



The Clay Minerals Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Michael Velbel (left) passing the gavel to the new president, Crawford Elliott.

The Clay Minerals Society is thriving in many ways. The CMS held its 51st Annual Meeting at Texas A&M University. Professor Youjun Deng of Texas A&M University and his committee convened a wonderful meeting that built on the momentum of our well-attended 50th Annual Meeting at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Highlights were many. The high number of student presentations and

our student awards give us a glimpse of future promise in the study of clays. Our Pioneer Lecturer (Doug Ming) and Jackson Mid-Career (Will Gates) awardees led us to the frontiers of our thinking on clays. The talks on Martian clays were inspiring. Eighty teams participated in the biennial Reynolds Cup competition in quantitative clay analysis, won by Reinhard Kleeberg and his coworkers Ulf Kempe and Robert Moeckel (TU Bergakademie and Helmholtz Institute Freiberg, Germany). The outcome of the competition will be described in more detail in the next issue of CMS News. We also recognized Warren Huff for his splendid work as secretary of the CMS with a Citation of Special Recognition. All told, the future is bright for the study of clays. The CMS continues to play an important role in helping to advance knowledge in clay mineral science. This knowledge informs our thinking both in academic pursuits and in industrial activities. We are all the better for the work being done in clay science. We look forward to highlighting some of these noteworthy accomplishments in various ways between now and the time of our next meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland.

As befits the venue of our most recent meeting, we extend a sincere "Howdy" to the *Elements* family!

Sincerely,

W. Crawford Elliott (wcelliott@gsu.edu)
President, The Clay Minerals Society

2014 CMS AWARDEES

The following awards were presented at the CMS annual meeting at Texas A&M University.



MARION L. AND CHRYSIE M. JACKSON MID-CAREER CLAY SCIENTIST AWARD: **Dr. Will P. Gates**, SmecTech Research Consulting, Australia. Will Gates' consulting firm, founded in 2006, works with Australian and South African businesses to develop "fit-for-purpose" bentonite products with applications in civil engineering, paper manufacture, mineral exploration, and mineral export. Will also

works part time as a senior research fellow at the Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University, on research projects such as the reactions of bentonite-based liners to leachates of extreme chemistry and improving cement blends to minimize Cl transport. He also leads the development of an X-ray imaging laboratory. Will received a PhD in clay mineralogy and soil physical chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1994.



PIONEER IN CLAY SCIENCE AWARD: **Dr. Douglas W. Ming**, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Doug Ming is chief scientist for the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Directorate at NASA Johnson Space Center. His current research focuses on the mineralogy and geochemistry of Mars and the aqueous processes that have occurred on the planet.

He has been a member of the science teams for the Mars Polar Lander, Mars Exploration Rovers, Mars Phoenix Scout, and Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) missions. Doug has been involved in the development, testing, and operations of numerous flight instruments including the Sample Analysis at Mars and Chemistry and Mineralogy instruments on MSL. He currently leads tactical science operations for MSL as a Science Operations Working Group chair. Doug received a PhD in soil mineralogy from Texas A&M University in 1985.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD: **Dr. Warren D. Huff**, professor of geology at the University of Cincinnati. Warren Huff studies volcanic ash layers that are now altered to bentonites and K-bentonites ranging in age from Neoproterozoic to Tertiary. These deposits consist largely of clay minerals although some original volcanic crystals commonly remain. Warren

studies both types of minerals to learn about the nature of the source volcanoes, as well as the natural processes by which the volcanic ash layers have been buried and altered to their present form. These layers can also serve as valuable stratigraphic marker beds. Warren's current studies involve Ordovician K-bentonites in Siberia and parts of China. Warren joined the CMS when it was first formed in 1963, and he looks forward with great anticipation to his next half century as a CMS member. Warren received a PhD in geology from the University of Cincinnati in 1963.

2014 STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS



Congratulations to winners of the CMS Student Travel Awards! In alphabetical order: Idil Akin, Amber Douglas (not pictured), Laura Fackrell, Lonia Friedlander, Ashley Ryan Hamilton, Tae-Hee Koo, Anna Koteja, Margaret McAdam, Lingya Ma, Keith Morrison, Anderson Pacheco, Sabina Yeasmin, and Jinhong Zhou.