

Acceptance of the Mineralogical Society of America Award for 2021

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Thank you, Liang, for the nice words. Mr. President, MSA Award Committee, and Members of the Society: Thank you for bestowing this year's MSA award upon me. I am deeply honored to receive this award and to become a life member of MSA. I am very grateful to my colleagues for their time and effort to write the letters and for their breadth of view considering me as an appropriate recipient.

My interest in rocks was cultivated during my childhood at a farmland near the mountains, where I also dreamed about becoming a scientist. When the time came, it seemed natural for me to choose Geology for my undergraduate study. My scientific journey started in my senior year at China University of Geosciences (Beijing) when I joined Zhidan Zhao's group. I was provided exciting opportunities to sample rocks from Tibet and then analyze the ages and chemical compositions of these rocks at different labs. Working with Zhidan, I learned how to synthesize these petrochemical data and to further unravel the tectonic history of the Tibetan Plateau. This was an illuminating research experience, which assured me that telling rock stories is exactly what I wanted to do.

I would certainly not be standing here if I had not done my Ph.D. at Brown University with Yan Liang. It was Liang who introduced me to experimental petrology and geochemical modeling. I am deeply indebted to Liang for his mentoring and tremendous support. Immersed in the dynamic environment at Brown, I also learned a lot from other faculty members, including Paul Hess, Marc Parmentier, Reid Cooper, Alberto Saal, Steve Parman, Mac Rutherford, Don Forsyth, and Greg Hirth. I am thankful for being a graduate student supported by the superb faculty at Brown. Katie Kelley from URI was also very supportive of my LA-ICP-MS analyses, whose help is much appreciated. During my time at Brown, there were an outstanding group of graduate students who created a motivating and enjoyable atmosphere. Thus, I would also like to thank my fellow students, particularly Qinglan Peng, Yun Wang, Li Gao, Kate Burgess, Colin Jackson, Nick Dygert, Diane Wetzel, Mary Peterson, Amanda Getsinger, Kei Shimizu, and Tabb Prissel. Also at Brown, I was fortunate to meet Bruce Watson during his visit, who later served on my thesis committee and provided much guidance since then. I am very grateful for Bruce's encouragement and support over the years.

After my Ph.D., I received immense support from new mentors, colleagues, and friends along the way. During my postdoc at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, I learned a lot about natural rocks from Henry Dick, Nobu Shimizu, and Vero Le Roux. Nobu Shimizu and Brian Monteleone were extremely helpful with my SIMS operation. Johan Lissenberg from Cardiff University, who I first met at Woods Hole, was warmly supportive when I reached out for help with Hess Deep samples. Later at Rice University, my



CHENGUANG SUN, Photo credit: Kathryn Gatliff

research was further broadened by working with Rajdeep Dasgupta and Cin-Ty Lee. Raj offered me a great opportunity to expand my experimental skills and research interests in volatiles. Cin-Ty has been very generous to discuss a wide range of ideas and host fun trips for bird watching. Raj and Cin-Ty have also provided me a lot of freedom to conceive my projects and to make my own research plans. Of course, my experimental project at Rice would not be productive without the help from Kyusei Tsuno and Gelu (Gabi) Costin in the lab. I cannot describe in words how appreciative I am for the mentoring, guidance, support, and help that I received from them all.

Most recently, I have joined the University of Texas at Austin as an assistant professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the Jackson School of Geosciences. Despite the pandemic, I have been receiving much-needed help from my colleagues, the Department, and the Jackson School to build my own lab and research program. As a new faculty member here, I have found the Jackson School full of vibrancy and congeniality and am very excited about being part of it.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family, who has been so patient and supportive at every step of this journey. My wife, Lijing, was also trained as a geologist and helped me shape ideas in many of my publications. While getting settled at Austin, we welcomed our second child and now are adjusting our life as a family of four. The love and support from Lijing and our two wonderful kids always inspire me to regain my feet for the bumpy ride. Thank you all!

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