The Society for Organic Petrology
NEWSLETTER
September 2024 | Volume 41 / 3 | ISSN 0743-3816

The 41st Annual TSOP Meeting, September 7-14 2025, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

MOUNT MERAPI
From https://trektropics.com/en/mount-merapi-trekking-guide/

TOP NEWS

TSOP PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear TSOP Members,

Dr. Lei Zhao
TSOP President

I hope this message finds you well as we welcome the autumn season! I'm excited to share some important updates and celebrate our achievements together.

We have just concluded our annual meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, marking a historic milestone as it was the first time that TSOP held an annual meeting in this beautiful and mineral resource-rich country. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to making this meeting a great success. Two fantastic short courses were presented: one by Marc Bustin, Amanda Bustin, John Hattner, and Jim Davidson, which covered Shale Gas and Oil, and the other one by Shifeng Dai focused on Critical Minerals in Coal. Although I was not able to attend, the photos suggest the post-conference field trip was a unique and memorable experience for all participants!

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Cortland Eble, the recipient of 2024 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, for his outstanding achievements in organic petrology and his long-standing contributions to the society. And my congratulations to Dr. Sami Nabhan, and his co-authors, the recipient of the 2024 TSOP Ralph Gray Award, for their paper titled 'Estimating the Upper Limit of Proterozoic Petrographic Organic Carbon Recycling,' published in Precambrian Research. Additionally, congratulations to Dr. Peixin Zhang, and his co-authors, the 2024 TSOP Dal Swaine Award winner, for their paper 'End-Permian Terrestrial Ecosystem Collapse in North China: Evidence from Palynology and Geochemistry,' published in Global and Planetary Change. These awards were presented during the business luncheon and awards ceremony in Mongolia, and we are proud to celebrate their achievements once again.

I am pleased to welcome our newly elected council members. Our new secretary Alexander Wheeler and Councilor Ferian Anggara. Their diverse expertise and fresh perspectives will undoubtedly enhance our organization's initiatives. I want to thank the departing Secretary Brett Valentine and Councilor Carolina Fonseca for their dedicated service to TSOP over the last years. During the business luncheon and awards ceremony, Brett Valentine was honored with the Distinguished Service Award for his distinguished service to TSOP as a society, serving in various roles including Secretary, Councilor, and several committee chair positions.

TSOP PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Jim Hower, our outgoing Research Committee Chair, not only for his dedicated efforts in developing and supporting research projects that have received TSOP funding, but also for his long-term, invaluable support and contributions of TSOP in all aspects. We are confident that our new Research Committee Chair, Biao Fu, will carry on this important work.

Our Student Affair Committee has done an outstanding job over the past year. Many thanks to the retiring chair, Tushar Adsul, for his assistance to the council during his term. We trust he will continue to contribute to the society, and the new chair, Itumeleng Matlala, will maintain this excellent work.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting another TSOP-EAOG virtual seminar on October 24th, 2024. The upcoming TEAMS-based seminar will feature speaker Nicolaj Mahlstedt from GeoS4, Germany, presenting on "Molecular hydrogen from sedimentary OM at high maturities". We are also delighted to announce that Joe Curiale will join us again as guest moderator for this session. We have sent email notifications to our members and shared the seminar information on TSOP social media platforms. So far, we have received many positive responses to the seminar invitations. Please spread the word to anyone who may be interested!

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the organic petrology community!

Warm regards,
Lei Zhao
TSOP President 2023-2025

Decoding the shift: Organics and Critical Minerals in Future Energy

Written by Tim A Moore
On behalf of the Organizing Committee
of the 40th Annual TSOP Conference

We had a very successful meeting of The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) – we had nearly 100 participants with 71 talks, 21 posters and 50 oral presentations over the two days of technical talks. Also, there were 12 students who presented, and they did a fantastic job!

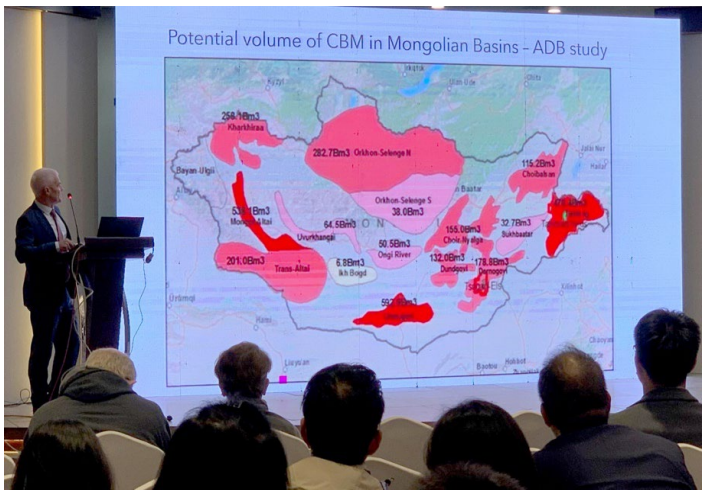
Group photo of the participants of the 40th Annual Conference of The Society for Organic Petrology, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Summary of 40th Annual TSOP meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

