

Dr. Rolfe D. Mandel (Chair)
Kansas Geological Survey
1930 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66047-3726

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Dr. Mike Morley
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**RE: Rip Rapp Archaeological Geology Award.
Nomination of Dr Panagiotis (Takis) Karkanas**

Dear Rolfe,

I am writing to you to nominate Dr Panagiotis (Takis) Karkanas for the Rip Rapp Archaeological Geology Award of the Geological Society of America for 2016.

I first met Takis when he was the external examiner for my PhD, in Manchester, UK, back in 2008. Throughout the course of my geoarchaeology-focussed PhD research, I noticed that I was becoming more and more reliant on Takis' research to help me solve the geoarchaeological conundrums that I was confronted with. As a 'non-chemist' it was initially very daunting to realise that the key to interpreting my sequences was to comprehend the changing chemistry of the sedimentary sequences in question. However, Takis' prodigious contribution to the topic of diagenesis of archaeological sediments helped me greatly in gradually understanding the depositional and post-depositional histories that were written on the thin sections in front of me. By the time it came for me to choose my external examiner, just a cursory glance through my thesis reference list showed that Takis was really the obvious (and only) geoarchaeologist to fully appraise my PhD research.

I was naturally very nervous about the PhD defence, but I am happy to say that the entire 3 hours was thoroughly enjoyable thanks to Takis' relaxed demeanour, constructive criticism and eager encouragement. For a geoarchaeologist quite early in his career, this was an enormous boost for me and made me realise that I was doing (some) things right, and helped me crystallise some of my own ideas about the research areas I wanted to tackle post-PhD.

Close to a decade on, Takis continues to push the envelope in geoarchaeological research, probably more than any geoarchaeologist working on the global stage at

present. I always look to his work as the litmus test informing us what's happening specifically on the archaeological chemistry side of geoarchaeological research, and in geoarchaeology in general.

In short, I can think of no other geoarchaeologist who is more worthy of this award and throw the full weight of my support behind his nomination.

Best wishes,



Mike Morley.