



The Geological Society of America

History, Philosophy, & Geoheritage Division

AWARDS LUNCHEON

WELCOME

Note: The morning session in 320A finishes at 11:30am and the afternoon session starts at 1:30pm.

11:30 to 12:00

1. Select a **box lunch** and beverage, with vegetarian and gluten free options. 50 lunches available, first come, first serve.
2. Pick up **color-coded stickers** to indicate your primary interest(s) in history, philosophy, and/or geoheritage. Affix them to your lapel or name tag as a conversation-starter.
3. Find a **seat at a table** with at least some people you don't already know. In the past, the luncheon has focused on welcoming student guests, but this year we will have a dual emphasis on welcoming geoheritage guests as well. There is no ticket and no charge; the Division is covering costs. For those who can afford to help out financially, we welcome donations at the Division booth in the exhibit hall.

12:00 to 12:20: Book giveaway.

Division members customarily bring books of enduring value which we are finished with for our luncheon giveaway. Grab a raffle ticket along with your lunch. We'll start calling out winners at noon and proceed while everyone is still eating.

12:20-12:50: Awards.

David Spanagel, chair of the HPGD Awards committee, will emcee presentation of the various awards, including this year's Mary C. Rabbitt Award for lifetime achievement to Renee Clary, and the Michele Aldrich Student Research Award to Aja Tolman.

12:50-1:15. Business meeting.

The Chair and Secretary will summarize the annual report.

1. Management Board. (About Us > Officers)
 1. First Vice Chair: Drew Andrews
 2. Second Vice Chair: Roy Plotnick
 3. Student Representative:
2. Division membership.
3. Financial report.
4. Communications report. (Our Community > Discussion Group)
Sign up to receive posts. More activity is welcome there.
5. Joint Technical Program Committee report.
6. Special Division Initiatives report: Geoheritage Committee.
7. Affiliated Society / Division Partnerships report: INHIGEO, HOGG, and the Geoheritage Commission of the IUGS.
8. Emerging Activity and Needs: By-Laws revisions.
We invite you to join us for zoom meetings in the upcoming year to discuss by-law revisions, which will include establishing a Geoheritage Committee, and perhaps a History/Philosophy Committee. These committees will propose technical sessions at the annual meeting and promote activities in their areas, working in collaboration whenever it seems appropriate. More information will be posted on the Division discussion group about these meetings.

1:15. Adjourn.

Volunteers are wanted to clean up as may be required. Many will scoot off to the afternoon session, Histories of Geoheritage, starting at 1:30pm in 320A. See you at the HPGD booth and the Geoheritage booth in the Exhibit Hall, where free stickers are available (while they last).

GSA SCIENTIFIC DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage / 2025



The Geological Society of America

History, Philosophy, & Geoheritage Division

Requested Recommendations for Council Approval (if any):

- None at this time. See the “Division Partnerships Report” below for possible future Council action.

Management Board:

- **Chair:** Kerry Magruder
- **First Vice-Chair:** Rex Hanger
- **Second Vice-Chair:** empty
- **Secretary / Treasurer:** Christopher L. Hill
- **Past Chair:** Patricia Coorough Burke
- **Communications Manager:** Will Parcell
- **Student Representative(s):** Anna Whitaker

GSA Committee Representatives:

- **Joint Technical Program Committee:** Renee Clary (permanent); Kerry Magruder (rotating)
- **Division Board members on the Geoheritage Committee:** Renee Clary, Rex Hanger

Division Committees:

- **Nomination Committee:** William Parcell, Jody Bourgeois, Renee Clary
- **Award Committee:** David Spanagel, Ashley Dineen, Claudine Cohen
- **Program Committee:** Renee Clary, Kerry Magruder, Rex Hanger

GSA Council Liaison: Craig Jones

Financial Report:

Submitted by Christopher L. Hill.

Division: For 2025 there were 461 members in the Division, an increase partly explained by the number of student members (n = 231). Division members are predominantly from North America (n = 413) and also include people living in Europe (n = 17), South America (n = 6), Asia (n = 8), Australia and Oceania (n = 1), Sub-Saharan Africa (n = 4) and the Middle East including North Africa and Greater Arabia (n = 8). About 10% (n = 49) are retired, and about 19% (n = 90) are employed at universities or colleges. About 50% (n = 231) of the Division membership is composed of students. About 12% of the Division members are GSA Fellows (n = 53)

and 2% (n = 9) are Lifetime Members. The GSA point of contact for Divisional information is the Associate Director of Governance and Awards, Darlene Williams (dwilliams@geocociety.org).

