When one thinks about the “really big names” in the field of Geography, Gilbert White almost instantly comes to mind. For more than seven decades, Dr. White has been contributing to geographic thought and knowledge. He has served under several presidents, working as a Geographer and a consultant for many critical Federal committees. He has lectured in geography for more than twenty years at such prominent institutions as the University of Chicago and Oxford University. He has also served as director of the world-renowned University of Colorado Natural Hazards Research Applications and Information Center for twenty years. Additionally, Dr. White has served one term as AAG President, 1961-1962.

In addition to all of these prestigious accomplishments, Dr. White has made a significant and unique contribution to the discipline. From flood policy, to weather analysis, to environmental science, to water resources, to energy policy, to coastal erosion, to earthquakes, to nuclear waste disposal science and policy, Dr. White is truly the Renaissance Man of Geography. His work has taken him around the globe, and his nearly 100 publications have radically influenced geographic thought and made tremendous positive changes in our world.

For the millions of lives his work has touched, and the incredible impact his work has had, the Applied Geography Specialty Group of the AAG is proud to bestow the 1996 James R. Anderson Medal to Gilbert White.