



THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 36, No. 3

September, 2019

ISSN 0743-3816

37th TSOP Annual Meeting

**September 14 – 18, 2020
Xuzhou, China**



*New Grand Century Hotel, Xuzhou, Quanshan District, China.
Photo from Hotel Website.*

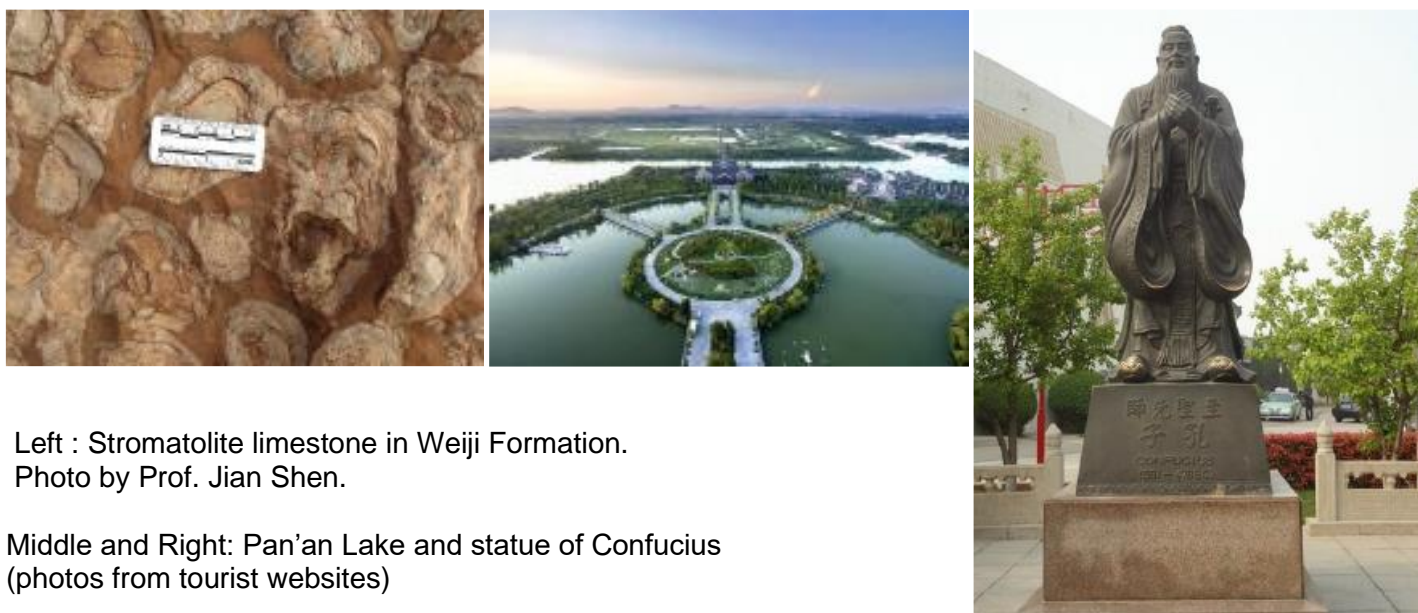
37th TSOP Annual Meeting

September 14 – 18, 2020

Xuzhou, China

The 37th Annual Meeting of The Society for Organic Petrology will be held in Xuzhou, China from September 14 to 18, 2020. Xuzhou is a famous historical, cultural and excellent tourism city in China. Specifically, the hotel is situated on the west side of Yunlong Lake, which is a Class 5A Tourist Spot in China.

Field trips will include the Jiawang Stromatolite Park and Pan'an Lake, along with visits to Confucian Mansion, Confucian Forest and Confucian Temple located in Qufu City in Shandong Province.



Left : Stromatolite limestone in Weiiji Formation.
Photo by Prof. Jian Shen.

Middle and Right: Pan'an Lake and statue of Confucius
(photos from tourist websites)

Stay tuned for more information in the December newsletter!

<https://www.tsop.org>

The Society for Organic Petrology

TSOP is a society for scientists and engineers involved in coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students, and publishes a website, Facebook Page, quarterly newsletter, annual meeting program and abstracts and special publications. Members are eligible for discounted subscriptions to Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*.

