

Acceptance of the Mineralogical Society of America Roebling Medal for 2006

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John, Pete, fellow mineralogists:

I am truly humbled by this extraordinary honor, especially when I consider the impressive list of past Roebling Medal recipients. Be that as it may, many, many thanks! We mineralogists celebrate scientific accomplishments with our awards, and far more of us contribute substantially to the advancement of the discipline than can ever be properly recognized. Thus, to be singled out for such an honor, one must be industrious, intelligent, and lucky—and if I had to choose, I'd go for the latter. As an example of my personal good fortune, I'll talk about the glaucophane schist saga and subduction-zone metamorphism this afternoon at the Roebling Lecture.

Happily, I am blessed with great friends and scientific colleagues such as my nominator, Pete Wyllie, and supporters Bill Carlson, Mark Cloos, Louie Liou, Hat Yoder, and Art Montana. I gratefully and sincerely thank them and the MSA for this special award. However, as a teacher, I know that this Roebling Medal in large part reflects the intellectual guidance and support provided by my own role models—Dunc Stewart and Eiler Henrickson at Carleton College, Sam Goldich at the University of Minnesota, Aaron Waters at Johns Hopkins, and Joe Boyd, Hans Eugster, Frank Schairer, and Hat Yoder at the Geophysical Laboratory; this medal is a consequence of their dedicated efforts to educate me. Some of the many other responsible mineralogists are my present and past colleagues at UCLA, the USGS, and Stanford, as well as academic research institutions in Japan, Taiwan, Switzerland, Italy, China, Russia, and New Zealand. Yet more importantly, I have been blessed with a *terrific* stable of graduate students and postdocs of whom I am inordinately proud. They have given me far more helpful feedback and education than I ever gave them. These included 14 M.S., 33 Ph.D., and more than forty research associates. Through examples provided by my own thesis advisors (Dunc Stewart, Sam Goldich, and Joe Boyd), I learned to give my advisees and associates both the freedom to explore and as much scientific and technical help as needed, but not to hang onto their coat tails when they succeeded. I have been quite fulfilled by my own scientific career, but am considerably more rewarded by the scientific accomplishments of these advisees and associates; they have gone farther than I ever have, and best of all, have pioneered in scientific directions I never, ever anticipated. Lastly, and most important of all, my wife, Charlotte, has provided me with steadfast love, unflinching total support during geologic-mineralogic capers to various



far-away corners of the World, and has insistently, persistently tried to educate me to the finer things in life for longer than most of you have been on the planet. So, my heartfelt thanks to the members of the MSA for this special mineralogic recognition—you are many, and you know who you are...I'll try to do a little better next time!

With regard to doing better, I finish by admonishing all of us engaged in the mineralogical sciences—particularly MSA members—to consider our future research directions more expansively. We must be interdisciplinary pioneers and collaborators. The new magazine, *Elements*, is a wonderful step in the right direction. Clearly, many among us are actively pursuing research fields such as mineral physics and condensed matter physics. So too, for example, are those engaged in studying outside-the-box topics such as mineralogy and public health, Earth materials and the biosphere, and mineralogy and global change. We have much to contribute to the scientific investigation of these nontraditional problems; scientists and engineers in other disciplines can benefit substantially from mineralogical input, but only if we provide it. Our own future will be greatly enhanced by such collaborations, and we mineralogists could stand a little enhancement!