



# Mineralogical Society of America

[www.minsocam.org](http://www.minsocam.org)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### *The Second Century of MSA*



John M. Hughes

It seems that it was just a short time ago that I wrote my first President's Letter for the society pages in *Elements*. A lot has happened in the past year, and the pace will only pick up for the Mineralogical Society of America in the next few years. As I turn over the reins to incoming President David J. Vaughan, I am pleased with the state of the Society and look forward to contributing to it however I can in the future. The MSA is coming upon a signal event in its history as we reach our centennial during the period of 2016–2019, and I hope that all members will take part in the celebrations.

That we will celebrate our centennial over four years comes from the historical vagaries of the Society. In July 1916, a new publication appeared, *The American Mineralogist*, and the first paper in volume 1, number 1, traces the lineage of the new journal in an article entitled "Arthur Chamberlain and His Magazines" (a copy of the original publication can be viewed at [www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors\\_corner/amtoc/toc1916.htm](http://www.minsocam.org/msa/collectors_corner/amtoc/toc1916.htm)). The journal has been published continually since that time (note that the last volume with "The" in the title was volume 57, 1972), and since then it has become the leading journal in mineralogy/crystallography/petrology in the world. The editors of the journal are already planning for marking the centennial in 2016, and I would urge authors to consider putting their landmark papers in that centennial volume.

The journal continued to be published without the support of a formal society until 1919. In the February 1919 issue of the journal, it was noted: "At the meeting of the Geological Society of America in Baltimore, December 27–28, 1918, the question of the formation of a Mineralogical Society of America was informally discussed by mineralogists present." Discussions apparently continued, and in the January 1920 issue of *The American Mineralogist* an article entitled "Organization Meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America" described the formation of the Society on December 30, 1919, at a meeting held at the Geological Museum of Harvard University.

Thus the centennial of the Mineralogical Society of America and the journal that is its signature publication spans the period of 2016–2019. The Society will recognize that milestone in many ways, and I urge all members to recognize it as well. We are fortunate and privileged to belong to a robust society that continues to thrive nearly a century after its founding. It has been the members of the MSA and the authors who contribute to *American Mineralogist* who have brought about that success. I look forward to the celebration of the first century and the inauguration of the second century in the coming years.

It has been a privilege to serve the Mineralogical Society of America as its president, and I thank all of you for your support over the past year.

With my sincere thanks to all members of the Society,

**John M. Hughes** ([jmhughes@uvm.edu](mailto:jmhughes@uvm.edu))  
2013 MSA President

## NOTES FROM CHANTILLY

- Results of the 2013 election** The 2014 president of the Society is David J. Vaughan, the vice president is Steven B. Shirey, and the past president is John M. Hughes. Andrea Koziol was reelected for a second term as secretary, and Howard W. Day remains in office as treasurer. The new councilors are Edward Grew and Wendy Panero. They will join continuing councilors Christine M. Clark, Kimberly T. Tait, Isabelle Daniel, and Kirsten P. Nicolaysen.
- MSA members were contacted electronically in September to renew their membership for 2014. Members who renew and pay online before 31 October 2013 will receive a \$5 dues discount; the discount reflects cost savings to MSA from members who renew early online. There will be several electronic reminders before a paper copy is sent during November to those who do not renew online by the end of October.
- Honorary members, life members, and fellows are sent renewal notices. They need not pay dues, but are sent notices as the best way to prompt an update of membership information, particularly mail and e-mail addresses.
- Senior members and fellows also need not pay dues, but do need to pay if they wish to subscribe to the print version of *American Mineralogist* or other journals.
- Members qualify for senior status if they have reached the age of 65, have retired from fulltime professional employment, and have been a member of the Society for at least 30 years. Senior members and fellows retain all benefits of MSA membership (receiving *Elements*, voting, the electronic version of *American Mineralogist*, reduced rates on MSA products, etc.) but need not pay dues. They can subscribe to the print version of *American Mineralogist* or other journals, purchase Society publications, and attend short courses, all at member rates. If you are interested in senior status, select senior member or senior fellow dues on your next renewal and tell us in the text box that you would like to become a senior member.
- If you subscribe to other journals through MSA—*Journal of Petrology*, *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals, Rocks & Minerals*, *Mineral News*, *Gems & Gemology*, *Mineralogy & Petrology*—please renew early. MSA needs to forward your renewal to the respective publishers before your subscription runs out.