Financial information is available from GSA for two Divisional financial accounts: an unrestricted, operational account and the GSA Foundation account. The GSA point of contact for the unrestricted account is Jean Anthony (janthong@geoscociety.org) and the contact for the Foundation funds is Jeff Tyler (jtyler@geosociety.org).

The unrestricted (operational) fund includes revenue from dues income and supplemental transfers from the Foundation fund. Typical annual expenses are for the awards and for the annual meeting activities. Table 1 and Figure 1 show the dues income, expenses, and net assets for the HPGD from 2020-2025. Net assets have increased, partly as a result of the transfer of funds from the GSA Foundation fund.

HPGD Unrestricted Funds (\$)			
	Dues Income	Expenses	Net Assets
2025	1,435	5,728	12,527
2024	1,469	2,641	11,055
2023	1,330	4,278	9,497
2022	1,370	4,093	10,335
2021	1,443	1,136	4,925
2020	1,542	3,110	6,128
2020	1,527	3,573	6,463

Table 1.

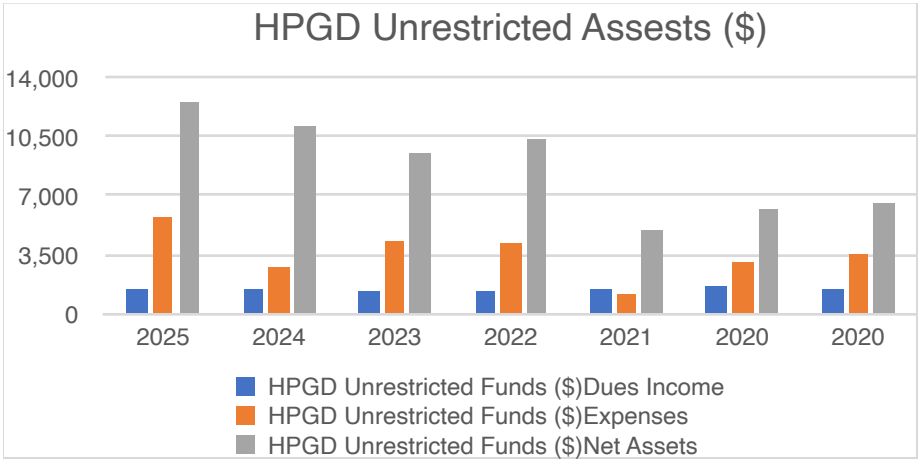


Figure 1.

For the Foundation fund, the June 2020-2025 balance for the principal is shown in Table 2 and Figure 2. None of the principal of the Fund is available for use. Note that the Aldrich Award is its own Foundation Fund, separate from the HPGD Foundation Fund. The Aldrich Fund is funded through donations. Also note that previous Division documents refer to a specific Foundation fund for the Rabbitt Award; according to GSA there is no separate “Rabbitt” Foundation Fund. The Rabbitt, Friedman and Student Award have all been funded through this single Foundation account.

HPGD Foundation Fund Principal (\$)	
FY26	392,389
FY25	369,029
FY24	336,828
FY23	324,149
FY22	367,596

