

Acceptance of the Dana Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America for 2005

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Citationists are selected for an ability to embellish, inflate, and exaggerate, and Gary Ernst just made it obvious that I chose well when I picked him. Thank you, Gary, for that very kind but overgenerous introduction.

Distinguished colleagues and friends: Thank you for this wonderful honor, which reaches far beyond anything I ever thought to merit. While recognizing past efforts, the Dana Medal surely raises expectations for more and better in the future. And for that challenge and its special encouragement, I'm profoundly grateful.

By tradition, recipients of this award deliver remarks that combine, in various measures: acknowledgement of mentors and colleagues, a bit of autobiography, a snort of philosophy, and a synopsis of the science that lies behind the award. In this format, with an allotment of only four minutes, I'm afraid that the scientific review will have to wait for tomorrow morning's Dana Lecture. But I'll take a shot at the rest.

I grew up hiking the Colorado Rockies, but started out at Stanford as a math major. That lasted only until I fell under the spell of Bob Compton. His 8 a.m. Introductory Geology lectures led me to believe (falsely, as it turned out) that I could make a living marching around in the mountains instead of sitting all day in front of a computer terminal. So, naïvely, I changed majors. Then others worked their magic: Ben Page, Konrad Krauskopf, George Thompson, Bill Dickinson, Jim Ingle, and Louie Liou opened my eyes to the wonders of geology, and to them I owe a debt too large to ever be repaid.

Another of my Stanford professors, Bill Luth, pointedly advised me that "not everyone is cut out to be a petrologist," and that admonition was still ringing in my ears when I found myself being introduced to Gary Ernst at UCLA. Gary, I'd like to pretend that I diligently sought you out as my ideal supervisor, but in truth the best career move I ever made—and truly, that's how I see it—was just pure, dumb luck. Proper acknowledgement of Gary's impact on me would fill the rest of my time and then some, but I'm pretty sure he already knows how much he's always meant to me.

The mineralogical sciences really never entered the picture until I got to UCLA, where Wayne Dollase awakened in me a deep sense of the intrinsic beauty of mineralogy, crystallography, and crystal chemistry. Wayne was an extraordinary teacher, and his inspirational example still guides and motivates me, even today, after 25 years in the instructional trenches at a huge public university.

And it was at UCLA that I learned petrography from one of its true masters, John Rosenfeld. John showed me over and over



again that the rocks would give up many of their secrets to those who examine them with sufficient diligence and an open mind. Experiments, theories, models, measurements, and simulations: these are all increasingly important tools in petrology. But observations on the rocks themselves are still the vital core of our work. That's as much philosophy as I'll offer this morning, but the same theme will recur in tomorrow's lecture.

Those of us studying petrology in the late 1970s at UCLA look back on that time as a golden age. My fellow students there now populate the nation's academic and professional rolls, and their work fills the pages of our journals. I'd like to list many more, but I'll just name Mark Cloos, Carl Jacobson, and (with particular thanks) Sorena Sorensen as three very special individuals from those days whose friendship and scientific advice I have continued to value immensely down through the years.

From UCLA, I went directly to the University of Texas, where the years have passed in a flash, thanks to a uniquely collegial atmosphere created by many supportive colleagues. Again, many should be mentioned, but I will spotlight only a few—namely Mark Cloos and Sharon Mosher, along with Doug Smith and Dan Barker—to thank them for their invaluable help along the way.

Everyone knows, of course, that good science is invariably a team effort. So this award also recognizes the numerous talented students and postdocs—too many to name—that I've had the pleasure to work with. Thanks to each of you, past and present, for making it all worthwhile.

Finally, I want to single out for particularly salient recognition my close colleague, Rich Ketcham. For over a decade, I've been privileged to benefit from Rich's blinding intellectual brilliance and saber-sharp criticisms, as we've worked together on one project after another. This is by far the most rewarding collabo-

ration I've ever been part of, and anyone who has followed the literature closely should realize that a big chunk of this award should be credited to him.

To close, let me call attention to the many distinguished mineralogists and petrologists whose intellectual leadership continually inspires us all. I know full well that there are many individuals, including several in this audience, whose names belong on the list of Dana Medalists high above mine. Humbled by that knowledge, I'll always cherish this generous honor, for which I again extend to you all my warmest personal thanks.