

MSA Distinguished Lecturers for 2026-2027

[Gabriela A. Farfan](#)

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA

who will offer the Peter Buseck Public Lectures on

Exploring the National Gem & Mineral Collection

and

From crystals to corals—a mineralogical approach to biomineralization

[Elizabeth Cottrell](#)

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA

who will offer lectures on

Expedition to Arctic Volcanoes

and

Mantle Redox Through Time

[Anirudh Prabhu](#)

Carnegie Institution for Science, Washington D.C., USA

who will offer the Peter Buseck New Developments in Mineralogy and Petrology Lectures on

From Crystal Structures to Planetary Systems: The Rise of Mineral Informatics

and

How Minerals Can Help Us in the Search for Life

Instructions to request an MSA Distinguished Lecturer

The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) is pleased to announce the Distinguished Lecturers and their presentation titles for the 2026-2027 academic year. The Distinguished Lecturer program is designed to run from late October through April 30, 2027. Requests received before August 25, 2026, will be given priority. Late applications are welcome but will be considered on an as-available basis. Having had an MSA Distinguished Lecturer on your campus in the past does not preclude you from applying again this year.

When making your request, please include the following information:

1. Name, e-mail address, and phone number of a contact person at your institution for the month of September (when Lecturer schedules will be assembled)
2. Start and end dates of your institution's academic semesters for 2026-2027, including Spring Break
3. Day of the week you typically have department seminars, if applicable. Please note that because of travel and schedule constraints it is often not possible to satisfy requests for tightly constrained dates or specific seminar days. Having some flexibility is helpful for hosting a speaker, so please also provide an alternative lecture day during the week.
4. List of the three speakers in *order of your preference*.
5. Name of the closest airport to your institution, and the travel time from that airport to your institution.

For more information on the MSA Distinguished Lecturer program, go to

<https://msaweb.org/msa-distinguished-lecturer-program/>.

If your institution is interested in requesting the visit of an MSA Distinguished Lecturer for 2026-2027, please contact the Lecture Program Administrator via e-mail at giere@upenn.edu, with a copy to the MSA Executive Director, Dr. Ann Benbow, at ABenbow@minsocam.org.

Thank you and best wishes,

Reto Gieré

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