

MSA Secretary's Report at 2008 Business meeting:

The 88th annual business meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America was held on October 7, 2008 at 4:30 PM in the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. What follows is a brief overview of the main actions taken by Council and the executive committee, society election results, and other actions since the last business meeting that was on October 30, 2007.

Membership

Our current membership is 2,595, which is the highest it has been since the mid-1980s. This is largely a result of a record number of student members: 741. One reason for the increased number of student members is they are joining the society to obtain the member price for the Dyar & Gunter textbook, *Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy*, which has been adopted in several universities & colleges.

New Fellows

The society honored the following ten members by elevating them to fellow status based on their scientific contributions:

Daniele Cherniak
Patrick Cordier
Herta Effenberger
Kiyoshi Fujino
Robert W. Luth
Masanori Matsui
Annibale Mottana
Enver Murad
Philip Peter Nabelek
Lidunka Vočadlo

Medalists / award winners

It is a pleasure to officially announce the 2009 medalists. They are:

Roebbling medal: Alexandra Navrotsky
Distinguished public service: Robert M. Hazen
Dana medal (for 2010): Jillian F. Banfield
MSA Award: Thomas Trainor

Andrew Wall was the receipt of the 2008/2009 Kraus Crystallographic research grant. His project is “Assessing Cu isotopic fractionation in Cu-(Fe)-S minerals using time-resolved synchrotron X-ray diffraction.”

The 2008/2009 Mineralogy / Petrology recipients are:

Christopher Fisher, whose project is “Testing the use of synthetic minerals as isotopic reference materials: an example using hafnium zircon.”

Dongbo Wang, whose project is “Investigating a new pathway to carbonate mineralization and implications for Mg:Ca paleoenvironmental signatures.”

MSA congratulates the medalists and award winners, and encourages our members to nominate worthy candidates.

Short Courses

The *Mineral Inclusions and Volcanic Processes* short course currently has over 180 registrants, making it the “most attended” short course ever. The course is organized by Keith Putirka and Frank Tepley and will be held on December 13 to 15, 2008 at the Sir Francis Drake in San Francisco, California. Also, there are two other short courses that are “in the works” for 2009. After some minor issues have been resolved, final details for these courses will be announced.

Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry (RiMG) publications

Two new RiMG volumes were, or will be published during 2008. They are Volume 68 “Oxygen in the Solar System” and Volume 69 “Mineral Inclusions and Volcanic Processes.” The latter is associated with the short course as described above.

Also during 2008 the following three RiMG volumes were posted to GeoScienceWorld: Volume 47 “Noble Gases,” Volume 48 “Phosphates,” and Volume 51 “Plastic Deformation of Rocks and Minerals”

American Mineralogist

We welcome Dana Griffen as a new editor replacing George Lager. Also, Jenny Thompson will be replacing Bob Dymek. Our society owes a major debt and large “thanks” to Bob for his ten years of editorial service.

Monographs / textbooks

The Dyar & Gunter textbook, *Mineralogy and Optical Mineralogy*, is enjoying brisk sales and adoptions in mineralogy courses. Also, as noted above, the book is helping to increase MSA student membership. Currently two new monographs are under review; hopefully by the 2009 business meeting, these monographs will be either printed or in-press.

Elements

Element continues to be, by all measures, a glowing success. In 2008 the following eight new issues appeared:

“Supervolcanoes, “Phosphates and global sustainability,” “Deep earth and mineral physics,” “Platinum-group elements,” “Geological sequestration of carbon dioxide,” and “Nanogeoscience.”

MSA Lecture Program

The following three lecturers, along with their talk titles, have been selected for the 2008/2009 MSA lecture series:

Donald Dingwell

Explosive volcanism: a materials catastrophe

Flow of magma: solving a rheological puzzle

Jennifer Jackson

Diamonds, iron, and X-rays: views into earth’s interior

The behavior of iron-bearing mineral assemblages in earth’s lower mantle

Bruce Marsh

History of geologic exploration of Antarctica

Magma in the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear repository

Magmatic mush column magmatism: McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica

Meetings

Over the past year MSA and the Geochemical Society (GS) have developed an official agreement detailing MSA involvement with the Goldschmidt meetings held in North America. With the agreement in place, MSA will have more involvement with these meetings. MSA will also be an active participant in the 2009 Joint Assembly, The Meetings of the Americas, sponsored by [CGU](#), [GAC](#), [IAH-CNC](#), [MAC](#), [AGU](#) meeting in Toronto, ON, Canada. Lastly, GSA is interested in

MSA having more active participation in GSA regional and national meetings. Currently a dialogue is underway on how this might be achieved.

Deaths

The following members of our society have recently passed away. Anyone wishing to write a memorial for submission to the American Mineralogist, please contact one of the editors.

John T. Alfors (life fellow – 1960)
G. Christian Amstutz (senior fellow – 1953)
Roy A. Bailey (senior fellow – 1954)
William L. Brown (senior fellow – 1959)
Stanley H. U. Bowie (life fellow – 1950)
Joan Robinson Clark (fellow – 1953)
Sankar P. Das Gupta (senior member 1965)
Marion L. Jackson (life fellow – 1950)
John L. Jambor (fellow – 1960)
Thomas S. Lovering (life fellow – 1935)
Edward J. Marcin (life fellow – 1947)
Francois Peringeat (life fellow - 1954)
Jean N. Protas (senior member – 1968)
Michel P Semet (member - 1969)
Robert F. Shurtz (life member – 1949)
Toshio Sudo (life fellow – 1950)
George S. Switzer (life fellow – 1931)

Committees

Much of MSA's work is done by our committees and those who volunteer to serve on them. Details of the MSA committees can be found at our web site <www.minsocam.org/MSA/Committees.html> and those wishing to serve should contact John Brady (jbrady@science.smith.edu); John is this year's chair of the committee on committees. MSA has decided to create a new committee dealing with Computer Databases, and John is the chair of that committee as well.

New Developments

Those members who subscribe to the MSA listserv saw a flurry of activity in regard to recent changes in mineral nomenclature by the IMA. MSA's response to concerns

raises over changes in nomenclature was to draft a letter and send it to the current president of IMA.

During our fall meeting in Houston MSA has decided to create an ad hoc committee to define “asbestos” and to make a general policy statement dealing with the geological occurrences of amphiboles, in an attempt to educate the public in terms of what is and is not considered to be asbestos.

2008 Election Results

It is a pleasure to announce the results of the 2008 elections that were held on the web for the fourth time. Nancy Ross was elected as president, John Brady as vice president, Darrell Henry as Treasurer and Penny King and Marc Hirschmann as councilors. Peter Heaney moves from president to past president, and I remain as secretary.

Finally we owe a debt of gratitude for those who are stepping off council. Simon Redfern and Roberta Rudnick are leaving after serving three-year terms as councilors. John Hughes is stepping down after performing an excellent job as our treasurer for four years (i.e., the society investments are now \$2.2M and they were \$2.0M when John started). Lastly we owe the biggest “thanks” to Barb Dutrow who leaves council after serving as vice president, president, and past president. Immediately before that she served as a councilor for three years. So Barb is stepping down after seven years of consecutive service! It should also be noted that she served a four year term as secretary back in the late ‘90’s – so Barb thanks so much for the 11 years from all of us!

Mickey E. Gunter
Secretary, Mineralogical Society of America