

The Clay Minerals Society

www.clays.org

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Peter Komadel

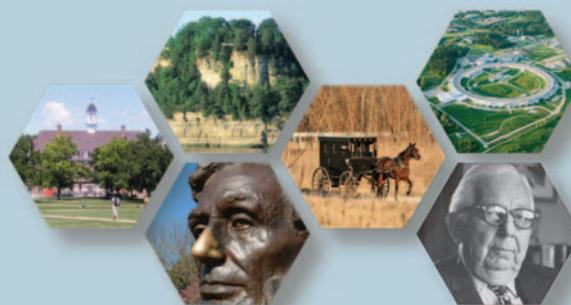
As only the second non-US-based president of the Society, I agree with the words of Derek Bain, CMS president in 2009–2010, appearing in the President's Corner of the August 2009 issue of *Elements*: "It is not only a great honor but also a most unexpected experience." His and later my election to the presidency are indications that our Society has become more international over the years, resulting in more than half the members now residing outside North America. As the president of the European Clay Group Association (2011–2015), I have been involved several times over the years in discussions of possible actions to avoid the decreasing number of participants in clay conferences. Back in 1999, the clay groups of Croatia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia agreed that they could not hold annual or biannual international clay conferences of reasonable size independently because of a lack of available participants. Instead, they agreed to organize the Mid-European Clay Conference (MECC) as their joint meeting and to encourage their members to participate. Later, the Czech and German clay groups (the latter with members based in Austria, Germany, and the German part of Switzerland) joined the MECC initiative. This effort resulted in repeatedly successful meetings. The most recent was held in September 2012 in Pruhonice, near Prague, and it attracted more than 140 attendees, compared to about 90 at the CMS annual meeting in 2012 in Golden, Colorado.

The trend towards joint meetings has also been adopted by the Clay Minerals Society. The 43rd annual meeting (2006) of the CMS was a joint meeting with the French Clay Group, titled "Bridging Clays"; it was held on the island of Oléron and organized by Sabine Petit and her colleagues from the University of Poitiers. The 47th annual meeting (2010) of the CMS was held in Madrid and Seville, Spain, as part of the trilateral joint meeting on clays with the Clay Science Society of Japan and the Spanish Clay Society, and with Eduardo Ruiz-Hitzky as the general chair. The next joint CMS annual meeting will be in 2015 in conjunction with the Euroclay meeting in Edinburgh (UK) and chaired by Stephen Hillier.

It appears that the essential factor preventing a more extensive participation of scientists and their students at recent conferences is the low financial support available. On the other hand, 2013 appears to be a great year for the world clay community, with the 15th International Clay Conference being organized by the Brazilian Clay Group and held on 7–11 July in Rio de Janeiro (www.15icc.org). The clay sciences can be proud that the ICC will be the first of three important international events in Rio over the next few years; the ICC will be followed by the world football championship in 2014 and the Olympic Games in 2016.

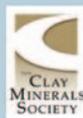
Significant effort was made to avoid holding the ICC and the annual meeting of the CMS too close to each other, as happened in 2009 when the Interstratified Clay Minerals meeting, the first action ever in the AIPEA Educational Series, occurred just prior to the 14th ICC in Italy but earlier than the clays workshop in Yellowstone National Park, the final part of the 46th CMS annual meeting in Billings, Montana. Fortunately, such a conflict in timing will be avoided in 2013. The 15th ICC, chaired by Sylvia M. Couto Anjos, will be held in July and will include a very complex set of 28 technical topics. The 2nd International Conference on Clays, Clay Minerals, and Layered Materials (CMLM2013), chaired by Victor A. Drits and Jan Srodon, will be take place on 2–6 September in St. Petersburg, Russia, and will consist of five sessions and two special symposia (www.ruclay.com/).

50TH 1963–2013
Anniversary
OF THE CLAY MINERALS SOCIETY



ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 6–10, 2013

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



[WWW.CLAYS.ORG/ANNUAL%20MEETING/
50TH_ANNUAL_MEETING_WEBSITE/](http://WWW.CLAYS.ORG/ANNUAL%20MEETING/50TH_ANNUAL_MEETING_WEBSITE/)



Finally, the 50th anniversary annual meeting of the Clay Minerals Society is being prepared by Joseph W. Stucki, Steve Guggenheim, and Stephen P. Altaner, and will be held on 6–10 October 2013 at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign (www.clays.org/annual%20meeting/50th_annual_meeting_website/), where the CMS was born. Direct and electronic discussions with many clay scientists all over the world show that many of them highly appreciate the choice of venue for this anniversary annual meeting and plan to attend.

It is my challenge and, at the same time my pleasure to work with the Executive Committee and all CMS members as your president during the anniversary year of the Clay Minerals Society. For recent CMS information and activities, please visit www.clays.org.

Best wishes,

Peter Komadel (peter.komadel@savba.sk)
President, The Clay Minerals Society

STUDENT-RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to **Anderson A. Pacheco** for winning a CMS Student Research Grant Award. Anderson is a PhD student in soil science at the Universidade Federal de Viçosa (Brazil), working with Prof. Mauricio P. F. Fontes. His research involves the mineralogical characterization (X-ray diffraction and Rietveld method) of alluvial soils and sediments in order to assess pollution/contamination by heavy metals resulting from human activities.