

## MARILYN AND STURGES W. BAILEY DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

The Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award of The Clay Minerals Society was made to Norbert Clauer at the 45th annual meeting of The Clay Minerals Society in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 6, 2008. The following introduction was made on behalf of the recipient.

### INTRODUCTION OF NORBERT CLAUER

RAY E. FERRELL, JR.

Norbert is a world-class clay mineralogist with a remarkable record of research accomplishments. He is the most readily recognized international authority on the application of isotope geochemistry to the interpretation of clay mineral genesis in sedimentary and low-temperature metamorphic environments. He is the author of one book and co-editor of two others dealing with clays and the environment. He has published more than 140 articles in refereed international journals and authored many other contributions to clay science. He has received the Bronze Research Medal of the C.N.R.S. (French National Research Council), the C.N.R.S. Silver Research Medal, and the Georges Millot Prize of the French Academy of Sciences

Norbert's work on the isotope geochemistry of clay minerals is as fundamentally important to our understanding of the origin of clay minerals as the works of V.A. Drits and R.C. Reynolds are to the interpretation of clay mineral XRD patterns. His accomplishments are a direct product of his education in one of the premier schools for the study of clay minerals and his appointment as a postdoctoral fellow or visiting scientist in prestigious university and government laboratories. His PhD and Doctor of Science were earned in Strasbourg in association with Georges Millot, a rival of Ralph Grim for the title of 'Father of modern clay mineralogy.' He was a postdoctoral fellow with Gunter Faure at Ohio State University and has formed a long-time collaboration with Sam Chaudhuri of Kansas State University. He worked at the University of Georgia, the Max Planck Institute, Stanford University, and the US Geological Survey. Each of these experiences broadened his basic skills and added value to his research.

The basis of Clauer's reputation is his voluminous work on the clay-related techniques and application of the  $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{87}\text{Sr}$  system to geologic problems. His recent papers address the mechanisms and rates of diagenetic



processes. The results are being applied to an increased understanding of mineral transformation, thermal evolution, and fluid flow in sedimentary basins, important topics related to the search for hydrocarbons and the geologic isolation of radioactive waste. Emphasis on revealing the mechanisms of crystal growth and recrystallization has led to the formulation of models for the behavior of radiogenic  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  in clay minerals. He is at the cutting-edge of research on these and related topics. Norbert is the clay scientist who perfected the techniques to extract meaningful age data from clay sequences. He has earned this recognition as the Bailey Distinguished Member of The Clay Minerals Society, the most prestigious award conferred by the society.