



# The Clay Minerals Society

[www.clays.org](http://www.clays.org)

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Lynda B. Williams

Spring is around the corner and now is the time to finalize your plans to attend the 2019 Euroclay conference, held jointly with the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Clay Minerals Society Meeting and the 6<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Clay Meeting. This conference will be held 1–5 July in Paris (France) at the Pierre and Marie Curie University, Jussieu Campus (Paris 6), which is near all of the downtown attractions. The meeting organizers have worked hard to present a highly diverse scientific program that is sure to be of interest to all clay scientists.

### Register today!

<https://euroclay2019.sciencesconf.org>

Euroclay 2019 offers students of clay science a broad perspective of scientific approaches, advances, and achievements on a global scale and gives members of The Clay Minerals Society (CMS) the opportunity to communicate their research to the international community. The conference will have two premeeting workshops: the first, led by George Christidis, is entitled *Advances in Bentonite Research: From Mine to Smectite Characterization*, and will be held at the Conference center of Milos Island (Greece); the second, led by Benny Theng, is entitled *Clay Mineral Catalysis of Organic Reactions*. Session topics of the conference itself are as follows: crystallography; mineralogy and modelling; environment and geological processes; resources, energy, and storage; functionalized clays; health and cosmetics; teaching clay science; and a general session. Field trips include offerings to study field relations of a Kimmeridgian organic-rich shale, a tour of two French research facilities used for clay mineral research, and two downtown historical tours with a clay science emphasis. Student travel support for the conference is planned through Euroclay (postdoctoral support) and through the CMS for US-based student members. The conference will provide students the opportunity to enhance their scientific speaking skills and to network in an international venue.

Plenary Lectures each morning of the conference will be presented by the 2019 CMS Awardees:

### Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award:

Dennis D. Eberl  
(US Geological Survey, Boulder Colorado)

**George W. Brindley Lecture Award:** Bruno Lanson  
(University Grenoble Alpes, France)

**Marion L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Mid-Career Clay Scientist Award:** Colleen Hansel (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Massachusetts, USA)

**Pioneer in Clay Science Lecture Award:** Laurent Michot  
(CNRS, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France)

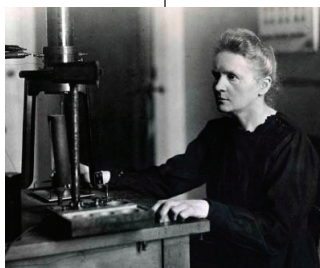
**Lynda B. Williams**, Arizona State University  
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President, The Clay Minerals Society

## 2018 CMS PROFESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT



**Jan Środoń** is the recipient of the 2018 Pioneer in Clay Science Award. Jan got his MS (1970) and PhD (1975) degrees in geology from the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy (Krakow, Poland) under the supervision of Jan Kubisz; in 1975/76 he was Fulbright postdoc with John Hower at the Case Western Reserve University (Ohio, USA). Most of his professional career he

has been a research scientist at the Institute of Geological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where he served for several years as scientific director, head of the Krakow branch of the institute, and organizer of EUROCLAY'99. While on leave from the institute, he worked for about five years at the United States Geological Survey (Denver/Boulder, Colorado, USA) and at Chevron (Houston, Texas), and for about three years at the Institut national de la recherche agronomique (Versailles, France) and at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (Strasbourg, France). Jan's main scientific partners have been Dennis Eberl, Victor Drits, and Douglas McCarty in the US, and Norbert Clauer and Françoise Elsass in France. With Dougal McCarty and Denny Eberl, he invented, wrote rules for, and organized the Reynolds Cup in 2000. He served as president of both the European Clay Group Association and the CMS. Jan Środoń retired in 2017, but he continues his research activities.



Marie Curie, (1867–1934)

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”— Marie Curie

Jan's contributions to clay science concern mostly the illite-smectite mineral group: from methods of investigating these clays, their nature and their origin, to their use in studying geological processes and in borehole geophysics. He designed X-ray diffraction (XRD) techniques for measuring the illite:smectite layer ratio in mixed-layer clays, XRD techniques for quantitative analysis of rocks containing clays, and a method of interpreting the K–Ar ages of clays. He established a chemical and morphological evolution of illite-smectite during the illitization reaction, including the values of stable charge of smectite and illite layers and the nucleation and growth mechanism of this process. The geological applications include deducing the thermal histories of sedimentary basins, the role of illite in the global N and B cycle, investigating recent and ancient weathering, the study of hydrothermally altered volcanic rocks, and sedimentation processes. The key application in borehole geophysics was a technique (implemented in the BESTMIN computer program) for calculating key geophysical parameters from combined quantitative mineralogy and chemistry data.

## CMS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2019!