

## Acceptance of the Mineralogical Society of America Award for 2002

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Mr. President, members and guests:

Thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the 2001 MSA award; this is a great honor bestowed by a great organization. There are several awards for junior scientists in the earth sciences and all deserve respect, but the MSA award is special to me. It is one of the oldest and most full of tradition, and many of its recipients are my role models, colleagues, and friends. I am naturally honored to be added to their ranks. In fact, when I looked back at the list of previous recipients my only thought was that I have a way to go before I'm really in their league. Of course, the mission of junior scientist awards is to encourage their recipients to live up to their potential. I'll certainly try my best, and I thank you again for using it on me.

I'm very pleased that John Valley was able to introduce me. John has played a big part in my development as a scientist and as a person, so it means a lot to me that he is here to share this recognition. Everyone who knows John knows that he is quite a guy; he likes knocking about in the field, drinking beer and horsing around in the lab, but he's also one of the most intense and energetic scientists I've known. I was lucky to have a little of that energy rub off on me. John provided many of the opportunities and much of the support that enabled the work for which I'm being recognized. He also taught me why you shouldn't ignite hydrogen balloons inside your lab and, most recently, how to explode garbage cans using liquid nitrogen.

I would also like to thank my colleagues at Caltech. They are a remarkable group. It is difficult to express how important this environment and it's people have been to my growth. In addition to being filled with brilliant and inspiring people, Caltech is the simplest place to work of any academic institution I know of. People are there for one reason: they love science and they want to push it forward. Almost everyone there is important to me in some way or another so I won't bother naming them all. However, I would like to point out the great job Ed Stolper did in whipping me into shape and teaching me the importance of picking good problems.

It is customary and appropriate to use these speeches as opportunities to name those who gave the first pushes in geological directions. Hank Woodard was the first to do this for me while I was at Beloit College. I had decided to be an anthropologist (of all things), although at the time I wasn't sure quite what they did. Hank hired me as a porter for one of his



excursions to the boundary waters. After a week of hauling bags and paddling canoes I was convinced that was a good way to fritter away my youth, at least compared to painting numbers on flint arrowheads (which I learned is what young anthropologists get to do). I would also like to thank Tom Foster and Mark Reagan at the University of Iowa, who taught me what petrologists are and how to become one. My years with them were the first time in my life that I actually worked at something, and they are largely responsible for inspiring me to get it together.

Finally, I would like to thank those people who know little about the nonsense that ends up in my papers and are more interested in my ability to tie the shoes of uncooperative children. My daughter, Maddy, provides an example of kindness and strength that I try to follow. My daughter, Kate is my constant reminder that Dad needs to be alone if he wants to be the cleverest person in the room. My wife, Jane effectively tamed me, and did so just in time to set me off on my current path. She makes my family and career possible and puts up with a great deal of nonsense along the way.

Last of all, I thank all of you again. Most of you have known me since I was in academic diapers and have either led or prodded me into developing the way I have. Thank you for this recognition, for your confidence, and for your help.