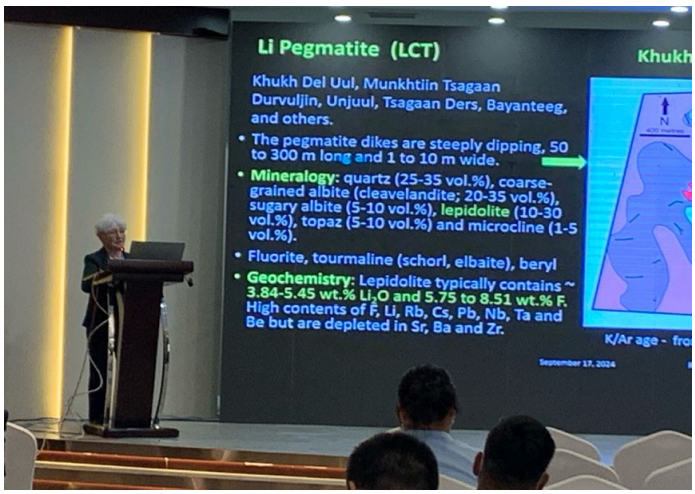
Before the main technical talks started, we had two workshops; the first on oil and gas shale presented by Prof Marc Bustin, Amanda Bustin (both from the University of British Colombia, Canada), John Hattner, and Jim Davidson (both from NSAI, Dallas, USA). The second workshop was on Critical Minerals in Coal by Prof Shifeng Dai (China University of Mining and Technology Beijing).

There was also a pre-conference cultural field trip where 33 of our members and some of their spouses went into the countryside, rode horses, were introduced to eagle hunting, visited the giant Chinggis Khan statue, and ate like a Mongolian!

As part of the technical sessions, we had a special symposium on the morning of the second day that addressed the 'Geological Issues of Mongolia and Adjacent Region' where we learned, among other things, about critical metal distribution and the vegetational composition of the Lower Cretaceous.



Keynote Speaker Trevor Brown talks about the coal seam gas potential for Mongolia.



Keynote Speaker Dr Gerel Ochir talked about the critical metals found in Mongolia

After the conference 18 participants embarked on a 5-day field trip through the geo-vastness of Central Mongolia. We visited the Tavan Tolgoi coking coal deposit, Flaming Cliffs (where Jon O'Neill of ALS Brisbane, found a dinosaur egg!), The Bada Bogd Mountain area (where we spent a cold, -5ºC night in tents), the Bayanteeg coal mine, and finally a stop at a Lower Cretaceous oil shale deposit (see the summary by Joan Esterle in this Newsletter).

Both the Proceedings and the field trip guide will be available to members on the TSOP site soon (https://tsop.org/).

As is customary, there was a conference dinner; for this year it was appropriately held in the restaurant 'Modern Nomads', a short walk from the conference venue.

As in the past, all presenters will be invited to submit a paper for review for a special Issue of the **International Journal of Coal Geology**.

Finally, the Organising Committee would like to thank our wonderful sponsors: Mongolian Mining Corporation; Terra Explorers Oil and Gas, Mongolia; Takhi Resources, Mongolia; TMK Energy, Mongolia; Netherland Sewell & Associates, Inc.; ALS Global; U.S. Geological Survey, Cipher Consulting Pty Ltd, Titan Energy Resources LLC and Petromatad.

TSOP STUDENT EVENT SUMMARY

During the 40th meeting of TSOP in Ulaanbaatar, the student event was hosted at CAYENNE RESTO/LOUNGE after day 1 of the meeting (Photo 1). They immersed themselves in Mongolian cuisines such as boodog and refreshments (Photos 2 and 3). The event was sponsored by Mr Ridvan Karpuz from Terra Explorera Oil&Gas (Mongolia). The event catered to 23 students from the local University (University of Mongolia) and international universities. For entertainment, students went to Karaoke and performed songs in various languages, including Mongolian, Russian, Latin, Mandarin, and English (Photo 4).

Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

Photo 4

2024 THE JOHN CASTAÑO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Cortland F. Eble

University of Kentucky, USA

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, recognizing their contributions to research, service to TSOP, or education.

2024 THE JOHN C. CRELLING DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Brett Valentine

United States Geological Survey

The 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.

2024 THE RALPH GRAY AWARD - Best Refereed Paper in Coal and Organic Petrology

Estimating the upper limit of Proterozoic petrographic organic carbon recycling by S. Nabhan and D.E. Canfield, *Precambrian Research 390, 107034, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.precamres.2023.107034.*

2024 THE DAL SWAINE AWARD – Best Refereed Paper in Coal and Hydrocarbon Source Rock Geochemistry

End-Permian terrestrial ecosystem collapse in North China: Evidence from palynology and geochemistry by P. Zhang P, M. Yang, J. Lu, D.P.G. Bond, K. Zhou, X. Xu, Y. Wang, Z. He, X. Bian, L. Shao, J. Hilton*, Global and Planetary Change, 222, art. no. 104070.*

TREASURER REPORT 2023-2024

Below please find the financial report regarding TSOP's income and expenses from September 2023 to September 2024. Please direct your questions about our finances to TSOP Treasurer.

