



The Clay Minerals Society

www.clays.org

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear CMS community,

In this column, I summarize ongoing discussions within the CMS Executive Committee and the Committee on Finance and Budget regarding the financial health of our Society. Briefly, a significant portion of the Society's budget is covered by the return on its endowment. Over the last five years, changes associated with the evolution of publishing and with the Covid pandemic have caused significant

shifts in the Society's budget. At its current level, the operational budget deficit would gradually deplete the Society's endowment.

The Society's operational budget falls mostly under five categories: (i) contributions to/from members, (ii) the CMS Annual Meeting, (iii) the CMS Business Office, (iv) the Source Clays Repository, and (v) *Clays and Clay Minerals* and other publications. Item (i) has a small average deficit, i.e., the Society returns significantly more to members, in the form of student grants and other awards, than it receives in membership dues. Items (ii) and (iv) generate small revenue streams. Items (iii) and (v) (i.e., the operation of the Society and of its journal) represent the major expenses.

Several initiatives are being pursued to return the budget deficit to a sustainable level. The most notable one is that the Society transitioned *Clays and Clay Minerals (CCM)* to a joint publishing agreement with Cambridge University Press, instead of Springer, in January 2024. This is expected to alleviate the losses associated with publishing *Clays and Clay Minerals*. In addition, an Ad Hoc Financial Committee chaired by Jeff Greathouse has provided detailed recommendations in December 2023 on possible cost-cutting opportunities. The focus remains on trimming the budget deficit in the near term to ward off more significant cuts in the future. Meanwhile, please renew your membership, help recruit new members, submit a paper to *CCM* and encourage others to do so, attend a CMS meeting, and consider donating to maintain our financial viability.

Warm regards,

Ian C. Bourg, CMS President

CMS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD 2024 SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to five outstanding research students on their successful bid for CMS student research grants! The 2024 Student Research Grant Awardee are **Amber Yu**, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, **Oluwaseye Oyetade**, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA, **Faisal Gread**, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, **Hector Garza**, The University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA, and **Chiawei Lin**, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA. Here we are featuring Faisal Gread, while others will be highlighted in the coming issues.



"I began my PhD studies on bentonite deposits with limited knowledge of clay science," **Faisal A. Gread** says. Over time, his understanding has deepened significantly, guided by the foundational work of early clay scientists. Now at the start of his own journey in this field, Faisal recognizes the importance of support in reaching his goals. He expresses profound gratitude for the encouragement and assistance from his family and supervisor. Additionally, he acknowledges the Clay Minerals Society

(CMS) in his career development, having received both a research grant and a travel award from the organization. These awards mark significant milestones for Faisal, providing essential resources to advance his research. The grant will enable him to refine his ideas and insights on clays and infrared spectroscopy. He aims to contribute valuable findings to the field, particularly in pioneering the use of near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy for the quantitative analysis of smectite and other clays.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Congratulations to Executive committee 2024!



IAN BOURG
President
Princeton University



YOUJUN DENG
Vice-President
Texas A&M University



KATERINA M. DONTSOVA
Secretary
University of Arizona



WOUTER IJDO
Treasurer
Elementis Specialties



SABINE PETIT
Past President
CNRS - University de Poitiers



YUJI ARAI
Vice-President Elect
University of Illinois



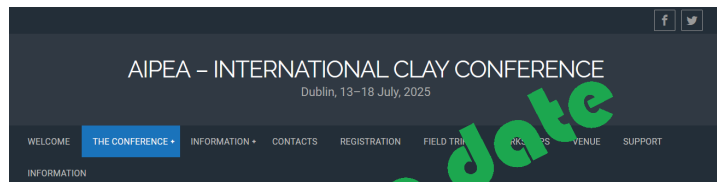
JOSEPH W. STUCKI
Editor-in-Chief
University of Illinois

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Awards Committee of CMS is soliciting nomination for the Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey, Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-career Clay Scientist, and George W. Brindley Clay Science Lecture awards for 2025. Please visit the award websites for more information and nomination details:

https://www.clays.org/awards_bailey_award/
https://www.clays.org/awards_jackson_award/
https://www.clays.org/awards_brindley_lecture/

Please consider nominating one of your colleagues and/or share this invitation with others.



XVIII ICC
Dublin, Ireland
13-18 JULY 2025