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Mineralogical Society of America



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Black Waters Rising?

"Black waters rising, come in my windows and door."—Blind Lemon Jefferson, 1927

Floods are increasing in coastal areas. As I write for this issue of *Elements* in late September, large areas of New Orleans and the gulf coast are under water from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. By the time you read this, the waters will be gone, the relief effort should be in full swing, and we will be pondering the lessons. The storms were tracked, and the landfall, size, and dreadful effects predicted, but mistakes were made. It was disheartening in the early days after Katrina to hear our highest elected official say that he never suspected that levees might fail. In fact, everyone should have suspected and many predicted this outcome. Historic precedents are clear. The 1900 Galveston hurricane and the 1927 Mississippi delta floods, similar to Katrina in their devastation, are well documented and even immortalized in the blues of that period. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was more tragic still. It might be unfair to expect the president to have known this, but why didn't he consult science advisers?

As researchers and educators, we agree that science is fundamental to security and well-being. But, have we connected with our elected officials? It seems that, increasingly, national debate pits science against ideology.

Natural disasters are just one of many areas where the geosciences provide information necessary for intelligent public policy. Others, to name just a few, include energy, the environment, climate change, and evolution. We are challenged—how can we demonstrate the relevance of our work to those responsible for making decisions? The journal *Elements* is a tremendous new resource to help us in this endeavor.

Elements is not restricted to members of professional societies. It is written to be widely accessible. As a service to its members, MSA includes a check-off box on membership renewal forms to allow you to send a year's subscription of *Elements*, 6 issues, to anyone you choose for \$25. I am sending *Elements* to my senators, congresswoman, and dean. I plan follow-up letters to engage these busy people so they put it on their coffee tables and read it.

In its first year *Elements* published special issues on toxic metals in the environment, fluids in planetary systems, diamonds, the origin of life, and large igneous provinces. If you send someone a subscription to *Elements* in 2006, they will get issues devoted to user research facilities in the Earth sciences, arsenic, water on Mars, the early Earth, glasses and melts, and the environmental impact of the nuclear fuel cycle. These issues will also be of interest to K-16 educators and students. There is something for everyone here. Let's spread the word!

John W. Valley
President, Mineralogical Society of America

NOTES FROM CHANTILLY*



The new MSA office in Chantilly, VA

- All MSA members were contacted by mail, electronically, or both about renewing their membership in early October 2005. If you have not renewed your MSA membership and have not received a notice by the time you read this, please contact the MSA Business Office. You can also renew online at any time.
- Nominations for 2007 MSA awards are due June 1, 2006. See call for nominations, next page. If you feel an individual is worthy of one of these awards and "someone" ought to make the nomination, there is a good chance that "someone else" will not get around to it or will have their own candidate in mind. Be the "someone" to make that nomination.
- If you, or someone you know, are interested in running for office or serving on a committee, please let the chairs of the Nominating Committee for Officers or Committee on Committees know. Committee lists and members are on the MSA website. MSA Office is open to any non-student member or fellow of the Society, and committee membership is open to any member or fellow of the Society.
- On Saturday July 16, 2005, the MSA business and editorial offices, as well as the book inventory stored in the second-level parking deck of 1015 18th St, moved from Washington, DC, to Chantilly, Virginia. Five 25-foot straight-line trucks, one 53-foot tractor-trailer, and about 20 movers were needed. On the following Tuesday, the back issues of *American Mineralogist*, *Clays and Clay Minerals*, and *Elements* were moved from Gaithersburg, Maryland, to the new location. On Monday August 1, 2005, most of the *Reviews* printed or reprinted since 2002 and stored at

Annapolis Junction, Maryland, were moved to Chantilly, VA. This took two 53-foot tractor-trailers. All these moves took place in typical Washington-area summer weather of high humidity and 95°F plus temperatures. The move itself went without difficulties, though it has required a continuous effort to get up and running. Internet access and e-mail was intermittent for about a week. Order, claim, and short course registration processing stopped for about three weeks.

• Aleisha Hunter decided not to stay with MSA with the move to Chantilly, VA. She has worked with MSA since July 1998. She wanted to return to school to obtain a nursing degree and had investigated possible schools in South Carolina where she had family. Taking the position of administrative assistant is Michael A. Harris. He held different administrative positions in the Navy from 1991 to 1997, in the DC-based USDA Graduate School, and in an insurance firm doing account reconciliation. He started work on June 27, which allowed overlap with Aleisha for training, and he also helped with the move.

• The 2006 spring council meeting and Dana Medal presentation will be at the 2006 Spring AGU, to be held May 23–26 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The Dana Medal Committee has recommended to Council that Rodney C. Ewing be awarded the 2006 Dana Medal. More information about the AGU conference is on the MSA website under meetings.