TSOP FINANCIAL ASSETS

CHASE

$US14,481.87

Statement of September 2, 2024

Vanguard INVESTMENTS®

$US80,845.27

Statement of September 2, 2024

PayPal

$US888.88

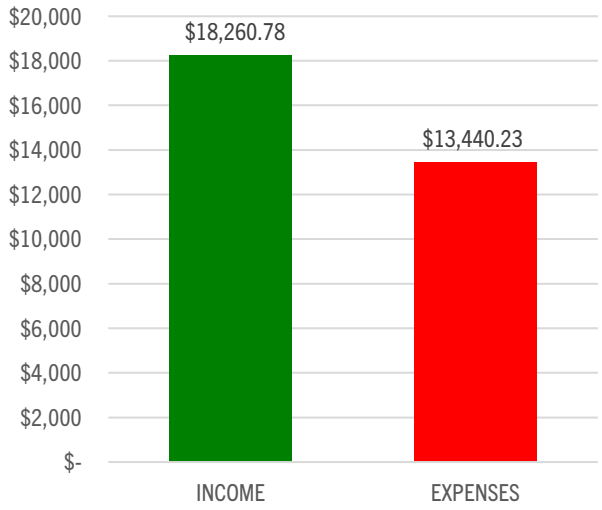
Statement of September 2, 2024

TOTAL $US96,216.02

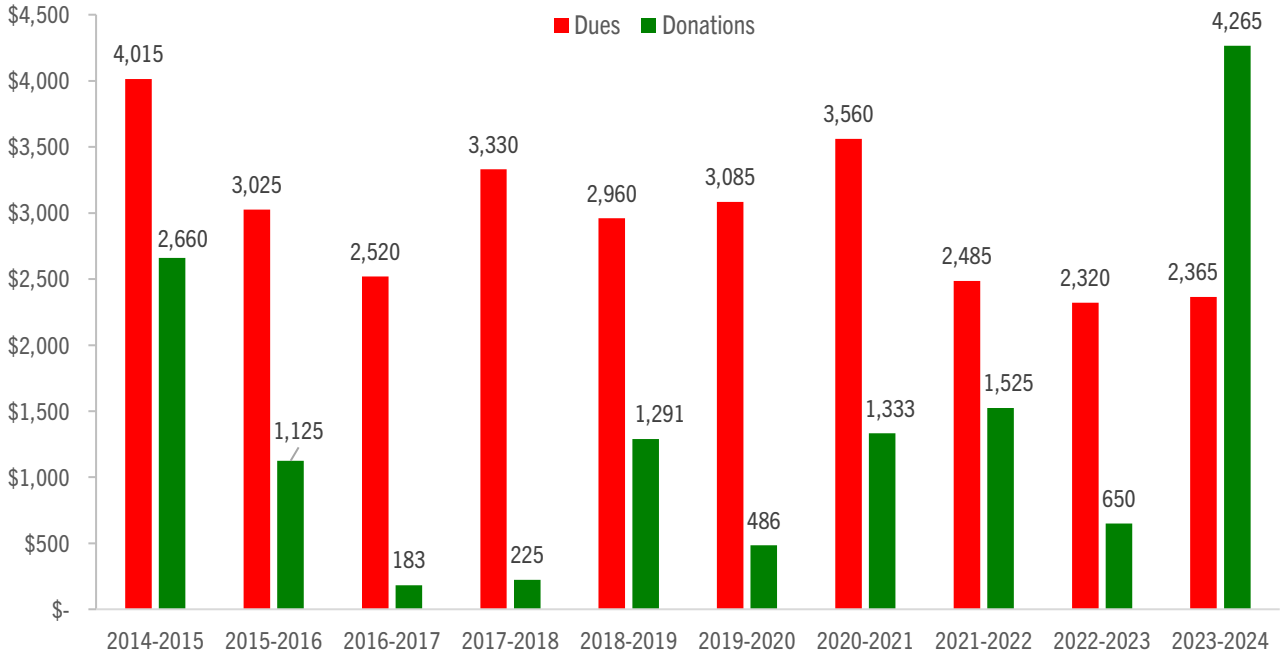
TSOP INCOME VERSUS EXPENSES

September 1, 2023 – September 2, 2024

+$US4,820.55

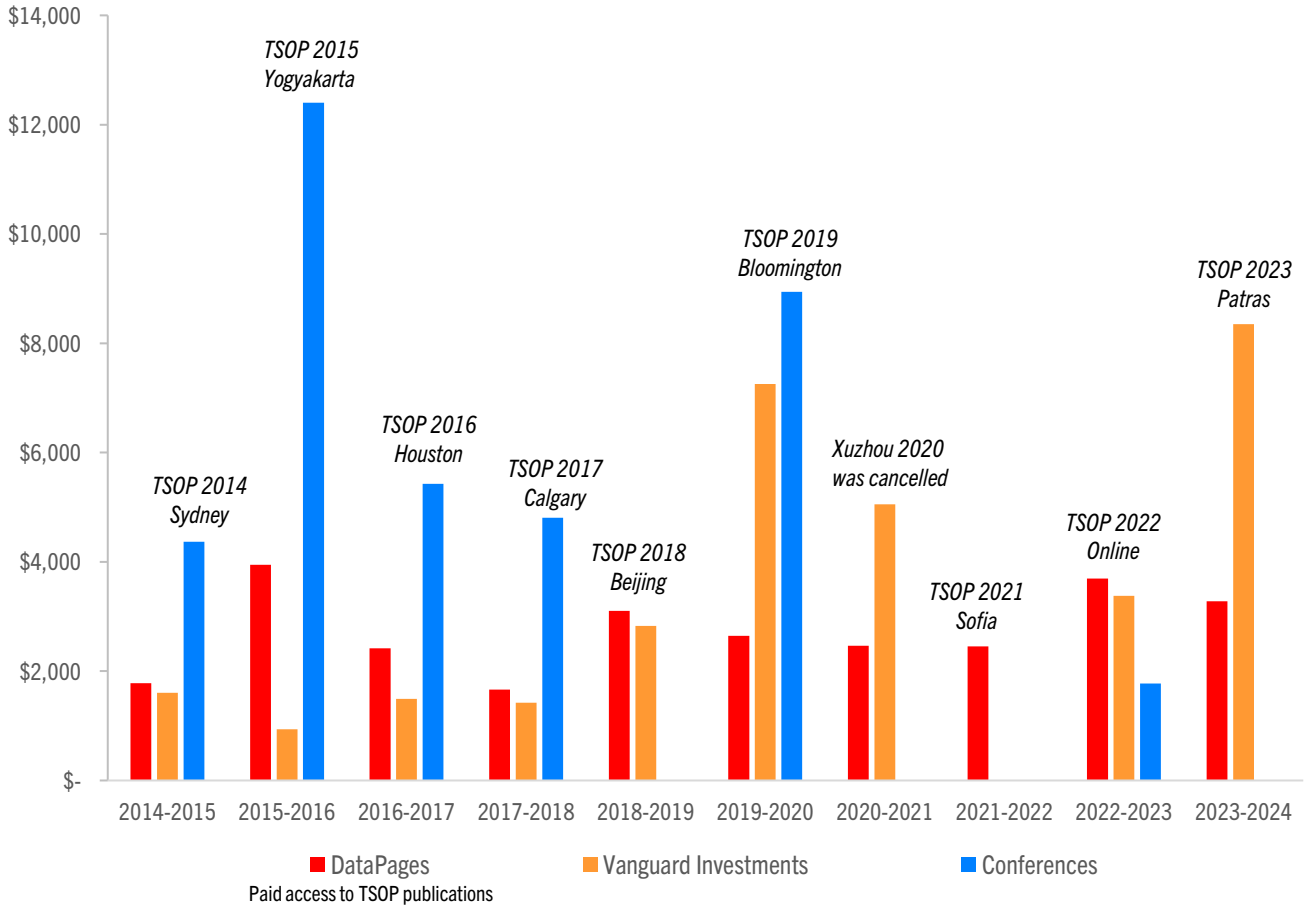


TSOP INCOME: DUES AND DONATIONS



2023-2024 donations	Amount	Donation designation
Coalfield Geology Council NSW, Australia	$2,620	Ward Award
United States Geological Survey	$1,000	TSOP meeting in Mongolia
Rudolf Schwab	$500	Spackman & Kondla Awards
Brett Valentine	$100	Travel & Kondla Award
Suzanne Russell	$25	Spackman Award
Omid H. Ardakani	$20	Kondla Award

TSOP INCOME: CONFERENCES, DATAPAGES & INVESTMENTS



STUDENT AWARDS

2024 COLIN WARD EMERGING STUDENT RESEARCHER AWARD

$US700 ARCHCHI SARKAR – *Pandit Deendayal Energy University, INDIA*

2024 SPACKMAN AWARD *(Graduate Student Research Grants)*

$US1,000 SHUAI KANG – *China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing), CHINA*

$US750 YUAN HAO – *Indiana University, UNITED STATES*

2024 STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

$US1,000 ITUMELENG MATLALA – *University of Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA*

$US1,000 KONSTANTINOS PERLEROS – *University of Patras, GREECE*

$US1,000 PRIYANKA SHUKLA – *Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, INDIA*

