

## Colin J. R. Braithwaite PhD



Colin was born in Worthing and attended the local grammar school. Starting with interest in biological sciences, in the sixth form he was introduced to geology by L.J. Allchin, a remarkable teacher, and learned, among other things, how to make thin sections by hand. He followed his mentor to King's College, University of London, and gained a first-class BSc honours degree in geology in 1961. Continued research at King's College, initially on sedimentary structures, was ultimately focused on the Devonian limestones of south Devon, a difficult task in low grade metamorphic rocks, but encouraged by R.G.C. Bathurst. He was awarded a PhD in 1964.

Colin was appointed assistant lecturer in the University of St. Andrews (Queen's College) in 1964, promoted to lecturer in 1966 and appointed senior lecturer in 1981. (Queen's College became the University of Dundee in 1967.) He served as an elected representative on faculty and senate and was elected to the university court, serving on various sub-committees. He was a member of the science panel of the Scottish Universities Council on Entrance from 1978 to 1984. Colin moved to Glasgow University as part of the national "reorganisation" of earth sciences in 1989. In 2004 he was awarded a Leverhulme emeritus research fellowship.

Colin's research has centred on the origins and characteristics of carbonate sediments and rocks. His first degree included ancillary zoology and botany, appropriate preparation for the study of environmental systems dominated by organic production and ecology. In 1966, he joined J.H. Taylor's research group, part of the International Indian Ocean Expedition working on carbonate sediments in reef environments in the Seychelles. This led in 1969 to his joining the Royal Society expedition to Aldabra, working on the sedimentology and stratigraphy of the Pleistocene limestones, subsequently linked to issues of sea-level and climate change. Comparative work on reefs in Florida and the Bahamas, and later the Red Sea (Sudan), led to an interest in facies geometries and the architecture of reefs and large-scale carbonate systems. In 1995, in collaboration with French colleagues, he completed petrographic studies of deep borehole cores from the Great Barrier Reef of Australia and Mururoa, French Polynesia. In 1996 he participated in a European Union research grant project, working with French, German and Italian colleagues on coral reefs in the western Indian Ocean. His interests in applied geology include work related to hydrocarbons, the minerals industries, and civil engineering.

Colin joined the Geological Society of Glasgow in 1988 and served as president from 2000 to 2003. He has been a member of the editorial board of the *Scottish Journal of Geology* since 1989 and chief editor since 2008.