

Thank you, George, for your most kind introduction.

President Kelley, SGA Council and members. I am deeply honored to receive the important SGA-KGHM Krol Medal. It is a great disappointment I cannot be here to personally thank the SGA Council for this award and to thank all of you for your participation in the SGA Biennial meeting. SGA has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my professional life. I have immensely enjoyed working with many personal friends, research associates and students who serve SGA and the geological community. I was most fortunate to be a Council member at an exciting point in SGA's progression from a mainly European-based professional organization to a strong and robust international society. A most gratifying experience for me was seeing the large growth in student participation in the Society and the Biennial meetings. This was also a period that the first corporate funding initiative provided support for students to attend the conference and to present their research.

The SGA-KGHM Krol Medal is about serving and giving to the Society, and therefore, it reflects on the complete team, the council, editors, student leaders and technical volunteers who worked together to create a brighter future for SGA. I cannot mention all of the people who worked with me and were instrumental in SGA's growth, but here are some that I especially want to thank. I am forever indebted to Jan Pasava for his dedication, wisdom and stewardship of the SGA Council - he continues to be the rock of our Society. Anna Vymazalova nurtured and guided the early growth of student participation, and my tenure as Treasurer was made easier by Sabine Lange and Peter Herzig. Others include Rich Goldfarb, Georges Beaudoin and Jorge Relvas who were instrumental in building corporate support for student activities.

We can take so much pride in SGA's accomplishments. However, the future of our Society, the growth of our student members and our prestigious journal depends on each of us to look forward and search for how we can further contribute to SGA's journey and to the science of ore deposits. The SGA-KGHM Krol Medal means so much to me, coming from this Society and these members, who have been such an important part of my life. Thank you!