We are proud to introduce Gary Rosenberg as our recipient for the 2016 GSA History and Philosophy of Geology Division Friedman Service award. Gary is most deserving, as he performed exceptional service to our division in the last ten years, by serving as Chair and member of the Nominating and Awards committees, by organizing field excursions, and by recruiting and editing a GSA special volume.

In August 2005, Gary was catapulted from First Vice Chair into Acting Chair upon the Chair’s resignation. This was complicated by the long-planned sabbatical of Bill Brice, the Division secretary. However, Gary performed nobly, and in 2006, Gary served his regular term as chair. This was marked by the highly successful session on Early Modern Geology, with interdisciplinary speakers including the historian of biology Michael Ghiselin.

This 2006 session was the basis of Gary’s editorship of the second Division-sponsored GSA book, whose intellectual contribution has been cited for Gary’s Rabbitt award. However, it deserves mention here for the service component of his Gary’s editorship. Gary worked tirelessly with authors to meet deadlines and supply copy conformable to GSA standards. The result is a durable volume that continues to reflect credit on our Division.

With Sally Newcomb, Gary organized the 2006 Division field trip, only the second one sponsored by the Division, at the Philadelphia meeting. They worked with the American Philosophical Society and the Academy of Natural Sciences to highlight their collections in the history of geology. Those who took part praised the experience and found that it opened new scholarly resources for their own work. When it was announced that 2015 would celebrate the bicentennial of William Smith’s map, Gary offered to co-organize another Philadelphia field excursion with Sally Newcomb, to focus on an early copy of Smith’s 1815 map. Gary arranged special exhibits for field trip attendees at the Library Company, the American Philosophical Society, and the Academy of Natural Sciences, and recruited Professor Hugh Torrens, foremost Smith scholar, to assist with the field excursion. Gary also involved the Division’s student winner, John Sime, in the exhibits at the Academy of Natural Sciences. This was the only GSA field trip to be associated with the William Smith bicentennial celebration.

Gary Rosenberg served on our Nominating Committee since 2010. He was supposed to rotate off in 2013, but resignations and member inactivity necessitated that the Chair request that Gary continue on the committee. He willingly agreed to do so, and has essentially served as the chair of the Nominating Committee in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Gary thought he would rotate off in
2016, but is again working to find appropriate nominees for our Management Board. This is in addition to Gary’s service on our Awards Committee, from 2012 when he received the Rabbitt Award. When a Rabbitt recipient declined to join the committee, Gary agreed to serve an extra year. He is a natural leader, and has served as informal chair—as well as the official chair—for three years. He worked to identify winners for the Division’s awards, and worked diligently with student winners to ensure that their abstracts for GSA were of professional quality.

When GSA developed its new Connected Community websites, each Division was asked to develop a Connected Community (CC) portal so that all divisions would have a GSA-hosted uniform information page. Gary graciously volunteered to investigate these options for our division in 2014. He worked diligently with GSA to ensure that relevant files and information would be in place on the website when it opened.

Gary has long had an interest in the history of museums, and spearheaded this year’s topical session on the historical role of museums. He recruited notable curators, scholars, and museum directors to ensure the success of this topical session.

Interestingly, we first approached Gary Rosenberg about a nomination for this award in 2014, but he modestly declined, stating that he had not done enough for our History and Philosophy of Geology Division! We disagree, and are proud to have Gary as our Friedman recipient, especially as he has continued to generously donate his time and efforts for our Division for the past two years. Our Division is fortunate to have Gary Rosenberg’s dedication and service.