

## **2020 Friedman Service Award---John Diemer**

Citation by Kathy Lohff

It is with great pleasure that introduce the Friedman Distinguished Service Award recipient, John Diemer. John and I have spent many hours at the division booth---and a Tiki Bar or two---over the past decade. John is an active member of the HPGD. During the past twenty years, he has served the division in numerous ways. His excitement for the history of geology is infectious (no pun intended in a time of COVID—is that too soon).

During his tenure with the division, John has served in numerous ways and served on several committees. John has been a key member of the nominating committee both officially and unofficially. John served as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair 2008-2009. During this time, he was also the Technical Program Chair for the SE Sectional. His programs promoted the history of geology and thereby the division. From 2009-2010, he served as first vice chair and became chair in 2010. As chair, John organized a very well attend technical session during the annual meeting. “International Collaboration and the Evolution of Geology” received numerous papers and highlighted John’s own research on Roderick Murchison. This session was a huge success for HPGD.

Over the years, John has been very supportive of division sponsored technical sessions and his colleagues who lead them. He has contributed various papers at annual meetings. In fact, John has present papers for the divisions at almost every annual meeting since 2000. In 2017, GSA recognized John as a Fellow for his outstanding research and contributions. Much of that has been in the area of the history and philosophy of geology.

In 2014, John became the editor of *The History of Earth Sciences* journal. As editor, John has done an excellent job of soliciting papers and coordinating international scholars for special issues. In 2015, John attended the division field trip to Philadelphia. This became the basis for a coordinated effort between the division, HESS, and the Geological Society of London to produce a special William Smith volume of the journal. In 2017, he collaborated with the National Park Service to produce a volume celebrating 100 years of geology in the parks. This volume brought several new division members and highlighted division scholarship.

Perhaps John’s best service to the division has been increasing membership through increasing visibility. John is always a booth volunteer at the annual meetings. In this role, he recruits colleagues, students, and other attendees to join the division. He often does this by bringing them into HESS as authors then stressing the important work of the division. Each year, several people stop by the booth to get more information—stating “John sent them”. He is a tireless promoter of the history of geology whether he is at GSA, HESS, or INHIGEO. A quiet man, but fierce in his efforts to make our division better.

Congratulations John for receiving this well-deserved accolade.