

Acceptance of the Distinguished Public Service Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America for 2021

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Thank you, President Ghiorso, Dr. Weisberg, and members of the Mineralogical Society of America. I am humbled to join the array of distinguished recipients of the MSA Distinguished Public Service Medal, and I thank my colleagues who nominated me. I do indeed ask myself, “How did I get here?”

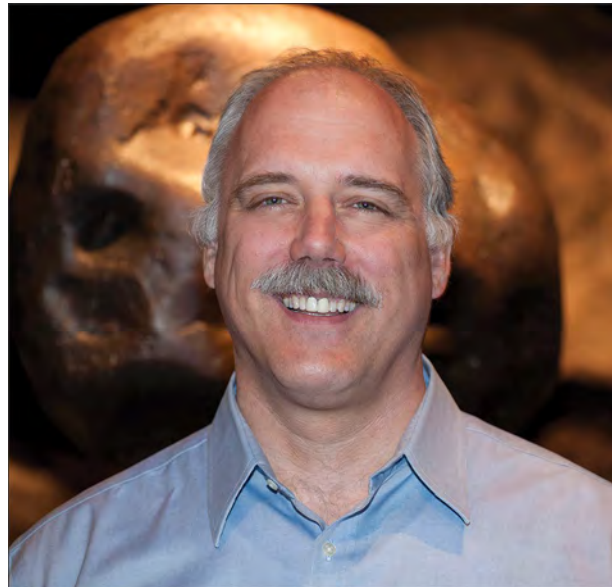
I was lucky to benefit from the influence of my father, Robert Henry Ebel, who had the distinction as a student of having Clifford Frondel step on his head in the Sterling Hill mine. He was a collector and taught me about minerals, schists, gneisses, and granites while emphasizing the importance of the core disciplines of mathematics, physics, and chemistry.

I have benefitted from a succession of excellent mentors in speaking, writing, mineralogy, petrology, and thermodynamics, including some present today.

Serving in a major museum of natural history has provided me with extraordinary opportunities to educate the public through public programs, exhibitions like our Ross Hall of Meteorites, and the curation of a Hayden Planetarium space show.

The Museum has been the right place at a good time to play supporting and now lead roles in educating future scientists through NSF’s Research Experience for Undergraduates program and future Earth Science teachers through the Museum’s Master of Arts in Teaching program, in particular our research Practicum. For both opportunities, I have to thank many colleagues, in particular the late curator Jim Webster.

I look forward to continuing scientific investigation of mineral thermodynamics, education of the next generation of



DENTON S. EBEL, Photo credit: R. Mickens, AMNH

scientists and teachers of science, and now more than ever, the intelligent use of natural resources, following the guidance engraved on the obverse side of this wonderful medal. Thank you all.

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