Table 2

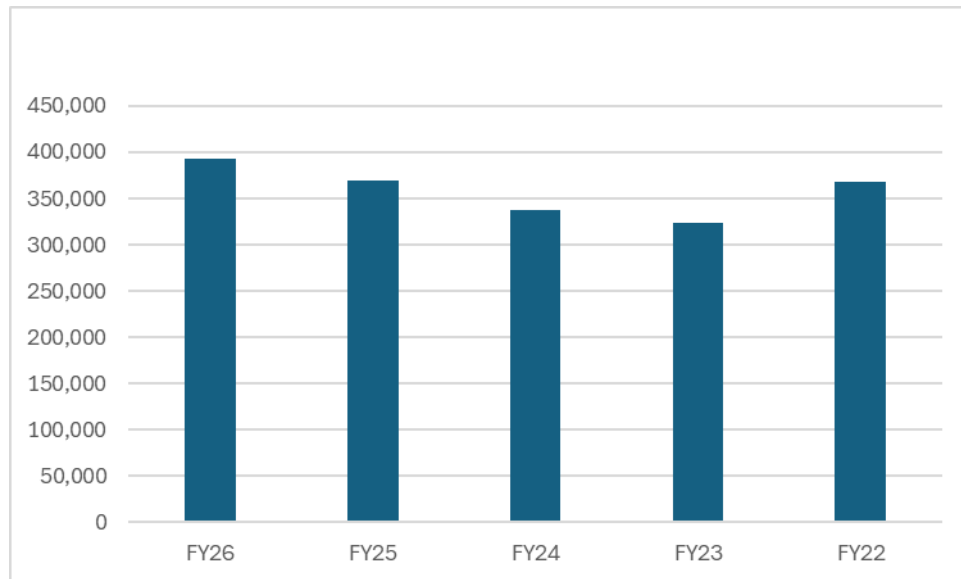


Figure 2

The GSA Foundation uses a distribution formula for all of its funds to determine the amount available for spending each fiscal year (FY) for each Fund. The amounts available for FY22-FY25 ranged from \$11,800 to \$15,455. For the current fiscal year (FY26), the amount available is \$23,655.

HPGD Foundation Funds Available (\$)	
FY26	23,655
FY25	14,955
FY24	13,000
FY23	15,455
FY22	11,800

Table 3

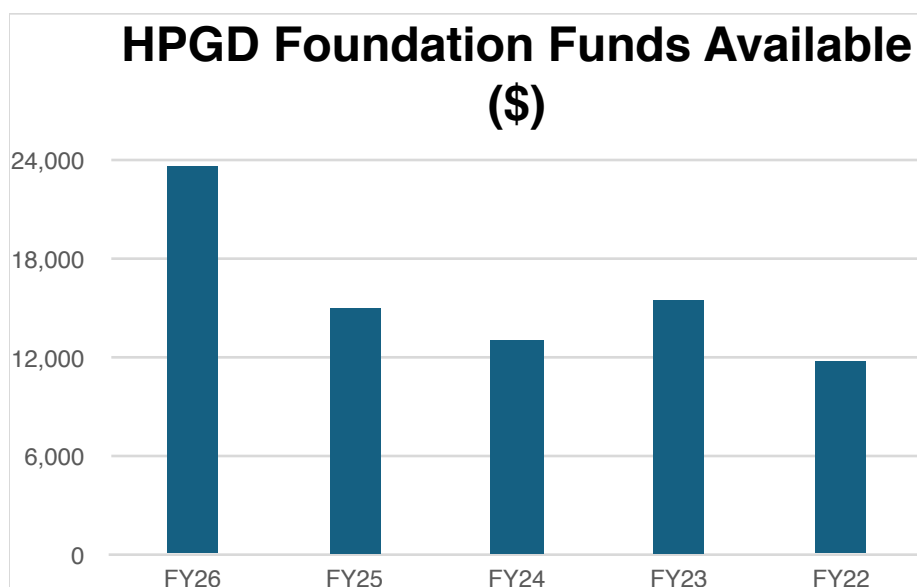


Figure 3

17 September 2025
 Christopher L. Hill (CHILL)
 GSA HPGD Secretary-Treasurer

Communications Report:

- The website for the Division is at <https://community.geosociety.org/histphildiv/home>. Will Parcell, the Division web manager, made numerous changes to update the website throughout the year to reflect the welcoming of the Geoheritage Committee, the name change, and various Division events.
- We made use of the Discussion Group throughout the year. GSA staff, particularly Susan Lofton, regularly posted very helpful notices. In addition, the Board posted messages for members in January (1), February (2), March (2), July (2), August (5), and ongoing. We hope to revive a newsletter next year incorporating some of the content originally posted on the Discussion Board.
- Division Booth at Meetings: The Division prepared a booth for Connects 24 and Connects 25 designed to be a hangout place for GSA members to discover the Division and converse with Division members. The brochure was updated for Connects 2024 and again for Connects 2025. At Connects 24 free stickers of images with both historical and philosophical importance were appreciated by visitors to the booth, and a hat with the Division logo was available for purchase. Similarly, at Connects 25, stickers with additional new images of historical, philosophical, and geoheritage importance will be given away and other information will be available. The Division table will be within a line-of-sight view of a new Geoheritage table, which will also facilitate conversations and discovery.

