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Mineralogical Society of America

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Educational Resources at MSA

The health and vitality of our discipline and our organization rely on educating future generations of mineralogists, petrologists, and geochemists. However, as our mineralogy and petrology courses are continually squeezed in the curriculum, it is ever more pressing to reach out to our colleagues and connect our discipline with theirs. In addition, highlighting our discipline's importance in everyday life helps students understand its broader relevance. It is critical to train our students not only for a future in academics but also for occupations in which routine decision making requires understanding science and how the Earth works.



The Mineralogical Society of America has numerous educational resources available that span all levels. These are easily accessed via our website at www.minsocam.org under the main heading "Education and Outreach." "Mineralogy for Kids" is the most visited portion of our website, with 2.3 million requests last year. The popular "Collector's Corner" (1.5 million requests) contains a wealth of information ranging from mineral and rock identification to virtual field trips. "Ask-a-Mineralogist" provides answers to questions posed by the public (0.3 million requests). Our Society's journal, *American Mineralogist*, received 1.5 million requests and is used by undergraduates as well as professionals. One-page mineral descriptions of silicate minerals taken from volume II, *Silicates*, of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*, are available online. Topical issues of *Elements* can be accessed via the MSA site and bound copies can be purchased for use in classes. For those interested in pegmatites, PIG (Pegmatite Interest Group) has stunning images of pegmatitic minerals posted together with short descriptions of pegmatites and their localities.

Links to other educational resources include the "American Mineralogist Crystal Structure Database," with its wealth of content and visualization capabilities. Perhaps the best-known item in our educational arsenal, the *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry* series serves primarily graduate and continuing-professional education. Volumes can be purchased online or accessed through GeoScienceWorld. Links to mineralogy and petrology courses given by our members throughout the world, with their rich educational content, are also found on the homepage. If you are looking for a tutorial on minerals, rocks, optical mineralogy, gems, or crystallography, visit the links provided at www.minsocam.org/MSA/Research_Links.html. This portion of the website contains an extensive resource base accessible at a click, linking you to mineralogy and petrology databases, dictionaries, mineral-specific sites, and other mineral and rock topics.

Generous volunteers oversee many aspects of our educational resources, which are maintained financially through the outreach fund. If you would like to contribute your resources and ideas, please contact our outreach coordinator, Dr. John Rakovan, or Dr. David von Bargen, who oversees the Collector's Corner. Together, we can make a difference.

Barb Dutrow
2007 MSA President

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- MSA will again use electronic balloting for the 2007 election of MSA officers and councilors. The candidates are Peter Heaney for president; Nancy Ross and Jeffrey Post for vice president; Mickey Gunter and Phil Brown for secretary; and Bruce Marsh, Carol Frost, Lee Groat, and Peter Burns for the two councilor positions.
- MSA members will receive voting instructions at their current e-mail addresses in May. Make sure MSA has your most recent e-mail address! Those who do not wish to vote online can request a paper ballot from the MSA business office. As always, the voting deadline is August 1. The individuals elected to office decide on the direction of the Society. Voting is an important responsibility for all MSA members.
- While no one wishes to receive yet more electronic mail, if you or your institution has a rather aggressive spam-blocker and you have not been getting the few announcements from MSA about new issues of *American Mineralogist* online, voting, your renewal, or confirmation of your online orders, you may wish to see about allowing such messages to reach you. Otherwise, you will need to watch for such information on the MSA website.

AMERICAN MINERALOGIST UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The Society welcomes the exceptional students listed below to the program's honor roll and wishes to thank the sponsors for enabling the Mineralogical Society of America to recognize them. MSA's American Mineralogist Undergraduate (AMU) Awards are given to students who have shown an outstanding interest and ability in mineralogy, petrology, crystallography, or geochemistry. Each student is presented a certificate at an awards ceremony at his or her university or college and receives an MSA student membership, as well as a volume in the *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry* or *Monograph* series chosen by the sponsor, student, or both.

Past AMU awardees are listed on the MSA website, where instructions on how and when MSA members can nominate their students for the award are also available.

