

Rolling Rocks

Colloquium Today

Today's colloquium will be run by Dr. Andrew Czaja in the saw room. It will start a little early at 3 pm.

Chris in Spotlight

Mar. 2018 Spotlight: Christopher Atchison

The February 2018 [GER Spotlight](#) is Dr. Christopher Atchison, Associate Professor of Geoscience Education in the School of Education and Department of Geology at the University of Cincinnati and Executive Director of the International Association for Geoscience Diversity. In this GER Spotlight, Atchison focuses on the importance of inclusive design and the need to think beyond the traditional, and often exclusive, approaches to teaching and learning in the geosciences. Check out the full [March 2018 Spotlight here!](#)



Check it out at: <https://nagt.org/nagt/divisions/geoed/spotlight/christophera>

Rachel the Explorer

Congratulations to Rachel Bosch who has just been approved as a Team Member of The Explorers Club.

Jeff in Elements

Jeff Hannon was featured in this month's issue of Elements. Please see the feature below.



The Clay Minerals Society

www.clays.org

SOCIETY NEWS



Jeff Hannon's doctoral research focuses on **analyzing the isotopic signatures of Cretaceous bentonites**, a claystone predominantly consisting of smectite that originates from diagenetically altered volcanic ash. The Sr composition of plutonic rocks is determined by the amount of radiogenic ^{87}Sr inherited through magmatic fractionation. The bentonite clay retains the bulk elemental composition of the plutonic source, but it is not clear if the original Sr signature is also retained. Hannon's research will determine the viability of using bentonites to track changes in Sr composition through time using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). This study is currently underway on bentonite samples from the Western Interior Seaway, a source of dozens of bentonites originating from Cretaceous magmatism associated with widespread convergence and terrane accretion along the Pacific margin of North America. Additionally, he will use the ICP-MS data in conjunction with mineralogical data from X-ray diffraction to correlate regional Cretaceous stratigraphy along the Western Interior Seaway.

Please keep sending me your news.

Cheers,

Lewis