John Sime is this year’s winner of the History and Philosophy of Geology Division’s Student Award.

His winning paper is, “The Illustration of Nature Recast: Jacob Green’s Models of American Trilobites,” which fits very nicely into the Division’s Topical Session, “Great Illustrations.” Jacob Green’s studies were the first major work on trilobites in America and he used plaster-of-Paris casts of specimens from various sources in order to facilitate and improve trilobite systematics. Although they fell short of perfection, the surviving specimens in the Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, which John studied and displayed at the Academy for our GSA field trip to Philadelphia this year, provide an important remnant of an early, 19th century American natural history collection that otherwise would have been lost to posterity.

John received his Master’s degree in June of this year under Patricia H. Kelley in the Department of Geography and Geology, University of North Carolina, Wilmington. His thesis is, “Ecological Stability of Predator-Prey Interactions During the Plio-Pleistocene Transition of North Carolina.” John’s award-winning presentation to the Division reveals a connection to the history of geoscience that we hope he will continue to pursue to further success.