Nicholas Groves, Texas A & M University, sponsored by Dr. Robert K. Popp

Benjamin C. Herrmann, Oklahoma State University, sponsored by Dr. Elizabeth Catlos

Jason Huberty, University of Wisconsin–Madison, sponsored by Dr. Huifang Xu

Charlotte King, University of Otago, sponsored by Dr. J. Palin

Amy Lasseigne, Louisiana State University, sponsored by Dr. Barb Dutrow

Angelica Longe, Mount Holyoke College, sponsored by Dr. Steven R. Dunn

Amy Elizabeth Nixon, University of Calgary, sponsored by Dr. David Pattison

Andrew L. Masterson, University of Maryland, sponsored by Dr. Michael Brown

Noriyuki Masuda, Oklahoma State University, sponsored by Dr. Elizabeth Catlos

Joanna R. Morabito, Lafayette College, sponsored by Dr. Guy Hovis

Andrew Vincent Mott, Lafayette College, sponsored by Dr. Guy Hovis

Samuel E. Tuttle, Williams College, sponsored by Prof. Reinhard Wobus

Michelle L. Tebbe, Central Washington University, sponsored by Dr. Paul Hoskin

IN MEMORIAM

Arthur F. Hagner
(Life Fellow – 1936)

Vernon James Hurst
(Senior Member – 1955)

Alfred A. Levinson
(Life Fellow – 1959)

Leonard A. Morgan
(Life Fellow – 1930)

Louis Moyd
(Life Fellow – 1939)

Edwin W. Roedder
(Life Fellow – 1939)

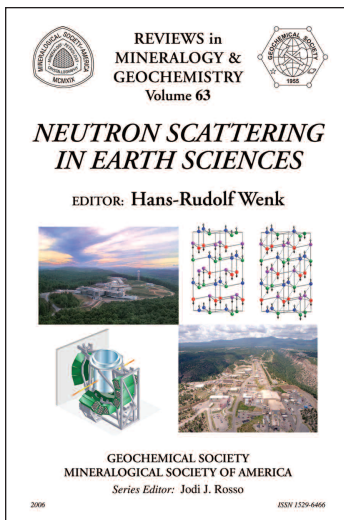
J.-P. G. Saheurs
(Life Member – 1967)

MSA SHORT COURSE ON NEUTRON SCATTERING IN EARTH SCIENCES

A short course on neutron scattering in the Earth sciences was convened by Rudy Wenk (University of California at Berkeley) and Nancy Ross (Virginia Tech) on December 7 and 8, 2006, in Emeryville, California. It attracted 65 participants, including 16 students. Generous support from the DOE-BES, as well as from COMPRES, LANSCE, and SNS made it possible to keep registration costs at a minimum, particularly for students.

Lectures given by a group of international experts covered a wide range of topics, from diffraction to inelastic scattering. During the two-day course, background and classical applications of neutron scattering as well as new opportunities were reviewed. With intense and focused beams at time-of-flight (TOF) sources as well as reactors, the kinetics of reactions can be studied in situ. Structures and phase transformations in clathrates and other gas hydrates are new and exciting fields of study in mineralogy. Possibilities for high-pressure experiments at the future SNAP beamline of the Spallation Neutron Source raised much interest. Outstanding progress has been made in the use of inelastic and small-angle neutron scattering at TOF sources to capture details of clays and poorly crystalline materials such as liquids, melts, glasses, and interfaces. This will surely become an important field for future applications where neutrons have unique advan-

tages. The low absorption of neutrons makes them an ideal tool to study properties of bulk materials, including internal stresses and textures, and to apply radiography to investigate grain structures and fracture patterns.



A volume covering the various topics (#63 in the Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry series) was distributed at the meeting and will no doubt become a useful introduction to neutron scattering for mineralogists and materials scientists. If the response from participants is any indication, the short course will hopefully stimulate new neutron users in the Earth sciences, particularly as new facilities become available worldwide.

Rudy Wenk
University of California
at Berkeley

50- AND 25-YEAR MSA MEMBERS

The following individuals will reach 50 or 25 years of continuous membership in the Mineralogical Society of America during 2007. Their long support of the Society is appreciated and is recognized in this list and by the awarding of 25- and 50-year pins, mailed in early January. If you should be on this list and are not, or if you have not received your pin, please contact the MSA business office.

