www.clays.org

The Clay Minerals Society

FROM THE SECRETARY

What does the secretary of an organization like The Clay Minerals Society do? The short answer is, just about everything that isn't specifically assigned to someone else. The secretary is one of the few individuals who, as set down in the bylaws, are eligible for re-election without limitation. The official duties of the secretary consist of keeping the records of the proceedings of the Society as well as the respective proceedings of the Executive Committee and the Council. Only the editor-in-chief and the treasurer have such a degree of permanence, for understandable reasons. The other officers serve one-year terms. So, along with help from the office manager, who provides the glue that holds the Society's business activities together year after year, the institutional memory of the organization resides in the offices of secretary, editor, and treasurer.

I was fortunate that Dick Berry (San Diego State University) preceded me in the post as he did a careful and meticulous job developing operational schemes for all the secretarial activities. So I was able to step right in and pick up where he left off. This has been extremely helpful because over the past two years the Society has been negotiating with the Mineralogical Society of America to relocate the CMS office from Aurora, CO, to the MSA headquarters in Chantilly, VA. This has meant moving all of the Society's records, hiring a new office manager, modifying and updating accounting and other business practices, filing transfer requests for the Society's legal status, and various other necessary but time-consuming activities. CMS was fortunate, again, to have at its helm a very capable and dedicated team of Executive Committee members, each of whom pitched in at the appropriate time to help make the transition as smooth as possible. The secretary's task in all this has been to participate in all Council, Executive Committee and Long Range Planning Committee meetings to insure the accurate documentation of discussions and decisions and, when necessary, to sign various legal documents enabling the transfer process. While I can imagine that my responsibilities are mirrored to one extent or another in most professional societies, it nevertheless can, at times, produce a considerable amount of work in addition to my normal duties at my institution. However, I find the effort well worthwhile and very rewarding.

In the midst of all the relocation efforts, a major undertaking by the Society has been to enlarge its membership through active recruiting, both in North America and abroad. From October 2005 to October 2006, over three-quarters of the manuscripts submitted to the Society's journal, *Clays and Clay Minerals*, came from non–North American countries, and so Council has made a concerted effort to encourage these individuals to become members. Many of us have direct ties with other active clay science groups through our collaboration with students and colleagues. In my case, I have worked continually with students from Turkey since the mid-1970s. Our hope is that these international efforts will result in a membership increase in CMS.

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CMS SEEKS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

We are seeking a highly motivated individual to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *Clays and Clay Minerals*, an internationally recognized journal published by The Clay Minerals Society. The successful candidate must have a PhD, have expertise in clay science, have excellent organizational/management skills, and have superior communication skills (oral and written). The Editor should be even handed, independent minded, and tactful. Editorial experience, the ability to help supervise online versions of *Clays and Clay Minerals*, and a willingness to develop a strategy for continued growth of the journal readership are desired. The Editor will select and work closely with a board of Associate Editors, whose function will be to assist with the review of manuscripts submitted for publication. The Editor will also appoint and supervise a Managing Editor, who will be responsible for technical aspects of copy preparation and other assigned tasks. Development and management of the editorial office budget is also a duty of the Editor, in conjunction with the Society treasurer. Reasonable overheads (including the Managing Editor's salary) and travel expenses to attend professional society meetings will be reimbursed. This is a three-year renewable appointment with a starting date of January 1, 2008.

Individuals interested in this opportunity are invited to submit a letter of interest that specifically identifies the candidate's (1) knowledge of clay science, (2) editorial experience, and (3) organizational/management skills. Along with this letter please send a curriculum vitae, a list of three references, and a proposed budget for the editorial office to David Laird, USDA, ARS, National Soil Tilth Laboratory, 2150 Pammel Drive, Ames, Iowa 5001, USA
Tel.: 515-294-1581;
Fax: 515-294-8125;
e-mail: Laird@nstl.gov

Potential candidates are urged to contact David Laird for more information, including a list of duties for the Editor-in-Chief and a copy of the current budget. Consideration of applications will start March 1, 2007, and will continue until the position is filled.

44th ANNUAL MEETING
ENCHANTED CLAYS
2–7 JUNE 2007
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The 44th annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society will be held in early June 2007, in beautiful and historic Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. Santa Fe provides an idyllic location in the southwestern United States for attendees to enjoy technical and social sessions while soaking up the diverse culture and wonderful climate of New Mexico – The Land of Enchantment. We encourage you to attend, share knowledge and ideas, benefit from technical interactions, and relax in the wonderful historic and enchanted environs of Santa Fe.

The meeting includes two and a half days of technical sessions and symposia, with oral sessions scheduled all day Monday, Tuesday morning, and all day Wednesday. Poster presentations are scheduled for Monday afternoon and Tuesday early evening. The following technical sessions and symposia are planned:

Carbon Sequestration • Carbon Stabilization by Clays • Characterizing Clay Minerals • Clays in Soils and Sediments • Clays and Environmental Processes • Clays and Archeology • Clays and their Role in Protolife • Clays as Nanomaterials • Clays in Extreme Environments • Clays in Oil Shale • Molecular Simulation of Clays • Zeolites

Go to www.sandia.gov/clay/ for more information. The meeting registration deadline is 3 April 2007.

