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FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



As the new Editor-in-Chief for *Clays and Clay Minerals*, I am pleased to write a few words of introduction and philosophy. First, however, I wish to express my deep respect and gratitude to my predecessors, both immediate and those in the more distant past, who have served so well and added greatly to the quality and reputation of this journal. I was first introduced to *Clays and Clay Minerals* by my Ph.D. advisor, Dr Charles B. Roth, at Purdue University in 1973. He frequently brought me papers from it to read and we spent much time discussing them. This became an important component in my foundation in clay science. I joined The Clay Minerals Society and began to receive the journal in that year. I place great value on all that I have learned from the many papers that have been published in it. I feel a great burden of responsibility to preserve and enhance the quality of science that will be recorded in its pages during my watch.

By way of introduction, I am a professor of soil science in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). I joined the faculty at UIUC immediately upon completion of my Ph.D. in physical chemistry of clays and soils at Purdue at the end of 1975. Prior to that, I received a M.S. degree in soil chemistry from Utah State University and a B.S. in chemistry from Brigham Young University. I was raised in Rexburg, Idaho, where my father, J. Wendell Stucki, was a professor of agriculture at Ricks College. I received a Junior College diploma in chemistry there. My father developed an award-winning herd of registered Jersey dairy cattle that he used as a laboratory for teaching his students and his own boys – teachings not just about cows, but also about life. In high school I was occasionally referred to affectionately as 'Jersey Juicer Joe'.

We have witnessed over the past few years the transition of *Clays and Clay Minerals* to the on-line world, and the coming years undoubtedly will be filled with further innovations in the arena of creative models for dissemination of scientific information. As we approach this challenging future and seek better and more rapid means to communicate, the foremost concern must be the preservation of the quality and reliability of the information that is published. This requires authors, reviewers, and editors to give nothing less than their best effort. We must also be aggressive in finding effective methods to reach the largest number of scientists who are potentially touched by clay science and entice them to read and publish in *Clays and Clay Minerals*. In short, we need to continue to be engaged in effective strategies for maximizing our impact on the scientific world.

To these ends, I heartily invite any and all who may read this to contribute their best research and send me their most creative ideas for the advancement of clay science. I look forward to my term of service and pledge my best effort to it. I express my appreciation to all who have and those who will join me in this very worthy endeavor.

JOSEPH W. STUCKI
January 1, 2008

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