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The Clay Minerals Society

NEWS ITEMS

We Have Moved!

To improve service to our membership and affiliated societies, The Clay Minerals Society has moved to an office near Washington DC (located near Dulles Airport in Virginia). For many years, the CMS office was located in Boulder, Colorado, and since 1999, it has been run by Leslie Shivers. We are very grateful to Leslie for all that she has brought to CMS for the past seven years. Leslie will remain in her home state of Colorado and will be starting in a new position in Denver (congratulations and best wishes!). Our new office address and contact information are as follows:

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Your Journal Needs You!



Derek C. Bain

Finding people willing to review manuscripts is becoming increasingly difficult for journal editors; one of the associate editors for *Clays and Clay Minerals* recently had to contact 16 people to find two prepared to carry out a review. Not only is this a lot of work, it also takes time, and the whole review process is slowed down.

If you are an author, you are also expected to take the responsibility of being a reviewer and play your part in the process. I realise, of course, that people sometimes have to decline

to carry out a review within a short timeframe because of the pressure of work, but when you are asked to carry out a review, please, if at all possible, do try to find the time to carry out a thorough and conscientious review and send your report as soon as possible. Not only do we editors need good reviewers, so does the whole peer-review system, which is the cornerstone of scientific research publication. Authors must also be reviewers and should treat manuscripts for review in the same serious and timely manner as they would expect for their own work.

For a list of contents in *Clays and Clay Minerals*, see www.clays.org/journal/JournalTOC.html

Derek C. Bain

Editor-in-Chief, *Clays and Clay Minerals*

Reynolds Cup Competition Deadline

If you are participating in the Third Biennial Reynolds Cup competition for quantitative mineral analysis (reynoldscup2006@nrca.gc.ca; [guidelines at www.clays.org/reynoldscup.html](http://www.clays.org/reynoldscup.html)), don't forget that the deadline for submission of results is **April 28, 2006**. The three contestants with the most accurate results will be announced at the 43rd annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society on Oleron Island, France (June 2006).

Dipo Omotoso
Natural Resources Canada

Come to the Clay Meeting in France!

If your busy lives have caused you to miss the opportunity to register for the 'Bridging Clays' meeting (43rd Annual Meeting of the CMS and 4^e Colloque du GFA), which will be held in France, June 3–7, IT IS NOT TOO LATE! Please consult the 'Bridging Clays' website: www.c2s-organisation.com/gfacms06

You will see that the program is full of exciting topics and places to explore. Attend the meeting and benefit from this exceptional opportunity to meet an international group of people interested in clay minerals. There is still time to register. Please do so, and you won't regret it.

The 'Bridging Clays' Local Organizing Committee

'Images of Clay' Wants your Images



The Clay Minerals Society and the Clay Minerals

Group of the Mineralogical Society have joined forces to share the 'Images of Clay' archive. This is a web-based archive of pictures of clays and clay minerals freely available to all to download for non-profit purposes, such as the teaching of clay mineralogy. It can be accessed via the Clay Minerals Society's website www.clays.org. Anyone wishing to contribute images to this archive should e-mail them to Steve Hillier at S.Hillier@macaulay.ac.uk or to Ray Ferrell at rferrell@lsu.edu. Also, please download and complete the copyright form (pdf format) and send a hard copy, by post, to Dr Steve Hillier, Environmental Science Group, Macaulay Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH, Scotland.

On the Nano Front...

On January 11–13, 2006, the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico hosted a conference on nanoscience and nanotechnology in the Earth sciences. The conference was convened by Adrian Brearley with help from Jim Connolly, Rhian Jones, and Kristy Mills. Talks by 14 invited speakers and 19 other researchers addressed broad topics like 'The Case for Nanogeoscience: Why It Will Be a Centerpiece of Geoscience Research of the Future', given by Michael Hochella, and 'Energetics of Nanoscale Processes in Earth and Planetary Sciences', given by Alexandra Navrotsky, and specific subjects like 'Reactivity of Doped and Undoped Iron Oxide Nanoparticles', presented by Lee Penn. Everyone came away with two firm conclusions: first, that the future of nanoscience and nanotechnology is just beginning to blossom in the Earth sciences, and second, that properties of materials really do change at the nanoscale.

Sage Thoughts from the Clay Doctor 'Nanoscience is Clay Science'

Fans have asked for my nanothoughts concerning the 'nanoscience' issue of *Elements* magazine. Being a clay scientist, I have worked with Angstrom units for my entire career. But with the aid of specialized software and my IBM 285 computer, I now am up to date. I even discovered a shortcut for converting Angstroms into nanometers in my head. It is necessary only to move the decimal point one place to the left. By this method, 10 Å illite becomes 1 nm illite, and clay science enters the wonderful funding world of nanotechnology.

An important advance was made in this manner several years ago when a brilliant scientist, quite by accident but working with a prepared mind, moved the decimal point one place in the wrong direction, thereby discovering the ninnymeter. The name of that scientist was Alfred E. Ninny, and the rest is history. Unfortunately, the ninnymeter has the same abbreviation as the nanometer (nm), leading to confusion in the literature. For this reason, some scientists have decided to retain the Å.

I congratulate the editors and authors of *Elements* for the excellent nanoscience issue. I rate it four out of a possible four quantum dots. However, I should like to see a similar issue devoted to ninnyscience, to be written by top ninnyscientists. After all, a ninnymeter is two orders of magnitude smaller than a nanometer, and therefore is exactly 100 times more interesting. A ninnyscience would encourage the present trend to explore smaller and smaller objects, taking us closer to the ultimate goal of realizing everything there is to know about nothing at all.

The Clay Doctor

CMS 2005 BANQUET



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The 2005 banquet was held in Burlington, Vermont (USA) and featured New England folk dancing after dinner. CMS members kicked out the kinks with Northern Appalachian music.

- 1. (L-R) Andy Eversull, Alison Jones, Lori Eversull, and Crawford Elliott enjoying dessert
- 2. Bruce Herbert, Libby Stern, Cliff Johnston, and Sam Traina enjoying the wine

- 3. Pat Costanzo and Brenda Ross discussing politics
- 4. Ross Geise, Dougal McCarty, and Dewey Moore clapping to the beat of the same drummer!
- 5. Atia Huff, Lyudmyla Wilson, Anja Dosen, and Steve Hillier gone wild...
- 6. Dancing feet of happy clay folk: Dewey Moore (back), Steve Hillier, Lyudmyla Wilson, and Shelley Roberts



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CMS PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



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NEW STUDENT MEMBERS

- A. Edwin Ntasin and Burch Fisher
- B. David Thomas (newest recruit) and Dad, Andy Thomas

OLD FRIENDS

- C. Hendrick Van Oss, Paul Nadeau, and Pete Ryan
- D. Eric Eslinger explains facts of life to excited Rick Lahann
- E. Rich April leads an Adirondack field trip, as Bob Newton dozes on the rainy afternoon.



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