



The Clay Minerals Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Paul Schroeder

Why is it that we love ternary diagrams? I suspect we all have our favorites, like sand–silt–clay or bicarbonate–chloride–sulfate. I must confess that one of my favorites is muscovite–celadonite–pyrophyllite, which highlights tetrahedral and octahedral charge within the dioctahedral layer types. Take a look and you'll see some clay minerals that are near and dear to many of us. OK, now you are probably wondering where I am going with this and what this has to do with the CMS. The CMS is argu-

ably one of the most “self-contained” interdisciplinary societies I know. Staying ahead of the relentless challenges of electronic publication, conferencing, and public outreach is difficult. The foundation upon which the CMS tries to accomplish these missions is based on the triad of industry–government–academia (I–G–A). I report herein to our membership and other readers that the CMS is meeting this challenge and that its success can clearly be attributed to the melding of this triple-space I–G–A composition. Industry members remind us that at the end of the day, society needs clay products and that clay science and economics are not disconnected. Government members interface with the political and regulatory aspects of clays in our products and our environment, and they perform outreach to the public about clay science's role in policy-making. Academic members pursue basic research and train clay scientists for future generations. End members rarely exist in nature and that is the beauty of ternary diagrams. It gives a chance to see how we, as individuals and as a society, move around compositional I–G–A space. This first message is to say thanks to CMS volunteers who spend their time working to keep us moving forward. Goals during my tenure include embracing more students into CMS governance, outreach, and publication. My e-mail address is schroe@uga.edu. Please send me your ideas, comments, and occasional snivels. I am truly honored and humbled to be at the helm and promise to try my best to keep the CMS productive. I only ask the same of you, in whatever part of I–G–A space you reside. Cheers.

Paul Schroeder, President
The Clay Minerals Society

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 2011 CMS meeting will be held **September 25–30**, in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada, USA. Stay tuned for more details.

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WHAT THE STUDENTS SAID!

The CMS has always regarded itself as a very student-oriented society. Here is what three of the students attending the SEA-CSSJ-CMS trilateral meeting in Spain had to say...

“Participating in the 2010 Trilateral Meeting on Clays was for me, as a geology student, a very exciting and rewarding experience. It was my first big, international, scientific conference and I have to admit that I was a bit confused at the beginning. Nevertheless I quickly realized that the 2010 TMC was a perfect occasion to learn about the main fields of interest of clay scientists from all over the world. It was also possible to meet in person the authors of the books and papers I read, which was amazing. I could also find out what my colleagues are doing as a part of their master's or PhD theses. I found this part of the conference the most interesting because I could see how clay science evolves outside my country. The talks were interesting and inspiring. Participating in this event broadened my knowledge of clay mineralogy. I encourage other students to participate in meetings like this because the benefits are great.”



2010 Student Travel Award winners (LEFT TO RIGHT): Marek Szczerba, Tom Naumann, Ines Mulder, Sara Moron, Artur Kuligiewicz, Irshad Bibi, Ali Hooshair (MISSING, Elena Kuznetsova)

“After the meeting I went home with 2 kg of clay samples, a list of recent papers from Spain, Japan, Australia, and the USA, and new contacts for potential field trips and sampling for my research group in Germany. My mind is full of the many good discussions and the feedback that I received at my poster during the busy poster session and of images of the local surroundings and food, whether the snail in the paella, the ham museum in Madrid, or the wild flamenco dance at the gala dinner in Sevilla. Overall I loved the international and friendly atmosphere of the workshop and field trip, and enjoyed meeting great people from all over the world. I had a great time meeting my old friends and colleagues from Texas, and it was wonderful to get to know so many new people.”

“The Clay Minerals Society travel grant allowed me to present my research to an international audience at the Trilateral Meeting on Clays in Spain. Experts from different areas within the clay minerals community provided me with great feedback for my research, which aims to show how clays can be used as a paleoclimatic indicator. The talks were also very instructive: I was exposed to new and exciting investigations on clay materials and nanotechnology. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity to travel to Spain and discuss my results. I was also honored to have received the award for best geology poster. This award was a pleasant surprise for me and encourages me to continue my research.”