Imagine multi-tasking while descending a staircase. You are answering emails and texts, putting finishing touches on one of multiple presentations, and communicating with students from your institution. Add to this a complication—you miss the last step and break your foot in several places. Would this stop you? Probably. But not this year’s Friedman service award recipient Renee Clary, otherwise known as GSA History and Philosophy of Geology Super Heroine. And she has the cape to prove it!

I met Renee in 2011 at the Minneapolis GSA Convention. I was amazed by her presentations on geoeducation in the classroom. I went back to AACC and began to implement several of her suggestions. Over the past several years our acquaintance has developed into friendship. She has an approachable personality that makes those around her feel important. This is evident in her leadership of our division.

Renee never fails to astound us with all that she does from family to work to GSA. She manages her responsibilities with dignity and grace, qualities that elevate our division through her leadership. Being the mother of six has given her ample experience in handling almost any situation. It’s a bit like herding cats with ADD, which comes in very handy managing her responsibilities at GSA and especially our division.

Renee is a vital member of our division. Her dedication and drive are evident in the numerous positions she has held—and those she continues to hold—in our division as well as the numerous tasks in which she has engaged on behalf of History and Philosophy of Geology. Renee currently serves on the nominating committee, a position she has held off/on since 2008. We can make her job easier by saying “Yes” when she calls. Beginning in 2010, she served as second vice chair and then vice chair in preparation for becoming division chair. Renee was an extraordinary chair of our division. She was present at conventions, management board meetings, sponsoring sessions, and even convened two Pardee sessions. As chair, members of our division became well acquainted with Renee and her vision for the future of History and Philosophy of Geology. No one ever said “Who is this new chair? I don’t think I know who that is?” She was everywhere. She IS everywhere.

During her two tenures as chair, Renee served on several GSA subcommittees that explored ways to increase division membership and interdisciplinary activities. Evidence of her leadership are the numerous multi-divisional sessions that History and Philosophy of Geology has sponsored in the last couple of years, including two topical sessions and a poster session this year.

In 2015, GSA began a program called Connected Communities. Renee and Gary Rosenberg (last year’s recipient) are on the forefront of this endeavor. That year Renee became the division web master. We have all enjoyed the emails and posts that inform us about new stories, events, and keeps us connected with other divisions.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this year’s Friedman award winner: Renee Clary.