

## **MSA Secretary's Report at 2009 Business meeting:**

The 89<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting of the Mineralogical Society of America was held on October 20, 2009 at 4:30 PM in the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. 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 7, 2008.

### **Membership**

Our current membership is 2,755, the highest since 1987 when it was 2,760. Our recent increase in membership is due in large part to students joining to receive the member discount in the Dyar & Gunter textbook; current student membership is at its all-time highest of 854.

### **New Fellows**

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

Thomas Duffy  
David Kohlstedt  
Sergey Krivovichev  
Bruno Lanson  
William McDonough  
Peggy O'Day  
Aral Okay  
Terry Ann Plank  
Mihaly Posfai  
Nita Sahai  
Renata Wentzcovitch  
Richard Wirth  
Youxue Zhang

### **Medalists / award winners**

It is a pleasure to officially announce the 2010 medalists. They are:

Roebing Medal: Robert Newton  
Distinguished Public Service Medal: N/A  
Dana Medal (for 2011): Ross Angel

MSA Award: Benjamin Gilbert

The 2009/2010 Kraus Crystallographic research grant recipient is: Hsiu-Wen Wang, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA - "Investigation of phase transition mechanisms for NAT-type natural zeolites: natrolite, mesolite and scolecite"

The 2009/2010 Mineralogy / Petrology recipients are:

Neil Robert Bennett, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada - "The Metal-Silicate Partitioning Behaviour of Re and Pt: Implications for Terrestrial Accretion and Core Formation"

Jessica Lynn Till, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN - "Rutherford backscattering spectrometry studies of Fe chemical diffusion in plagioclase"

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

### **Short Courses**

There were two short courses in 2009: "Thermodynamics and kinetics of water-rock interaction," which was held before the Goldschmidt Meeting in Davos, Switzerland and "Theoretical and computational methods in mineral physics," held before the fall AGU meeting in San Francisco, California. There is one course planned for 2010, "Diffusion in minerals and melts," to be held in association with the fall AGU meeting in San Francisco, California, and two short courses planned for 2011: "Sulfur in silicate magmas and melts and its importance for natural and technical processes," and "Applied mineralogy of cement and concrete."

### **RiMG publications**

Jodi Rosso continues as editor of this very successful series. This year we published the 70<sup>th</sup> volume: "Thermodynamics and kinetics of water-rock interaction." Jodi is also exploring the possibility of how to take advantages in on-line publishing by exploring the possibility of e-versions of RiMG volumes.

### **American Mineralogist**

We welcome Martin Kunz as a new editor of the *American Mineralogist* and thank Dana Griffen for his service in that role. Jenny Thompson continues as does Bryan Chakoumakos as the other two editors. The decision to use GeoScienceWorld (GSW)

for electronic publishing of the *American Mineralogist*, as well as RiMG volumes, and *Elements*, continues to be well founded for many reasons. As an example, as we have lost revenue from direct institutional subscribers to the *American Mineralogist*, those funds have more than been recovered by those accessing the *American Mineralogist* through the GSW portal.

### **Monographs / textbooks**

The Dyar & Gunter textbook sold 2354 in the past couple of years, and will need to be reprinted in 2010. Currently the book has been used in approximately 20% of the colleges and universities in the United States that teach a “mineralogy” course.

### **Elements**

Element continues to be, by all measures, a glowing success. In 2009 the following six new issues appeared:

“Scientific Exploration of the moon,” “Bentonites – Versatile clays,” “Gems,” “Minerals Magnetism: From Microbes to Meteorites,” “Gold,” “Low-temperature metal stable isotope geochemistry”

### **MSA Lecture Program**

The following three lecturers, along with their talk titles, have been selected for the 2009/2010 MSA lecture series:

Katharine Cashman

Bubbles and bangs: When are volcanic eruptions explosive?

A tale of two eruptions: Mount St. Helens 1980-1986 and 2004-2008

Hill of fire: A modern look at the 1943-1952 eruption of Parícutin volcano

David London

Gem-bearing pegmatite's: Nature's “fancy” rocks

The experimental foundations of igneous petrology

Bruce Yardley

Mineral-fluid interactions and their consequences for the rheology of continents

What controls the chemistry of crystal fluids?

### **Meetings**

The big news here is the on-going efforts to “merge” ourselves back in with GSA as MPGVI division (we need a cooler name). And the fact we are looking ahead to the 2018 IMA meeting which is close to 2019 and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MSA. There is on-going discussion of merging these two events with MSA sponsoring the 2018 IMA.

## **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.

Shohei Banno (Fellow – 1968)  
Ivan Bonev (member – 1993)  
Benjamin Leonard (Senior Fellow – 1945)  
Akhio Miyashiro (Life fellow – 1947)  
Joseph Orosz (member – 2005)  
Willis Richey (member – 1985)  
Edward Woermann (Fellow – 1965)  
Kenzo Yagi (Life fellow – 1940)

## **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 <<http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/Committees.html>> and those wishing to serve should contact Dave Bish (bish@indiana.edu); as Vice President of MSA, Dave is this year’s chair of the committee on committees.

## **New Developments**

MSA developed a Facebook page this year, thanks mainly to Marc Hirschmann. Nancy Ross is working on establishing MSA reps at colleges, universities, government labs, museums, and industry to help spread the word about MSA. At this fall’s council meeting we decided to add “moderation” to the MSA listserv. What this means is all emails submitted to it, will be pre-screened and those determined not to meet the intent of the listserv, will not be posted.

As usual we try to predict how to keep MSA a vibrant, active society, and then follow through on these ideas. There is no doubt that we have been very successful with the RiMG series dating back now several decades, and more recently Elements and the

move to GSW. However well we are doing, the status quo will not work and we all must think of ways to make MSA even more successful as we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2018.

### **2009 Election Results**

It is a pleasure to announce the results of the 2009 elections that were held on the web for the fifth time. John Brady was elected as president, Dave Bish as vice president, Mickey Gunter as secretary and Wendy Bohrson and Sumit Chakraborty as councilors. Nancy Ross moves from president to past president, and Darrell Henry remains as Treasurer.

Finally we owe a debt of gratitude for those who are stepping off council. Klaus Mezger and Jean Morrison are leaving after serving three-year terms as councilors. And especially to Peter Heaney who leaves council after serving as vice president, president, and past president, along with previous service as a councilor, distinguished lecturer and all around good guy.

Mickey E. Gunter  
Secretary, Mineralogical Society of America