2024 DANIELLE KONDLA OUTSTANDING STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARD

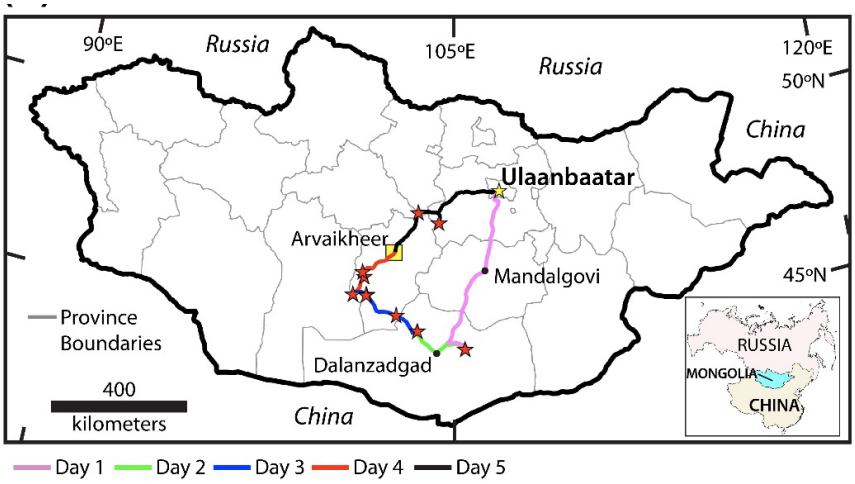
$US300 Nyamsambuu Odgerel – *National University of Mongolia, MONGOLIA*
Best oral presentation at the 2024 TSOP meeting in Ulaanbaatar

$US200 Jiamin Zhou – *China University of Mining and Technology-Beijing, CHINA*
Best poster presentation at the 2024 TSOP meeting in Ulaanbaatar

To apply for a student grant please follow the TSOP website: https://tsop.org/awards.html

TSOP Field Trip: An Excursion into the Geo-Vastness of Central Mongolia

The 2024 post - TSOP conference field trip across the vast and beautiful Mongolian terrain was a perfect blend of earth science, cultural and scenic views. Although we had a detailed field trip guidebook and excellent leaders – explorer Ridvan Karpuz, Professor Erdenetsogt Bat-Orshikh, and Dr Tim Moore to guide us through geomorphological changes in the landscape, attention to the view from the window was the real teacher.



The field trip circuit across Mongolia. Map courtesy of TA Moore.

Day 1

Eight 4wd vehicles manned by expert drivers took off from Ulaanbaatar on Wednesday morning. After navigating heavy traffic in the city, the convoy drove southward some 600 km across the steppes toward the first official stop at the Talvan Tolgoi coal mine. At comfort stops along the way, the fragrance of wild thyme and other herbs was in the breeze, and people searched for these and little lizards on the ablated pebbly sandy soil. Some suggest free range meats come pre-seasoned.

Core viewing at Talvan Tolgoi Coal Mine as Day 1 ends. Photo courtesy J. Hatcherian.

Large mixed herds of goats and sheep roamed and grazed the slopes, as did horses and more frequently camels as we reached the desert steppes. The occasional ger dotted the landscape. Outcrops varied from nil to rounded boulders and hills of felsic granite intruding variable country rock of contorted, dark metamorphic sequences or the upturned, faulted margins of sedimentary basins. Not to be daunted by the dimming light on arrival at our official mine stop (we took a little too long eating a great lunch) we met Dr Batold Dembersulen and colleagues for a view of one of the open cut pits. Talvan Tolgoi is a modern open - cut that extracts 15 million tonnes per annum of quality Permian-age coking coal. Getting our nerd on, we viewed the carefully laid out exploration core by torchlight (mostly Iphones) before a guided tour of the onsite laboratories for coal quality testing and coal petrology. Ganzorig Ranjin explained the polishing sequence that produced the excellent coal pellet surfaces captured in photomicrographs by the Hilgers system and used in the newly printed Atlas of Mongolian Coals (Demberelsuren et al., 2024). Although we could have stayed through the night shift to enjoy conducting our own petrographic analyses we spent a comfortable evening and dinner at the company guesthouse.

Day 2

We went west along anastomosing dirt roads through the desert steppes towards the Bayanzag Flaming Cliffs first stopping at the dinosaur museum in the town of Dalanzadgad. Our knowledgeable museum guide was a budding vertebrate palaeontologist who knew his dinosaurs as well as traditional games with ankle bones. We arrived in the afternoon to our ger accommodation on the plateau leading to the Flaming Cliffs. We had driven through some wet weather (yes, it rains in the desert) and this made the boardwalks through the outcrops a bit slippery. As a result, we welcomed the sunset over the cliffs with some bubbly and proceeded to the warmth of the Information Centre where we were entertained by some vintage film of Roy Chapman Anderson's expedition in 1924 that was meant to find evidence of early man but found a much richer array of dinosaur eggs and other fossils that, along with local flora and fauna were collected for the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Luckily, they didn't find them all. Movie night was followed by a local music and dance troupe. The crisp and rich sounds from only two instruments- a traditional horse headed fiddle and a hammered dulcimer, were accompanied by traditional throat singing and interpretive dance. The singers, a man and a woman, managed to smile through the songs like ventriloquists while piercing the room with song. I'm sure that these melodies mixed with a full moon rising over the rows of gers and a full day of ever-changing scenery created some interesting dreams. Each ger was equipped with 4 twin beds, comfortable and fragrant wood-chip filled pillows and warm doonas. Next time we will abandon western norms of 2 to a room and just huddle in.