50-Year Members

Mr. John L. Baum
Dr. Jan Bernard
Mr. Forrest Cureton II
Dr. H. Roberta Dixon
Prof. Fredrik Paul Glasser
Dr. Edward J. Olsen
Mr. Richard W. Thomssen

25-Year Members

Dr. J. Lawford Anderson
Prof. Ross John Angel
Dr. Thomas Armbruster
Prof. Gilberto Artioli
Dr. Michael B. Baker
Dr. Gray E. Bebout
Prof. Achille Blasi
Prof. Michael R. Carroll
Prof. John D. Clemens
Dr. Tamara Dickinson

Dr. Rona J. Donahoe
Dr. Melinda Darby Dyar
Mr. David C. Elbert
Mr. James A. Ferraiolo
Dr. Jeffrey A. Foley
Dr. Miguel Angel Galliski
Dr. Juergen Glinnemann
Mr. Robert E. Goddard Sr.
Dr. L. Peter Gromet
Dr. Donald D. Hickmott
Dr. Thomas D. Hoisch
Dr. Lindsay Keller
Dr. William M. Lamb
Dr. Kenneth J.T. Livi
Mr. Aubrey L. Long
Mr. Michael E. Madson
Prof. Emil Makovicky
Dr. Diane E. Moore
Dr. H. Richard Naslund
Dr. Roberto T. Pabalan
Prof. Andrew Putnis
Mrs. Daphne R. Ross
Prof. Roberta L. Rudnick
Dr. Martha W. Schaefer
Dr. Prof. Hartmut Schneider
Prof. Jane Selverstone
Dr. Hiroshi Shimizu
Dr. Shu-Chun Su
Dr. Takao Tanosaki
Dr. Reidar G. Tronnes
Mr. Arnold Van Herreweghe
Dr. Yasuhiko Wakizaka
Dr. Hirohisa Yamada
Prof. Atsushi Yamazaki

INVITATION TO REQUEST A 2007-2008 MSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

The Mineralogical Society of America is again offering a program for the 2007-2008 academic year with the arrangement that the MSA will pay travel expenses of the lecturers, and the host institutions will be responsible for local expenses, including accommodation and meals. The program will include three lecturers, one of whom resides in Europe. Depending on the response, one or more lecture tours will be arranged outside North America.

Names of the 2007-2008 distinguished lecturers and their lecture titles are not yet available, but they will be posted soon on the MSA website. If your institution is interested in requesting the visit of an MSA distinguished lecturer, check the website for lecturers and titles and e-mail your request to the lecture program administrator: Dr. Cameron Davidson, Carleton College, Dept of Geology, 1 N College St, Northfield, MN 55057-0001, USA; e-mail: cdavidso@carleton.edu; tel.: (507) 646-7144; fax: (507) 646-4400. The Lecture Program is designed to run from September 2007 through April 2008. Lecturer requests received by May 12, 2007, will be given priority. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis.

In making your request please include (1) airport proximity from, and travel time to, your institution; (2) the name of a contact person at your institution for the months of May and June (when schedules will be assembled); (3) contact e-mail addresses and phone numbers; and (4) flexibility on lecturer preference. Schools outside the United States should indicate starting and ending dates of academic terms. Because of travel and schedule constraints it is normally not possible to satisfy requests for tightly constrained dates such as seminar days.

The Mineralogical Society of America

2008 Grants for
**RESEARCH IN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY,
MINERAL PHYSICS
OR CHEMISTRY, AND MINERALOGY**

from the Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund
with contributions from MSA membership and friends

STUDENT RESEARCH IN MINERALOGY AND PETROLOGY

from an endowment created by MSA members

Selection is based on the qualifications of the applicant, the quality, innovativeness, and scientific significance of the research of a written proposal and the likelihood of success of the project. There are three US\$5000 grants with no restrictions on how the funds may be spent, as long as they are used in support of research. Application instructions and forms are available from the MSA home page, <http://www.minsocam.org>, or the MSA offices. Completed applications must be received by June 1, 2007.

