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2012 BSRG Annual General Meeting, University College Dublin, December 18th-20th

In December 2012, the Clay Mineral Group of the Mineralogical Society of GB & Ireland hosted a technical session entitled ‘The Glory of Mud’ within the Annual General Meeting’s (AGM) programme of the British Sedimentological Research Group (BSRG), held at University College Dublin. This annual conference is an excellent meeting for academic research in the wide field of sedimentology and offers early career researchers to present their work, but also attracts representatives from the oil & gas industry. The financial support provided by the Clay Mineral Group enabled me to present results of my research in this session to a highly diversified audience.

A pre-conference field trip led me and a group of conference attendees to the Irish coast north of Dublin. Owing to a rare day of beautiful sunshine at the seaside, we investigated Lower Carboniferous shallow marine platform sediments and their basinal equivalents on both sides of a probably fault-controlled basin margin. One of the highlights of the trip was an exposure of reef limestone blocks and boulders draped by conglomeratic mudstones and limestones that presumably represent deposits close to the basin margin slope.

This was followed by a two-day programme of lectures, talks and posters covering many physical and chemical aspects of ancient and modern sediments. Despite the large variety of themes presented and often missing overlaps to other projects, most presentations stimulated lively scientific discussions. This created a fruitful environment in which PhD students and professionals were able to interact, network and share ideas and concepts. My own talk was well attended and the resulting feedback reassured me in the choice of my methods and conclusions drawn from the data. Conversations with other academic researchers and professionals from the industry helped me to further consider future postdoctoral career options. The conference also drew its relaxed and interactive atmosphere from the icebreaker drinks reception and the conference dinner at the Old Jameson Distillery.

I am sincerely grateful to the Clay Mineral Group for awarding me a travel bursary to attend this enjoyable conference.

