

Acceptance of the 2018 MSA Award of the Mineralogical Society of America

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Greetings all.

I am thrilled and honored to accept this 2018 MSA award today. For those of you wondering why I was not able to attend last year's ceremony, I was home caring for my newborn son. I realize that the other awardees this year have all had to shorten your lectures, so I want you to know that I am grateful for the accommodation. Seemingly small actions like this one in aggregate have a meaningful impact on promoting inclusive workplaces, so I thank you.

This gathering at its heart is a celebration of minerals, unraveling the mystery of their formation, and of what they can tell us about the evolution of our precious Earth. My love of minerals was seeded early by my parents, who would give me a different specimen every Valentine's day. Between then and now, I have come to appreciate the wealth of information that is locked in the crystal lattice, but I hope to never lose my childish delight in how beauty and order emerge from the chaotic and complex natural world.

Along the way, I have had the extraordinary privilege to receive training and mentorship from many incredible teachers and scientists. Donald DePaolo, thank you so much for being here and for believing in me even when I don't believe in myself. First and foremost, you have taught me—and continue to teach me—how to ask good questions. Thank you also for showing me that from good mentorship stems the confidence that someone will always have your back. To my other Ph.D. mentors, including Garrison Sposito, Ian Bourg, and Jim De Yoreo, you give life to the saying that we stand on the shoulders of giants.

In my experience, I have learned that the most exciting innovations happen when people with diverse expertise come together on a team to solve an important problem. I thank my current advisor and collaborator Benjamin Gilbert, for showing me what it takes to build a team that is truly greater than the sum of its parts. During my postdoc at Stanford, Kate Maher, Gordon



Brown, and Dennis Bird, all renowned in their respective fields, together showed me what it means to be a careful and rigorous scientist working across disciplines. To my current and former students, Jennifer Mills, Elizabeth Mitnick, Elliot Chang, and Luis Anaya, thank you for your infectious enthusiasm, which keeps me going, especially when the proposal rejections start to pile up.

Finally, I want to thank my husband Devin and my parents for their unconditional love and support, and my two young sons Jack and Reid, who make every day feel like a brand-new adventure. As I look toward the future and the problems facing our planet that we undoubtedly must solve, I am heartened by the capability and commitment shown by my mentors—today's leaders—but also by the passion and fearlessness shown by the new generation of geochemists who will help solve these problems together.

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