The Society for Organic Petrology Newsletter
(ISSN 0743-3816) is published quarterly
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GUIDELINES:

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Readers are invited to submit items pertinent to TSOP members' fields of study. These might include meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, short technical contributions including those on geologic localities or laboratory methods, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons and works of fiction. Photos, graphs and other illustrations are welcomed. Low-resolution images are discouraged, as they cannot be reproduced well in print. Articles are preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

Contact the Editor:

Rachel Walker editor@tsop.org

Membership Information:

Please report any changes in address or contact information to Brett Valentine, TSOP Membership Chair:
bvalentine@usgs.gov

Members can also update their own information by logging into the secure TSOP website:
www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/

The TSOP Newsletter is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is distributed to all Society members as a benefit of membership.

Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see: www.tsop.org

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is:

The Society for Organic Petrology
c/o American Geological Institute
4220 King St., Alexandria,
VA 22302-1520 USA

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

December Issue: Dec. 10th, 2019
March Issue: March 10th, 2020
June Issue: June 10th, 2020

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A vintage desk set carved from anthracite coal.
Photo from 'The Art of Anthracite Coal Carving':
<http://journalofantiques.com/features/the-art-of-anthracite-coal-carving/>

TSOP Membership Dues

TSOP dues payments are due on or before **December 31st each year**. We encourage you to check your dues status and make your payment so that you can continue your TSOP membership and support the society and its work.

TSOP dues are currently set at:

Individuals:

- \$25 per year
or
- \$100 for 5 years (5 years for the price of 4!)

Students:

- \$15 per year

Institutional/Corporate:

- \$75 per year

You can use our convenient online dues payment system to pay dues by credit card, check (US Members), or money order.

You can login at www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/ and select 'Online dues payment' or go to www.tsop.org/dues and access the online form without logging in.

Thank you for your interest and support of TSOP and we look forward to a renewal of your TSOP membership.



www.facebook.com/OrganicPetrology

MINERALS IN COAL AND COAL LOW TEMPERATURE ASH

A paper "*The importance of minerals in coal as the hosts of chemical elements: A review*" has been published in the International Journal of Coal Geology, where the authors list more than 200 minerals that have been identified in coal and its low temperature ash, although the validity of some of these minerals has not been confirmed.

The authors welcome all comments and inputs on the table and anyone wishing to add new minerals, along with supporting evidence or verified evidence for the minerals that have not yet been verified can submit their data via email to Prof. Shifeng Dai (daishifeng@gmail.com).

Visit https://www.tsop.org/coal_minerals.html to view the manuscript.



TSOP is an AAPG Affiliated Society. Abstracts from annual meetings are available through AAPG Datapages.



TSOP Member Lopo Vasconcelos sent in this amusing photo of a misspelt road painting in Portugal.

THE JOHN CASTAÑO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD



The highest honor of The Society for Organic Petrology, provided for in its Bylaws, is Honorary Membership. It is awarded to persons distinguished in a scientific discipline of significance to the Society, in recognition of their contributions in research, service to TSOP, or education. In 2005 the Honorary Member Award was named the John Castaño Honorary Membership Award. John Castaño was part of the group that led the 1983 transition of the society from the North American Coal Petrographers to The Society for Organic Petrology. Arguably the most active of the Houston-based group of founding members, John served as inaugural Vice-President, and later President of TSOP. He was an organizer of three TSOP meetings in the Houston area, and was made an Honorary Member in 1995. He served TSOP in many capacities until his death in 1997; a memorial article was published in the June 1997 issue of the TSOP Newsletter.

2019 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award:

Professor Joan Esterle from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Queensland, Australia.

Stay tuned for an article about Professor Esterle in an upcoming newsletter!

Below: Outgoing TSOP President Thomas Gentzis presents the Castaño Award to Professor Joan Esterle at the 2019 TSOP Annual Meeting Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Rudi Schwab.



Congratulations

SPACKMAN AWARD



TSOP has awarded research grants to graduate students since 1999. In 2005, the grant was named the William Spackman Student Research Award. William Spackman, throughout his career at The Pennsylvania State University, played a leading role in educating many people who are now active in the organic petrology field. Many in TSOP were either Bill's student or had Bill serve on their graduate committee. Graduates at schools such as Southern Illinois, Kentucky, South Carolina, and others, represent the second generation of Bill's influence. His long dedication to coal education has made it appropriate to name this award after him. Bill was highly influential throughout the history of the North American Coal Petrographers, and was the first President-Elect and second President of TSOP. He was made an Honorary Member in 1994.