J. Alex Speer
MSA Executive Director
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* formerly Notes from Washington

EDITORSHIP CHANGES AT AMERICAN MINERALOGIST

Dr. George A. Lager, a professor in the Department of Geography and Geosciences at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, is the new co-editor of *American Mineralogist*. He replaces Dr. Lee A. Groat, who is stepping down at the end of 2005, after five years of hard work. Dr. Robert F. Dymek remains as co-editor.



Dr. George Lager

"MSA has tremendous confidence in our newest editor," said Dr. Robert Hazen, MSA's 2005 president. "He'll continue or improve the tradition of quality and variety that is the hallmark of *American Mineralogist*."

Dr. Lager has been an associate editor of the journal, which makes the transition to editor easier. He is already handling some of the tasks of the editors, which include finding associate editors for new papers, acting on accepted recommendations, editing the final version of the paper, aiding associate editors, and recruiting new associate editors.

Dr. Lager's present research interests include hydrogen bonding in minerals at ambient

and non-ambient conditions, the effect of structurally incorporated water on the physical properties of minerals, the correlation between crystallographic and spectroscopic measurements in hydrous minerals, and the relations between structure and property of materials.

Authors are reminded to submit new manuscripts to *American Mineralogist* via the web-based system found at <http://minsocam.allentrack.net>. Regular articles can be on any topic in Earth science, and full information regarding manuscript preparation can be found at <http://www.minsocam.org>.

Rachel Russell,
Managing Editor

2005-2006 MSA DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

The Mineralogical Society of America is pleased to announce that its Distinguished Lecturers and their lectures for 2005-2006 are:

Penelope L. King

University of Western Ontario, London, ON Canada

Examining volatiles in magmas using experiments, analyses and fieldwork

&

Salts on Mars: what are they and how did they get there?

Patrick J. O'Brien

Universität Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany

From microscopic to macroscopic: how what we see in the microscope can be used to explain the formation of the Himalaya

&

History written in stone: rocks as good, bad and indifferent eyewitnesses of geological processes

Thomas G. Sharp

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ USA

Subduction through the transition zone: phase transitions, deep focus earthquakes and role of H₂O

&

High-pressure minerals in meteorites: deep-Earth minerals from the asteroid belt and collisions in the solar system

The schedules of the lecturers' tours are given on the MSA website (www.minsocam.org). Check to see if they may be at a location near you to hear them. MSA expresses its appreciation to these individuals for undertaking such a service to our science.



AMERICAN MINERALOGIST UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The Mineralogical Society of America welcomes the following exceptional students 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, and geochemistry. Each student is presented a certificate at an awards ceremony at his or her university or college and receives an MSA student membership, a *Reviews in Mineralogy* or *Monograph* volume chosen by the sponsor, student, or both.

Past AMU awardees are listed on the MSA website, as well as instructions on how MSA members can nominate students for the award.

Kristy-Lee Beal

University of New Brunswick
Sponsored by Dr. Cliff S. J. Shaw

Emilie Bonnet

University of Victoria
Sponsored by Dr. Dante Canil

Allison A. Brand

University of British Columbia
Sponsored by Dr. Lee A. Groat

Kallina Marie Crary

Oklahoma State University
Sponsored by Dr. Elizabeth Catlos

Jennifer G. Fisher

Georgia State University
Sponsored by Dr. Timothy E. La Tour

Emily E. Hartwick

Central Michigan University
Sponsored by Dr. Mona-Liza Sirbescu

Lara Kapelanczyk

Smith College
Sponsored by Dr. John B. Brady

Marian Esther Kramer

Smith College
Sponsored by Dr. John B. Brady

Matt Totten

University of Oklahoma
Sponsored by Dr. David London

Thomas Weedmark

University of Calgary
Sponsored by Dr. David R. M. Pattison

Heather Wolczanski

Acadia University
Sponsored by Dr. Sandra M. Barr

IN MEMORIAM

ERNEST G. EHLERS
MSA Fellow – 1955

CORNELIUS S. HURLBUT JR.
MSA Life Fellow – 1937

Nominations Sought

Nominations must be received by June 1, 2006

The **Roebing Medal** is MSA's highest award and is given for eminence as demonstrated by outstanding published original research in mineralogy.

The **Dana Medal** recognizes continued outstanding scientific contributions through original research in the mineralogical sciences by an individual in mid-career.

The **Mineralogical Society of America Award** is given for outstanding published contribution(s) prior to the awardee's 35th birthday or within 7 years of the PhD.

The **Distinguished Public Service Medal** is awarded for distinguished contributions to public policy and awareness about mineralogical topics.

Society **Fellowship** is the recognition of a member's significant scientific contributions.

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Submission requirements and procedures are on MSA's home page: <http://www.minsocam.org/>