

The Clay Minerals Society

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The good financial health of a society depends on its membership base and on a well-balanced budget. In a context where the membership tends to dramatically decrease, each of us can contribute to shape the future of The Clay Minerals Society by encouraging colleagues and clay-related people to join, and, of course, by not forgetting to renew our membership. The Clay Minerals Society is on social

networks, Twitter (ClayMinSociety), Facebook (TheClayMineralsSociety), LinkedIn (The Clay Minerals Society), and has a YouTube channel (theclaymineralssociety2982). A flyer to advertise in our own institutions and using our networks will be available soon on the website. There are tangible benefits to members, also available for students and "Associate members" that can join the CMS to experience the benefits of membership at no cost for a limited period. One of the benefits is the free access to the full text of the journal of our Society, *Clays and Clay Minerals*.

Following a five-year contract for publication of our journal with SpringerNature, we have decided to move to Cambridge University Press. We hope that this will help to improve our turnaround times further, to increase revenue, to offer better service to authors and to improve our reach in the broad range of institutions that are interested in clay science. We expect to continue to publish ~60 papers per year. The journal's impact factor for 2022 (published in June 2023) is still 2.2, the same as the previous year. Thank you in advance for what you are already doing or what you will do for the well-being of the Clay Minerals Society.

Sabine Petit, CMS President

CMS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD WINNERS

Among our brilliant eight award winners, we featured Kevin, Emily, Opeyemi, and Zubaer in our June and August issues. In this issue, our spotlight covers Henry from The University of British Columbia, Canada, Jonathan from the University of Connecticut, USA, Kirsten from Indiana University, USA, and Wang from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia.



Henry Crawford reconstructs terrestrial paleoclimatic signals from alluvial fan sediments in the southern Central Andes of northwestern Argentina. Using a mix of hyperspectral satellite data and fieldbased spectroscopy, he traces the mineralogical composition and evolution of alluvial-fan surfaces in dryland basins. His research aims to quantify the production pathways and timescales of clay weath-

ering products during the late Quaternary. By constraining the sensitivity of weathering kinetics to past climatic shifts, Henry's research links mineralogical signals within sedimentary archives to known climate forcing. Henry is thankful for the generous support of the CMS research grant, which enables him to undertake an extensive, fieldbased sampling campaign.



What controls the interactions between clay minerals, fluids, and organic matter, and how does this lead to the geochemical signals we measure in the environment? **To answer these questions, Jonathan Smolen** uses stable isotope and organic molecular analyses to probe the fluid-organic-mineral interface at an atomistic level. His research focuses on reconstructing environmental information from

geological archives as well as modeling mineral-fluid exchange.



Kirsten Hawley's dissertation research integrates Earth science, archaeology, and community knowledge to comprehensively analyze pre-Columbian ceramics in eastern Dominican Republic. This includes studying clay procurement practices and the geochemical durability of ceramic artifacts that have been submerged for extended periods. Her CMS research grant will be used to collect and

examine unfired clay from the study area. The aim is to compare Pb stable isotopes across the landscape with those found in ceramic artifacts. This project's goal is to improve our understanding of regional clay geochemistry and mineralogy. This is crucial for determining the source of raw clay and the impact of submerged depositional environments on ceramic artifacts.



Sen Wang's research focuses on developing functional building materials through innovative usage of clay and clay mineral resources. These materials include clay bricks and cement/concrete products. With a mineralogical background, he aims to reveal the complex relationship between the structure/chemistry of clay minerals and physical, mechanical, and thermal performances

of fabricated building materials. A deep understanding of this relationship will help the construction industry achieve consistent quality control during factorial manufacturing and benefit the rational design of next-generation building materials. The CMS Student Research Grant 2023 will support Sen's research on the thermal behaviors of critical clay minerals and relevant clay brick manufacturing.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

New Publisher of Clays and Clay Minerals

The society journal *Clays and Clay Minerals* will now be published by Cambridge University Press starting 2024. The new link for the journal is https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/ clays-and-clay-minerals.

Direct link for submission: https://www2.cloud.editorialmanager. com/claysacm/default2.aspx

Stay up to date with the latest developments in the world of *Clay and Clay Minerals* with this new publishing partnership.



The 61st Annual Meeting of The Clay Minerals Society and the 5th Asian Clay Conference Location: Honolulu, Hawaii Time: June 3-6, 2024

OCTOBER 2023