2019 Spackman Award Recipients:

Xiaowei Zheng
Aarhus University, DENMARK
Organic petrology and geochemical characteristics of the Lower Paleozoic Shales of Scandinavia

Xin Guo
China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing), CHINA
Petrographic characteristics of residues derived from coal pyrolysis and gasification

Below: Outgoing TSOP President Thomas Gentzis presents the Spackman Award to Xin Guo at the 2019 TSOP Annual Meeting Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Rudi Schwab.



Congratulations

THE RALPH GRAY AWARD
Best Refereed Paper in Coal and Organic Petrology



A TSOP award for the best refereed paper in coal and organic petrology was approved by Council in early 2009. With the permission of the Gray family, the award was named after Ralph Gray (1923-2009), a petrologist with wide-ranging experience and interests, particularly well-known for his work in industrial applications.

2019 Ralph Gray Award:

Optical characteristics of graptolite-bearing sediments and its implication for thermal maturity assessment by Q. Luo, J. Hao, C.B. Skovsted, Y. Xu, Y. Liu, J. Wu, S. Zhang, and W. Wang, International Journal of Coal Geology, 195, pp.386-401

Congratulations

THE DAL SWAINE AWARD
Best Refereed Paper in Coal and Hydrocarbon Source Rock Geochemistry



The Dal Swaine Award for Best Published paper is presented to the authors of the paper judged to be the best for the year in inorganic or organic geochemistry and/or mineralogy of coal or hydrocarbon source rocks.

2019 Dal Swaine Award:

Submicron-scale mineralogy of lithotypes and the implications for trace element associations: Blue Gem coal, Knox County, Kentucky by J.C. Hower, D. Berti, M.F. Hochella Jr, S.M. Rimmer, D.N. Taulbee International Journal of Coal Geology, 192, pp. 73-82.

Right: Outgoing TSOP President Thomas Gentzis presents the Dal Swaine Award to Sue Rimmer and Jim Hower at the 2019 TSOP Annual Meeting Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Rudi Schwab.



Congratulations

DANIELLE KONDLA

BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS



Danielle Kondla Best Student Presentation Award, formerly known as the Best Student Presentation Award, recognizes best student oral and poster presentation during TSOP annual meeting. Two awards, \$300 for the oral presentation and \$200 for the poster presentation, are given during TSOP conference dinner. With the permission of the Kondla family, the award was named after Danielle Kondla (1982-2017) in honor of her achievements and contributions to TSOP.

2019 BLOOMINGTON TSOP MEETING ORAL PRESENTATION

Heather Lawson

Indiana University, USA

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, USA

Influence of coal properties and depositional environment on dynamic failure potential in American coal seams

Right: Incoming TSOP President Paul Hackley presents the Danielle Kondla Best Student Presentation Award to Heather Lawson at the 2019 TSOP Annual Meeting Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Rudi Schwab.



2019 BLOOMINGTON TSOP MEETING POSTER PRESENTATION

Dakota R. Lindsey

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, USA

Modified open-system hydrous pyrolysis

Congratulations

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes the contributions of members who have provided distinguished service to TSOP as a Society, typically in committee or elected Council positions, over multiple years. The 2019 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Agnieszka Drobnia, co-organizer of the 2019 TSOP Annual Meeting.

Right: Outgoing TSOP President Thomas Gentzis presents the Distinguished Service Award to Agnieszka Drobnia at the 2019 TSOP Annual Meeting Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Rudi Schwab.



Congratulations

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

TSOP may provide student travel awards to fund travel of students making a presentation at the annual meeting. Every year, up to four awards of \$750 each is given.

2019 Student Travel Award Recipients:

MARCELINA KONDAS

University of Silesia in Katowice, POLAND

NOOR WALI KHAN

Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan, PAKISTAN

WANG YAFENG

University of North Dakota, USA

EDWIN AYUK NDIP

Pan African University - University of Ibadan, NIGERIA

(Unfortunately, Mr. Ndip was not able to attend the meeting due to difficulty receiving a visa)



Above: Outgoing TSOP President Thomas Gentzis presents the Student Travel Awards to (from left) Noor Wali Khan, Wang Yafeng and Marcelina Kondas at the 2019 TSOP Annual Meeting Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Rudi Schwab.

