Showcasing the Magma Chamber Simulator (Jussi Heinonen)



Labrador Trough - Exploration area for magmatic Ni-Cu-PGE deposits



Photograph of Merensky Reef sample

μXRF Ca-Fe-Cr map of Merensky Reef, Northam Mine

Key Notes


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University of Leicester


 Samer Maghdoor-Mashhour
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Norges Geologiske Undersøkelse

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