THE CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY AWARDS AND GRANTS

Student Research Grants

Several grants of up to $2500 each are available; they are designed to support master's and doctoral research for graduate students in clay science and technology. The closing date for applications for the student research grants is March 20, 2007.

Student Travel Grants

The travel grant program is designed to provide partial financial support to students to attend the annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society. All student members of the Society are eligible for the Travel Grant Program. Applications will be judged on a competitive basis. Applicants selected will be nominated by a five-member CMS committee and approved by the CMS Council. There is no restriction with regard to nationality. Grants of up to $500 for intracontinental and $1000 for intercontinental travel are awarded. The closing date for applications for the student travel grants is March 20, 2007.

The Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award

The Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Award—the highest honor of The Clay Minerals Society—is awarded solely for scientific eminence in clay mineralogy (in its broadest sense) as evidenced primarily by the publication of outstanding original scientific research and by the impact of this research on the clay sciences. Service to clay mineralogy, teaching, and administrative accomplishments are not considered in the evaluation of nominees. Nominations should be sent to the relevant committee chair by March 1, 2007.

The George W. Brindley Lecture

This lecture award is intended to recognize a clay scientist who will infuse the Society with new ideas—someone who is both a dynamic speaker and involved in innovative research. Dr. Brindley himself approved the concept of the Lecture, and the speaker should deliver a lecture that Brindley himself would applaud. Nominations should consist of a cover letter from the nominator, a curriculum vitae, and two supporting letters, and should be sent to the relevant committee chair by March 1, 2007.

Pioneer in Clay Science Award

This award recognizes research contributions that have led to important new directions in clay minerals science and technology. The awardee is selected by the local organizing committee of the CMS annual meeting at which the award will be presented. The intent is to select a person who will strengthen the technical program, which may include a symposium in an area where the Pioneer awardee is recognized for his/her seminal contributions. The awardee is expected to be in attendance for the entire CMS meeting and to present a plenary lecture on the subject for which he/she is being recognized.

Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist Award

The award is to recognize mid-career scientists for excellence in the contribution of new knowledge to clay minerals science through original and scholarly research. The awardee will be between the ages of 39 and 60. Nominations should consist of a cover letter from the nominator, a curriculum vitae, and two supporting letters. Nominating materials must be received by the relevant committee chair no later than March 1, 2007.

Further information on all grants and awards is available from The Clay Minerals Society website:

http://www.clays.org/home/HomeAwardsAndGrants.html

CLAYS IN THE NEWS

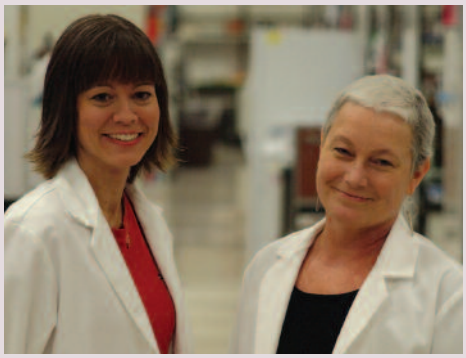
Clays and Hurricane Katrina

Researchers led by Tarek Abdoun, Rensselear Polytechnic Institute, studied the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the levees of New Orleans. They used a 150 g-ton centrifuge to model one of New Orleans' levee sections and the hurricane forces that led to its failure. The goal of the test was to learn how layers of peat and clay beneath the levees might have contributed to the failure.

The centrifuge is part of the National Science Foundation (NSF) George E. Brown Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES), an interconnected, nationally distributed system of 15 facilities for studying the effects of full-scale earthquake forces on structures and materials.

During the experiment, the researchers subjected a scaled-down model of the 17th Street Canal levee in New Orleans—complete with local-source peat—to extreme conditions like those experienced during the hurricane on August 29, 2005. The experiment suggested that earth sliding along a weak clay layer underlying a bed of peat directly beneath the levee helped to bring down the 17th Street structure. For more information: www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=106790.

ASU Researchers Test Antibacterial Effects of Healing Clays



If research by CMS member Lynda Williams (an Arizona State University geochemist) and microbiologist Shelley Haydel on the antibacterial properties of clays realizes its full potential, clay minerals could one day take their place comfortably with antibacterial behemoths like penicillin. The National Institutes of Health recently awarded a grant to Williams and Haydel for a study of the healing mechanism of clays that cure Buruli ulcer. The work is in collaboration with CMS members Dennis Eberl (USGS) and Ross Geise (SUNY Buffalo). For more information: http://www.asu.edu/news/stories/200611/20061102_clay.htm.