Congratulations

FURTHEST TRAVELLED AWARD

At every TSOP Annual Meeting, a small informal award is presented to the attendee who travelled the furthest distance to attend the meeting. This year, that honor went to Prof. Joan Esterle from Brisbane, Australia.

Right: Outgoing TSOP President Thomas Gentzis presenting the Furthest Travelled Award to Prof. Joan Esterle at the 2019 TSOP Annual Meeting Luncheon. Photo courtesy of Rudi Schwab.



Application of optical microscopy in the analysis of contaminants in wood pellets

INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION

The history of wood pellet production began with the oil crisis of the 1970s when they were manufactured to replace oil for heating purposes. Since the 1990s, there has been rejuvenation in the usage of wood pellets as they have become an alternative to natural gas, oil, or coal, especially in European Union countries. For example, in Italy, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, France and Poland wood pellets are used in boilers for heating of water in houses. The pellets are commonly produced from sawdust, preferably of deciduous trees, but in order to maintain low emissions upon combustion, they must be free of contaminants.

Organic petrology techniques can be used to identify and quantify contaminants in wood pellets. Our previous studies documented a range of contaminants including plastics, coal, rust, bark grains and metal, demonstrating that optical microscopy could be an effective tool to assess the purity of wood pellets. However, because optical microscopy has been used only recently to evaluate the purity of wood pellets, and considering a variety of potential contaminants present, efforts are needed to make such analyses reproducible and standardized.

We would like to invite interested parties to participate in a round-robin analysis of wood pellets and their contaminants. The pellet samples are available and will be sent to participating researchers. If you are interested in participation in this exercise, **please contact Iwona Jelonek** at the Silesian University in Poland (iwona.jelonek@us.edu.pl).



Fig. 1A. Wood pellets free of impurities



Fig. 1B. Sample of wood pellets free of impurities, macroscopic image.



Fig. 1C. Fragment of biomass in the examined wood pellet samples, microscopic image, reflected light.



Fig. 2A. Wood pellets with a high content of impurities



Fig. 2B. Sample impurities in the wood pellets, macroscopic image.

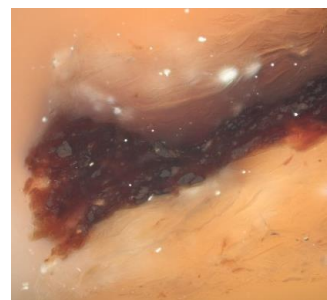


Fig. 2C. Bark grains in the examined wood pellet samples, microscopic image, reflected light

CALENDAR OF EVENTS




2019



Please send in meeting, short course and special event announcements to the Editor

<http://www.tsop.org/events.html>

	<p>December 9-13, 2019 2019 AGU Fall Meeting - San Francisco, CA, USA</p>
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2020

	<p>March 2 - 8, 2020 36th International Geological Congress - Delhi, India</p>
	<p>June 7 - 10, 2020 AAPG Annual Conference & Exhibition - Houston, TX, USA</p>
	<p>July 21 - 26, 2020 Goldschmidt Conference - Honolulu, HI, USA</p>
	<p>September 14 - 18, 2020 37th Annual TSOP Meeting - Xuzhou, China</p>
	<p>October 25 - 28, 2020 GSA Annual Meeting - Montréal, Québec, Canada</p>

TSOP 2019 Annual Meeting Photos

View the full album of photos online at the [TSOP Photo Gallery!](#)



Above: Meeting attendees take part in the pre-conference field trip to Indiana limestone quarries. Photo courtesy of Agnieszka Drobniak.



Left: Meeting attendees enjoy the ice breaker on Sunday evening. Photo courtesy of Cortland Eble.

Right: Joan Esterle and Cortland Eble make a fashion statement at the TSOP meeting venue. Photo courtesy of Joan Esterle.





Above: Multi-tasking co-organizer Maria Mastalerz greets meeting attendees at the conference dinner and provides the evening entertainment with her dancing skills. Photo courtesy of Cortland Eble.



Above: Incoming TSOP President Paul Hackley thanks the meeting organizing committee at the business luncheon. Photo courtesy of Rudi Schwab.



Above: Post-conference field trip to view Pennsylvanian strata in roadcuts south of Bloomington. Photo courtesy of Agnieszka Drobnik.