**J. Alex Speer** ([jaspeer@minsocam.org](mailto:jaspeer@minsocam.org))  
MSA Executive Director



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MSA AWARDS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,  
DENVER, COLORADO

## NEW TITLE



**Frank Hawthorne** will receive the 2013 Roebling Medal, given for a lifetime of outstanding original research in mineralogy. He is Distinguished Professor and Canada Research Chair in Crystallography and Mineralogy at the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Manitoba. He is a theorist by inclination and an experimentalist by necessity.

Dr. Hawthorne has addressed the most fundamental problems in mineralogy in his theoretical work: (1) the factors controlling the bond topology of oxide and oxysalt minerals, (2) the factors affecting the chemical formulae of complex minerals, (3) how pH controls the complexation of cations and anions in aqueous solution, and (4) the relation between crystal structure and stability of low-temperature minerals. In his experimental work, Dr. Hawthorne has addressed major issues in the crystal chemistry of rock-forming minerals, allowing accurate activity models to be derived for thermodynamic modeling of geological processes.



The Mineralogical Society of America Award is given for outstanding contributions by a scientist beginning his or her career. **Dr. Wendy Li-Wen Mao**, assistant professor of geological and environmental sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA, is the 2013 MSA Award recipient.

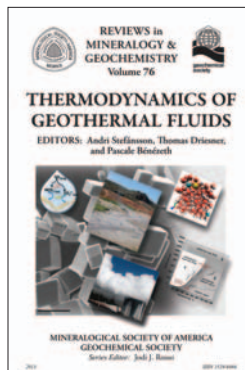
A common theme of Dr. Mao's research is the understanding of the nature of minerals and other materials in extreme environments, including direct observations of chemical bonding changes, phase transitions, and the elasticity of Earth and planetary materials under extreme pressure–temperature conditions. Her principal accomplishments are detailing the nature of materials of the core–mantle boundary region (oxides, silicate perovskite, and post-perovskite) and the Earth's core (iron and iron alloys). She has used and helped develop synchrotron radiation techniques, and she has combined them with high-pressure methods to reveal altogether new materials phenomena. She has also helped to develop the new field of radiation-induced chemistry and physics at high pressure, which builds on her studies of the water–hydrogen system.



The Mineralogical Society of America's Distinguished Public Service Medal is awarded for distinguished contributions to public policy, to furthering the vitality of the geological sciences, especially the fields of mineralogy, petrology, and crystallography, or for service to, or on behalf of, the mineralogical community. **Pierrette Tremblay**, managing editor of *Elements* magazine, Québec City, Québec, Canada, is the 2013 medalist.

Ms. Tremblay's contributions embody the ideal of the award through her unrelenting energy and passion for promoting mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry in many ways, but especially by her work with *Elements* magazine. From the inception of *Elements*, through the next nine years of sustained growth and activity, she has been the driving force behind the vision and continued success of *Elements*. She has forged ahead on nearly every front (managing editor, financial officer, marketing director, advertising agent, etc.) to make *Elements* the widely read, international magazine that it is today, with 17 international professional societies as members of the *Elements* family. Because all members of these societies and their institutional subscribers receive *Elements*, each issue of *Elements* is in the hands of over 14,000 scientists and 1000 libraries.

## REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY AND GEOCHEMISTRY

Mineralogical Society of America  
and the Geochemical Society

Volume 76: **Thermodynamics of Geothermal Fluids**, Andri Stefánsson, Thomas Driesner, and Pascale Bénéthet, editors. i-x + 350 pages. ISBN 978-0-939950-91-1

Geothermal fluids span large variations in composition and cover wide ranges of temperature and pressure. Their composition may also be dynamic and change in space and time on both short and long timescales. In addition, the physicochemical properties of fluids, such as density, viscosity, compressibility, and heat capacity, determine the transfer of heat and mass by geothermal systems, whereas, in turn, the physical properties of the fluids are affected by their chemical properties. Quantitative models of the transient spatial and temporal evolution of geochemical fluid processes are, therefore, very demanding with respect to the accuracy and broad range of applicability of thermodynamic databases and thermodynamic models (or equations of state) that describe the various data sets as a function of temperature, pressure, and composition. The application of thermodynamic calculations is, therefore, a central part of geochemical studies of very diverse processes, ranging from the aqueous geochemistry of near-surface geothermal features including chemosynthesis and thermal biological activity, through the utilization of crustal reservoirs for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and engineered geothermal systems, to the formation of magmatic–hydrothermal ore deposits, the devolatilization of subducted oceanic crust, and the transfer of subduction fluids and trace elements into the mantle wedge.

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