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DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

The Distinguished Member Award of The Clay Minerals Society was given to Professor T. J. Pinnavaia at the 30th annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society in San Diego, California, on September 27, 1993. The following introduction was made on behalf of the recipient.

INTRODUCTION OF T. J. PINNAVAIA

MAX M. MORTLAND



Thomas J. Pinnavaia has had a distinguished research and teaching career at Michigan State University. Dr. Pinnavaia is an inorganic chemist who has been at the forefront of research on the surface chemistry of clay minerals and other layered materials for over 20 years. He was born in Buffalo, New York, and obtained his early schooling there. After attending a technical institute, he worked for Union Carbide Corporation for five years. He then went on to university at SUNY, Buffalo, and then graduate school at Cornell University, where he obtained the Ph.D. in chemistry in 1967 under Professor Fay. He then came to the Chemistry Department at Michigan State University. His initial research program dealt with metal ion-diketone complexes. About 1970, he became interested in clays and their chemical properties and, from then until the present time, has had a vigorous research program in this area. His research interests have been molecular design and particle engineering of lamellar compounds for application in heterogenous catalysis, composite design, ceramics, electronic devices and related areas of materials chemistry, intercalation chemistry of layered silicates and complex layered oxides, phase transfer catalysis, heterogenous catalysis, surface coordination chemistry, and solid acids and bases.

Professor Pinnavaia has been extremely active in the Clay Minerals Society. In addition to presenting and publishing many research papers on his work, he has served on committees of the society and as the society's President in 1990. One of his major contributions to the society was the organization and presentation of the 25th annual meeting of the Clay Mineral Society in Grand Rapids. The Clay Mineral Society made him a recipient of the George Brindley Lectureship Award in 1991.

Dr. Pinnavaia has been very active in various capacities for the American Chemical Society and catalyses societies. He served as director of the Center for Materials Research at Michigan State University for four years, an organization which he was primarily responsible for developing. This center drew considerable state funds for materials research including much on clays and other layered materials. Dr. Pinnavaia received the Senior Sigma Xi Research Award from Michigan State in 1983 and the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1988.

Professor Pinnavaia has been a prolific publisher of his research results in a variety of prestigious journals, including those of the American Chemical Society and the journal, Science. In the latter, he wrote an invited review paper on intercalated clays. His work has at-

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tracted interest from all over the world, and he is in great demand as a participant in national and international conferences. For example, he gave an invited plenary lecture at the recent International Clay Conference at Adelaide, Australia. He and his co-workers have been successful in obtaining patents on several inventions which include clays.

In my view, one of the greatest contributions of Professor Pinnavaia has been his application of rigorous chemical principles and techniques to the advancement of clay science. At a time in 1970 when most classical chemists would have rejected any notion that research on clays was worthy of investigation by basic research chemistry, he was open to their possibilities as systems of great scientific interest. It is my great privilege to present Thomas J. Pinnavaia as a distinguished member of the Clay Minerals Society.

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