



The Clay Minerals Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear CMS community,

I would like to use this column to report on several activities of the Society. *Clays and Clay Minerals* has transitioned to a joint publishing agreement with Cambridge University Press (CUP). Our journal is now available through CambridgeCore, the online portal of CUP. After a five-year hiatus, it also is available again through GeoScienceWorld. Over the last three years, the journal has achieved an

impact factor greater than 2.0 (almost double what it held a decade ago). We welcome CMS members to submit articles and propose thematic issues that will reinforce the upward trend in our journal metrics.

The next CMS meeting will be held July 13–18, 2025, at Trinity College, Dublin, jointly with the 18th International Clay Conference. Conference chairs Steve Hillier, David Chew, and Emma Tomlinson are assembling an exciting scientific and social program. Beyond this, the 2026 CMS meeting is being planned by Barry Bickmore in Provo, Utah, USA, tentatively July 7–11. The Society invites applications to organizing future meetings in 2027 and beyond!

The 2024 Reynolds Cup had a record number of entrants. A total of 99 teams submitted entries, a 1/3 increase over previous years. Results are being analyzed and the winning teams will be announced in the near future.

Changes are afoot at the Source Clays Repository (SCR). A new halloysite clay will soon be available for purchase as a Special Clay. A replacement for our popular illite Source Clay is under preparation. Finally, Gnanasiri Premachandra (Prema) has decided to hang up his hat after decades of service to the SCR. Cliff Johnston has expressed deep gratitude for working with Prema for more than two decades, noting that Prema was “exceptionally competent and cheerful in all aspects of his professional career and service to CMS.” I am happy to add my heartfelt thanks on behalf of CMS for shipping more than 10,000 Source Clay samples across the world!

Warm regards,

Ian C. Bourg, CMS President

CMS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD 2024 SPOTLIGHT

Among the five recipients of the 2024 Student Research Grant, we featured **Faisal Gread**, **Amber Yu**, and **Oluwaseye Oyetade** in our past issues. **Hector Garza** from the University of Texas at Austin, USA and **Chiawei Lin** from Texas A&M University, USA are spotlighted in this issue.



Hector Garza is a PhD candidate in geology and geochemistry at the University of Texas at Austin (USA) within the Jackson School of Geosciences. He received his bachelor of science in geology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2016. Following graduation, Garza worked for three years in the oil and gas industry, where he specialized in reservoir characterization using geochemical data and managed an XRD laboratory focused on the study of clay minerals in hydrocarbon

reservoirs. His research interests span a range of disciplines, including geochemistry, geochronology, paleontology, stratigraphy, and sedimentology, with a primary goal of understanding pivotal geologic and evolutionary events in Earth's history. Currently, his work focuses on determining the precise timing of early land colonization and life radia-

tion during the Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, and Carboniferous periods, characterizing rare earth elements and critical minerals, and investigating systematic biases in the U-Pb dating system caused by interactions between clay minerals and zircons.



Chia-Wei Lin is a PhD student in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University (TAMU), USA. He studied both agricultural chemistry and materials science and engineering as an undergraduate student at National Taiwan University. He obtained his MS degree at TAMU then continued his PhD studies. His research focuses on the characterization and utilization of bauxite residue from the alumina refinery industry, including its settling behaviors, natural

chemical and mineralogical evolution during storage, and potential applications. He is currently elucidating the environmentally and agronomically important cation and anion exchange behaviors in sodalite and cancrinite, two common feldspathoids found in the bauxite residue.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The student research grant deadline is Monday, March 3, 2025 (CMS Membership is not required). The Clay Minerals Society annually awards several grants of up to \$3000 through its student research grant program. The Research Grant program provides partial financial support of research for students of clay science and technology.

Please visit the award website for more information and nomination details: https://www.clays.org/awards_student_research_grants/.

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SAVE THE DATE!



XVIII ICC
Dublin, Ireland
13-18 JULY 2025

Please visit the conference website <https://icc.aipea.org/> and explore the session list, submit your abstract, and registrar your attendance. Abstract deadline is 11th April 2025.

During the conference, CMS's administration (Executive Committee and Council) meetings will also be held in Trinity College, Dublin, as will our Business meeting, to which our members and others are invited.