View of the Flaming Cliffs. Photo courtesy of J. Esterle

Musicians playing the traditional hammered dulcimer and horse headed fiddle at the Flaming Cliffs Information Centre cultural evening. Photograph courtesy of T.A. Moore.

Day 3

The morning of the day was nicely overcast but dry, and amenable to wandering the boardwalks but then dropping off to fossick in the gullies. The contact between the Cretaceous aoelian strata and the Quaternary to modern in these rust red sediments was sometimes confusing but we were guided through the geological history of the Flaming Cliffs by the sedimentary geologist Batshkh Jargalsaikhan from the Mongolian Academy of Science, Institute of Paleontology. One of our participants, Jon O'Neill (of ALS, Brisbane, Australia) even found a dinosaur egg!!! We dutifully noted its coordinates and alerted the rangers. No Indiana Jones among us. Herding us off the outcrops and back to the vehicles, via some tourist pop up shops, was a daily task for the fearless field trip leaders. We had a bit of ground to cover, driving along the edge of the South Gobi for a few hundred kilometres to reach our camping site where large barchan sand dunes travel due west in the strong winds between the Govi-Altai Mountain ranges, at the edge of the desert steppes. Along the way we picked up our "kitchen van", a Russian 4WD bus that was fully equipped and came with a family of chefs. We passed through amazing fields of blooming wildflowers from the previous rain- deep fuchsia to pale pinks, dotted with yellow and green. Tiny little blossoms on the soon to be tumbleweeds. Along the way, we investigated a mega-landslide, which is measured to have been 50 km3 of material that slumped down sometime in the last few hundred thousand years. Upon arrival at the campsite, the camping gear was dispensed from the vehicles and tents raised before the participants got to wander the dunes and watch the sunset. Meanwhile, a few fire pits were set up for cooking a feast of barbequed meats accompanied by salads and homemade khuushuur (like a fried empanada)- dough and all. Quite an operation of rolling, stuffing, pinching and frying, along with chopping and dicing all the side dishes. A long table was set up under the night sky to watch the moon rise over the desert. Libations of local vodkas, beer, wine and whisky loosened boisterous conversations that continued around the campfire. The desert night dropped to -5C, and my feet were a bit cold. I did have spare socks but I couldn't seem to find them. Luckily Magda spooned me.

The desert in bloom. Photography courtesy of J. Esterle

The magnificent contrast between the desert steppes, the desert sand dunes and the mountains that was our campsite. Photograph courtesy of T.A. Moore.

Day 4

We were all up early to watch the sun rise over the desert while the moon was still high, and Ridvan Karpuz (one of the field trip leaders) supplied us with strong coffee while the kitchen van was at it again producing khuushuur, local style pancake, eggs, sausages and more. The indelicate might ask about morning ablutions- we had a curtained ditch and a shovel. After breaking camp, we headed north and up-section into the Jurassic. We stopped at some outcrops of vertical limestones for a lecture on the geology while the kitchen van worked its magic for lunch in the sun, having driven a bit of a winding road through some fairly deformed metamorphic rocks intruded by those granites to get to this stop. The deformation age is unclear, but a lot of it is a result of the Indian continent smashing into south Asia. Mongolian tectonics are akin to an accordion- creating basins, filling them with sediments and then crumpling them, over and over again. Late in the afternoon, we arrived at a Jurassic coal mine, and after a bit of negotiating, we got to look into the pit to observed an extremely thick, sub bituminous coal that was mined essentially down the axis of a very tight fold. That evening we were accommodated in a large modern city by the name of Arvaikheer and enjoyed celebrating with our friends and colleagues and telling stories about the trip thus far.

A group photo from the camel ride.

Day 5

The day was for the dispersed organic fans. First, however, the brave of is rode camels of the Bactrian variety (that is, two humps). It was a short interlude but a fun one nevertheless and though we only ventured a short way into the dunes, our bums were happy to return to the ground! The last stop was off the beaten track as again as we drove on dirt roads eastward to a small basin of Lower Cretaceous oil shale. The section was at least 30 m thick with reported TOC contents as much as 12-15 wt. % on a dry basis.

Just to prove that we did look at rocks, one of the outcrops of the oil shale alternating with limestone marls. Photograph courtesy of J. Esterle.

Finally, we arrived along with the weekend traffic back to Ulaanbaatar, safe and sound in the good hands of our field trip leaders Ridvan Karpuz (Terra Explorers Oil & Gas Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar) and Prof Erdenetsogt Bat-Orshikh (Mongolian National University, Ulaanbaatar) and, of course, our drivers, all of whom we can't thank enough for such a unique experience.

