

GSA's MGPV DIVISION EARLY CAREER AWARD

(for 2027)

(MINERALOGY GEOCHEMISTRY PETROLOGY AND VOLCANOLOGY)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations Deadline: midnight (EDT) 31 March 2026

The MGPV award will go to an individual near the beginning of their professional careers who have made distinguished contributions in one or more of the following fields of research: mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, volcanology, with emphasis on multidisciplinary, field-based contributions. This award was generously endowed by the estate of James B. Thompson Jr., who believed in the importance to geology of understanding minerals - both their internal characteristics, and their external "social lives" (his term for their relations with each other). He retired as the Sturgis Hooper Professor of Geology at Harvard in 1992 after a career of more than forty years. He was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1958, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1967. He was awarded the Arthur L. Day Medal of the Geological Society of America in 1964, the Mineralogical Society of America's Roebling Medal in 1978, and the V. M. Goldschmidt Award of the Geochemical Society in 1985. Thompson served as the president of both the Mineralogical Society of America and the Geochemical Society.

This award emphasizes a geologic and multidisciplinary approach. Geologic work is by nature generalistic and has an important field component, with Earth as the natural laboratory. J. B. Thompson's work, regardless of subject, were always based on solid field observations. In his acceptance speech for the Day Medal in 1964 he said, "True success in the laboratory should stimulate field investigations rather than discourage them. It would be embarrassing indeed if we were to construct an internally consistent geology, chemically and physically sound, perfect in fact but for one flaw: the lack of a planet to fit it."

Nominations are restricted to those who are within eight years of receiving their final degree. For example, awards decided before 31 Dec. 2023 will include all candidates whose final degree was awarded no earlier than 1 Jan. 2016. Extensions of up to two years will be made for nominees who have taken career breaks for family reasons or caused by serious illness. Nominees need not be citizens or residents of the United States, and GSA membership is not required.

Previous Awardees:

2015 - **Frances Elaine Jenner**, The Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom
2016 - **John M. Cottle**, University of California-Santa Barbara Santa Barbara, CA, USA
2017 - **Thomas Shea**, University of Hawaii-Manoa, Honolulu, HI, USA
2018 - **Christopher W. Hamilton**, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA
2019 - **Christy B. Till**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ, USA
2020 - **Sebastien Biass**, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
2021 - **Xiao-Ming Liu**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC, USA
2022 - **Hannah R. Dietterich**, US Geological Survey Alaska Volcano Observatory, Anchorage, AK, USA
2023 - **Carolina Munoz-Saez**, Nevada Bureau of Mine and Geology and University of Nevada Reno
2024 - **Chris Yakymchuk**, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON Canada
2025 - **Madison Myers**, Montana State University, MT, USA
2026 - will be announced after the 2025 GSA Annual Meeting

Nomination Procedure: A nomination comprises:

- (1) A letter from an MGPV Division member, no longer than 3 pages, summarizing the nominee's most important accomplishments in geologic approaches to mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, and/or volcanology. Special attention should be paid to describing how the nominee's published work demonstrates field-based multidisciplinary geologic accomplishments of a ground- breaking nature. The letter should also include:

- a. the name, address, and contact information of the nominator
- b. from whom letters of support can be expected,
- c. and, as a result of a directive from the GSA Executive Committee, GSA asks the nominator to include the following statement:

"To my knowledge the person I am nominating has not breached GSA's Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct nor is this person under investigation for any action that would be a breach of GSA's Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct."

- (2) Curriculum Vita of the nominee.
- (3) Three letters of support. These letters of support can be either from members or non- members of GSA or the MGPV Division.

Forward nominations and support letters to the Division Secretary-Treasurer, J. Alex Speer, Mineralogical Society of America, 14200 Park Meadow Dr Suite 310-S, Chantilly VA 20151-4211 USA; e-mail: jaspeer@minsocam.org. Electronic versions are much appreciated.

Dossiers of nominees who did not receive the award in any given year will be retained and considered for two succeeding years; thus, nominations are active for a total of three years even if not updated or re-submitted. Updated information or resubmitted nominations for such candidates may be sent to the Division Secretary-Treasurer during subsequent calls for award nominations for consideration beyond that time.

Award Committee:

The five elected officers of the MGPV Division will each appoint one person to serve on the MGPV Division Early Career Award Committee for each consideration cycle. The representatives of the five Adhering Associated Societies will be invited to appoint a person to serve on the committee as well but are not required to do so. The Chair of the Division will select from among the appointed committee members an individual to chair the Award Committee for that consideration cycle. The members of the Award Committee will participate in a Borda count* election. If more than 10 applications are received, the Borda count will be done once to limit the list to six candidates; a second Borda count will follow to determine the final ranking. The Management Board will make the final decision based on the ranked list and the recommendation submitted by the Award Committee.

The Award:

The Award comprises a wall plaque and a \$1,000 cash award, both presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America (Anaheim, California, USA), with a brief (5 minute) citation from the nominator, followed by a brief (5 minute) acceptance speech by the awardee. These citation and acceptance can be expanded upon for publication. The awardee is invited to give a MGPV Division Early Career Award Lecture at a theme session sponsored by the MGPV Division in the awardee's honor, although this is not a

requirement for the award.

Timetable:

Nominations are due midnight (EDT) 31 March 2025, and the Award Committee will make its recommendation to the MGPV Division Board by 15 August 2025.

* The Borda Count is the preferential voting scheme wherein nominee rankings are converted into points. Each nominee gets 1 point for each last place vote received, 2 points for each next-to-last point vote, etc., up to N points for each first place vote, where N is the number of nominees. Because numerical scores may be very similar for the top 5-8 nominees, for large groups (over 10), we allow for a first ranking, and then a second ranking of the top 6.