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1st AWARD CEREMONY FOR THE BEST BACHELOR'S THESIS (2022)

The 1st award ceremony for the Best Bachelor's Thesis was held on 21 November as an on-line event. The SEM is aware of the importance of promoting the training of young students in mineralogy, geochemistry, petrology, and deposits. These awards have been created to encourage these disciplines in undergraduate students.

Fourteen undergraduate students from different universities in Spain (Oviedo, Basque Country Zaragoza, Barcelona, Madrid, Alicante, Murcia, Granada, and Huelva) participated. Contributions included topics on experimental mineralogy, synthesis and crystal growth, descriptive petrology, interpretation of geochemical data, hydrogeochemistry, geoarchaeology, mineral deposits, and water contamination and remediation. The applicants defended their work in five-minute oral presentations. A delegated committee of the SEM executive council evaluated the bachelor's thesis and oral presentations. Additionally, the ceremony included an invited lecture: "My experience on research: from curiosity to scientific contribution" given by Nuria Pujol (University of Granada).

Three awards were given for the best bachelor's thesis and oral presentations of the ceremony (Fig. 1). The winners were as follows:



FIGURE 1 LEFT TO RIGHT: Carlos Espinoza Enriquez de Luna, Alejandro Andrés Escorihuela, and Sara Romero Cruz.

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We will conduct oral and poster sessions entitled "Cosmo- & Geochemistry," "Solid and Fluid Earth," "Geosphere-Biosphere Interaction & Environment," "Geoengineering & Carbon Neutral," and "Applied Isotope Geochemistry."

We will keep the spirit of the symposium defined as "water-rock-human interactions" by providing meeting opportunities during lunch, poster sessions, and coffee breaks. We will also organize one-day mid-session field trips for all participants and optional post-symposium field trips. We will also organize cultural activities for the accompanying members. During the symposium, we will visit the crater lake in Zao Volcano, natural hot springs, one of the three most beautiful landscapes in Japan, Matsushima Island, and more. After the conference, participants will have a chance to climb Fuji Mountain, go to Nikko, and explore the hidden treasures of Japan.

Our goal is to organize a meeting with a friendly atmosphere allowing participants from different countries to cooperate and find new opportunities to collaborate. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Sendai, Japan, to revive and rediscover human-human interactions after the pandemic.

For more information, please visit <https://www.wri17.com/index.html>.

- Carlos Espinoza Enriquez de Luna (University of Granada) for the contribution "**Experimental study of arsenic and selenium co-precipitation with barite**"
- Alejandro Andrés Escorihuela (University of Zaragoza) for the contribution "**Mineralogical characterization of the Candelaria ore deposit (Gallinero de Cameros, La Rioja)**"
- Sara Romero Cruz (University of Huelva) for the contribution "**Alkaline treatment of highly polluted acid effluents sourced from mining and industrial activities**"

The rest of the submitted contributions were as follows

- "**Experimental mineralogy: calcic phosphates**" by M^a Cristina García Gil, University of Oviedo)
- "**The Huércal-Overa Co-Cu mineralization (Almeria): approach to the forming model**" by Robert Rodríguez Oterino (University of Barcelona)
- "**Report of the iron, kaolin, and alunite exploitation from Madriguera surroundings (Segovia)**" by Juan Rodríguez Gómez (Complutense University of Madrid)
- "**Characterization of Fe oxy-hydroxides and carbonates under VNIR-SWIR and XRD spectroscopy: the Aizpea deposit, Zerain (Gipuzkoa)**" by Ana Yepes Goitia (Basque Country University)
- "**Petrological study of the Upper Jurassic of the Chinchilla mountains (Albacete)**" by Ricardo Francisco Mañanós Zaragoza (University of Alicante)
- "**Mineralogical study of the Quibas deposit**" by Elia del Castillo Sobrinos (University of Murcia)
- "**Petrology and geochemistry of rocks from La Palma eruption in October 2021**" by Irene de los Reyes Méndez (University of Huelva)
- "**Volcanic ash geochemistry from La Palma eruption**" by Sandra Burgada Pacheco (University of Huelva)
- "**ADI application for rock porosity quantification and analysis of its potential as CO₂ storage**" by Sara Rocas Heres (University of Oviedo)
- "**Water extraction from martial regolith materials**" by Miquel Grande Tena (University of Barcelona)
- "**Sulfate and carbonate source in marine waters of the Greenland ice-cap front at Kangerlussuaq**" by Sara Carreras Gómez (University of Zaragoza)

Didac Navarro Ciurana and Núria Sánchez-Pastor
SEM council members