As usual, the field trip guide (Moore et al., 2024) will soon be available to all TSOP members (along with the meeting proceedings) on the TSOP website. Check it out!

- Demberelsuren, B., Jargal, L., Batgerel, B., Ganzorig, R., 2024. Atlas of carbon-forming macerals distributed in Mongolia. Mongolian Mining Corporation, National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Moore, T.A., Karpuz, R., Erdenetsogt, B.-O., 2024. A field excursion into the geo-vastness of Central Mongolia. The Society for Organic Petrology, Reston, Virginia, 70 pp., ISBN #: 978-0-646-70130-1.

Obituary For Paul C. Lyons

Paul C. Lyons

1938 – 2023

Paul Lyons, courtesy of the Lyons family, undated.

Paul Christopher Lyons died on September 24, 2023 at the age of 84. He was born in 1938 in Cambridge, Massachusetts to parents of Irish heritage. After graduating from Cambridge High and Latin School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on the USS Bennington, an Essex-class aircraft carrier. After military service, he enrolled in Boston University, where his mentor was Prof. C. Wroe Wolfe, who founded the Boston University Geology Department in 1943. At Boston University, Lyons received a A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. in 1969. His Ph.D. dissertation was the study of the bedrock geology of the Mansfield Quadrangle, southeastern Massachusetts. The Mansfield Quadrangle has very complex and varied geology ranging from Precambrian calc-alkaline mafic to felsic intrusives, Middle Paleozoic alkaline plutonic rocks, and Pennsylvanian sedimentary rocks. The Pennsylvanian rocks were the northwestern part of the Narragansett Basin and there were several small coal mines and occurrences around Mansfield. After his Ph.D., Paul stayed at Boston University to teach and began publishing the results of his dissertation. He published on two themes, first the petrology and mineralogy of the igneous rocks, and second, on the details of the paleobotany and stratigraphy of the Pennsylvanian Narragansett and nearby Norfolk Basin rocks. One early publication, in particular, presaged his commitment to correct classification and naming. In a 1976 paper in Geology, he critiqued a proposed reclassification of granitic rocks by the IUGS. Although the main part of his dissertation concerned igneous petrology and mineralogy, during mapping he discovered a significant new locality of Pennsylvanian plant fossils and that became his lifelong interest.

Left photo: Undated, courtesy of Lyons family. Right photo: Lyons, 1991 Porto Allegre ICCP meeting, courtesy Alan Davis.

In 1977, Paul joined the Branch of Coal Resources, U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia. There he conducted a very wide range of coal-related research on topics such as paleobotany, Appalachian Basin tonsteins, vitrinite chemistry, and with Carolyn L. Thompson (now Thompson-Rizer) and others he began his assault on the validity of sclerotinite, the favorite maceral for some coal petrographers.

Lyons, left, with Hugh O'Donnell, 2000. O'Donnell is holding a polished block of Elkhorn coal that he prepared in 1929 at the U.S. Bureau of Mines when working for Reinhardt Thiessen. Photo by Dorothy O'Donnell.

Lyons joined ICCP and TSOP and was an active member in both organizations. In ICCP, he participated as a member of Commissions I, II, and III and made significant contributions to all as recognized by his status as an honorary member. For example, during the Porto 1998 Commission II meeting, a working group was created, Coal Bed Methane-CO2 Sequestration, based on a proposal by Lyons with the aim of identifying possible contributions of organic petrology to coalbed methane studies. And in Commission I, Paul pushed for the reassessment of the inertinite maceral, sclerotinite. He contributed two entries for the ICCP Handbook of Coal Petrology; they were for the inertinite macerals funginite and secretinite, which were accepted for inclusion in 1999. He played a major role in the recognition that the former maceral sclerotinite contained not just materials of fungal origin but also oxidized resinous material. In TSOP, Paul gave many oral presentations and wrote a column for the TSOP Newsletter reporting on the latest ICCP meeting and what was significant for the TSOP members.

Left photo: Lyons, right, with Marlies Teichmüller, middle, and Angelika Vieth, 1988 Aachen ICCP meeting, courtesy Angeles Borrego. Right photo: Lyons, middle, with Duncan Murchison, left, and Kuili Jin, right, 1992 PSU Joint TSOP-ICCP meeting, courtesy Alan Davis.

Obituary For Paul C. Lyons

Paul retired from the USGS in 1999 and moved up to southeastern Massachusetts, near his Ph.D. field area. He continued actively conducting research and publishing. In 2000, Paul authored a paper defining funginite and secretinite as two new macerals of the inertinite maceral group, as sclerotinite was abandoned as a maceral. Paul's last publication was in 2018 about the fossil flora and age of the Wamsutta red beds, Narragansett Basin, and its correlation with the Cumberland Group in the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Left photo: Lyons with Marlies Teichmüller, 1992 PSU Joint TSOP-ICCP meeting. Right photo: Lyons with Marlies Teichmüller, 1996 Heerlen ICCP meeting. Photos courtesy Alan Davis.

