

2022 Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Petrology, and Volcanology (MGPV) Early Career Award Hannah R. Dietterich: Acceptance

By Hannah R. Dietterich, Alaska Volcano Observatory -U.S. Geological Survey
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Thank you, Tom, for your kind citation, and to the MGPV Early Career Award committee and the Geological Society of America for this honor. Thanks as well to those who co-sponsored my nomination: Tina Neal, Kathy Cashman, and Andy Harris. This award is a recognition of the contributions of all of my mentors, leaders, collaborators, and colleagues who have inspired and supported my journey as an early career scientist. As someone who has worked to build community and opportunities for early career researchers in our field through the IAVCEI Early Career Researchers Network, it is especially meaningful to receive this early career award.

My lifelong interest in science began early, with two science professors as parents, and I am thankful for their encouragement of my curiosity in the natural world and my love of the outdoors. I grew up enjoying science classes in school, and the opportunity to work in a wood science lab at Oregon State University as a high school student helping graduate students with their research projects set me on a path into the natural sciences.

I have to thank my introductory geohazards class my first term at Pomona College for bringing me into geology and teaching me about volcanoes and that a “volcano observatory” is a place you can work. My interest in volcanology and spending summers at home in Oregon led me to Shan de Silva, who I need to thank for taking me on as an inexperienced summer research student and guiding me through my first presentation at a scientific conference and writing my first geology journal article as an undergraduate student. I am also grateful to Jade Star Lackey and all of the faculty and students at Pomona College for their mentorship and support in my geology education, independent research, and path to graduate school.

So much of the scientist I am today is thanks to Kathy Cashman, my PhD advisor. Kathy got me interested in lava flows, taught me how to ask scientific questions and write scientific papers, and continues to be an amazing mentor, collaborator, and role model. I had the pleasure and the challenge of splitting my graduate school

time between University of Oregon and University of Bristol, and I am thankful for the faculty, students, and support staff in both places who made these departments such wonderful and inspiring places to work. Thank you especially to my graduate student cohorts at both universities for providing such a supportive community as we all started our geology careers together.

I entered the USGS Volcano Science Center as a postdoctoral researcher and have since had the pleasure of working closely with colleagues across all of the USGS volcano observatories on fundamental scientific research, applications to hazard assessment, and eruption crisis response. Thank you to Tom Sisson, Tom Murray, Tina Neal, and Michelle Coombs for your trust and for cultivating my independence and confidence as a research scientist. And thank you to the whole team at the Alaska Volcano Observatory and the broader USGS who have shown me how to use my science for assessing and communicating volcanic hazards to communities in harm's way.

And finally, thank you to all of my collaborators and friends in our community who motivate and support me every day. Thanks especially to the students and postdoctoral researchers that I now have the pleasure of mentoring. The new questions, datasets, opportunities, and even the volcanic activity curveballs, that come up every day keep me very excited for the future.