Paul is survived by his former wife, four daughters and one son, and many grandchildren.

Obituary written by Harvey E. Belkin, Reston, VA, with contributions from Alan Davis, Angeles Borrego, Peter Crosdale, and Paul Hackley.

Paul Lyons, undated, courtesy Peter Crosdale.

TSOP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Are you a student who needs a mentor? Are you a senior scientist who wants to help guide and strengthen the next generation of organic petrologists?

If so, we are excited to invite you to join The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) Mentorship Program!

Whether you're a student, early-career researcher, or an organic petrologist in training, our program offers you the opportunity to engage in personalized one-on-one mentorship sessions with leading experts, educators, and scientists in the field of Organic Petrology.

Our esteemed mentors include renowned figures such as Prof. Brian Cardott (University of Oklahoma), Prof. Hamed Sanei (Aarhus University), Prof. Henrik Petersen (Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland), Prof. Longyi Shao (China University of Mining & Technology), Prof. Shifeng Dai (China University of Mining & Technology), and Dr. Thomas Gentzis (Core Laboratories).

Participating in this program will give you invaluable insights, help clarify your career goals, and provide access to an exclusive network of professionals. It's a unique opportunity to refine your focus, develop your skills, and reach your full potential in the field.

If you're interested, please contact TSOP Councilor Sherry (Xiaowei) Zheng at zhengxiaowei1103@outlook.com, or visit our website at www.tsop.org.

On the demise of the journal Coal Combustion & Gasification Products

The concept of an international, peer-reviewed, online-only journal to showcase innovation, research, and best practices on coal combustion and gasification products was hatched at the 2007 World of Coal Ash (WOCA) meeting. The journal was planned as a joint venture between the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) and the American Coal Ash Association (ACAA). The partnership between those organizations was logical because WOCA was the result of the merger of the individual biennial coal combustion byproducts meetings organized by CAER and ACAA. Jim Hower and Alice Marksberry, both at the CAER, were tasked with determining the format, cost structure, publisher, etc., of the journal. Their advisory committee approved their concepts and agreed on Coal Combustion & Gasification Products as the name of the journal. From the beginning, the journal adopted an unusual open-access model, with neither the authors nor readers paying for the articles. There was never even the pretense of instituting, then waiving, a publication fee, as is done by some journals. Instead, the publication costs were funded from the proceeds of the WOCA meeting.

The first issue appeared in 2009 with Allen Press as the publisher. Allen Press handled the layout of the accepted papers, ensuring that they had the appearance of a printed publication. In 2020, Scholastica, primarily known for law reviews, took over as the publisher.

After 10 years on the job and retirement on the horizon, Jim Hower stepped down as editor at the 2017 WOCA meeting and Anne Oberlink (CAER), along with a team of associate editors, took on the job of editor of the journal.

Many journals, no matter how good their intent, do not survive. With the increasing attention of authors to impact factors and quartile rankings of journals, an upstart journal that could not attract the number of papers necessary for inclusion in Web of Science or Scopus, for example, was at a disadvantage. As of 2024, Coal Combustion & Gasification Products ceased publication. Unlike older publications that met a similar fate (the Journal of Coal Quality, for example), Coal Combustion & Gasification Products has an online archive of all the papers published in their short history. The University of Kentucky Library's UKnowledge is keeping the journal's contributions alive at https://uknowledge.uky.edu/ccgpj/.

Jim Hower
University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research

ABOUT TSOP

The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) is a non-profit organization for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry, and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting, provides funding for students' research, and travels and sponsors research projects. TSOP is an AAPG-affiliated society. Please find us on Facebook, join the LinkedIn group, and visit our website to learn about our history, bylaws, goals, events, and membership.

TSOP incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of Virginia, USA, in 2008. Following application in June, 2009, the US Internal Revenue Service granted recognition of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status on February 9, 2010. Classified as a public charity, TSOP is exempt from U.S. Federal income tax, and U.S. contributions to TSOP are tax deductible (section 170 of the Code). TSOP is also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts (sections 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Code).

TSOP NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

TSOP publishes a quarterly newsletter that is available free of charge. Articles, reports on meetings, photos, events, or job postings are welcome. Items for the newsletter may be submitted to the TSOP Editor **Biao Fu.**

TSOP Newsletter Submission Deadlines:
December Issue: December 5th,
March Issue: March 5th
June Issue: June 5th
September Issue: September 5th

TSOP MEMBERSHIP DUES

TSOP dues payments are due on **December 31st each year.** Please use the quick links below to check your membership status and make your payment. Please direct your questions to TSOP Treasurer **Agnieszka Drobniak.**

Professionals:
•$25 per year or
•$100 for 5 years (5 years for the price of 4!)

Students: $15 per year
Institutional/Corporate: $75 per year

QUICK LINKS

Contact TSOP council	Join TSOP	Pay your dues
Make a donation	Check membership status	TSOP meetings abstracts
Upcoming events	TSOP YouTube channel	Petrology labs