GSA Joint Technical Program Committee Report:

To plan and organize the Division's activities at Connects 2025, the Division JTPC representatives proposed two sessions, one on geoheritage and one on history of geology. Together with two other sessions proposed by Division members and a Pardee Symposium on geoheritage, and given a vigorous response of abstract submissions, the HPG Division is sponsoring a total of three full days of sessions at Connects 2025 in San Francisco. The program offers something each morning and afternoon on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. (Each session blends history, philosophy, and geoheritage dimensions, but the primary emphasis is noted below in

parentheses. Ignoring overlap, history and philosophy of geology and geoheritage sessions are equally balanced at three sessions each.)

Sunday 10/19/2025: One Century of Oil and Gas in the Permian Basin. Room: 302A. 8:00 am. <https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects25/solicitations/103002/sessiongallery/schedule/items/95234>. 12 presentations. (History of Geology.)

Sunday 10/19/2025: Philosophy of Extreme Events and Landscape Evolution on Earth and Other Planets: Thinking Geologically in the Spirit of Victor Baker. Room: 213AB. 1:30 pm. <https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects25/solicitations/103002/sessiongallery/schedule/items/95167>. 8 presentations. (Philosophy of Geology.)

Monday 10/20/2025: Crossing Borders in the History and Philosophy of the Geosciences. Room: 302A. 8:00 am. <https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects25/solicitations/103002/sessiongallery/schedule/items/95177>. 10 presentations. (History and Philosophy of Geology.)

Monday 10/20/2025: Crossing Boundaries: Histories of Geoheritage. Room: 302A. 1:30 pm. <https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects25/solicitations/103002/sessiongallery/schedule/items/95175>. 10 presentations. (Geoheritage.)

Tuesday 10/21/2025, morning: Pardee Day 3. Geoheritage Without Borders: International Perspectives on the Conservation and Celebration of Geodiversity. Room: Stars at Night Ballroom. Part I, 8:00 am. <https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects25/solicitations/103002/sessiongallery/schedule/items/95010>. 9 presentations. (Geoheritage.)

Tuesday 10/21/2025, afternoon: Pardee Day 3. Geoheritage Without Borders: International Perspectives on the Conservation and Celebration of Geodiversity. Room: Stars at Night Ballroom. Part II, 1:30 pm. <https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects25/solicitations/103002/sessiongallery/schedule/items/95297>. 10 presentations. (Geoheritage.)

For the 2025 GSA Annual Meeting the Division Awards luncheon and business meeting will be held on 20 October 2025 (Monday), in between the morning and afternoon sessions:

Monday 10/20/2025: History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division Awards Luncheon. Awards and business meeting. Room: Travis C/D. 11:30-1:30. <https://community.geosociety.org/histphildiv/discussion/hpg-division-awards-luncheon-monday-october-20>.

Special Division Initiatives Report:

The major special initiative for the History and Philosophy of Geology Division this past year was welcoming the Geoheritage Committee into the Division. Important milestones in this process were:

- 1) *November 15, 2024*. Geoheritage welcome letter from the HPGD Board (attached). The Board composed a memorandum welcoming the US Advisory Group on Geoheritage to the GSA and explaining our vision of how they might comfortably find a home within the History and Philosophy of Geology Division (HPGD).
- 2) *December 2024*: GSA announced that the US Advisory Group on Geoheritage would officially transfer to the GSA: "GSA Becomes Sponsoring Organization for the U.S. Geoheritage Committee" (<https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/News/pr/2024/24-16.aspx>).
- 3) *January 30, 2025*: A discussion group post from the Board welcomed thoughts from Division members on geoheritage (<https://community.geosociety.org/histphildiv/discussion/the-hpg-division-and-geoheritage>).
- 4) *February 17, 2025*, discussion group post from the Board: "We are now happy to announce that the GSA Council has decided to locate the Geoheritage Advisory Group within the History and Philosophy of Geology

Division. We celebrate this decision as an affirmation that the GSA is fully committed to supporting Geoheritage as an interdisciplinary area that connects history, geology, cultural heritage, and education.”

- 5) *February 20, 2025*: discussion group post from the Board: “In three previous posts in this thread we shared some reflections upon (1) the GSA's announcement last December that the US Advisory Group for Geoheritage would transfer into the GSA; (2) the more recent announcement that the Geoheritage Advisory Group will become part of the History and Philosophy of Geology Division; and (3) how the Geoheritage group will reinforce and complement many aspects of what we already do as a Division. In this 4th post, to continue that thread, we propose recognizing these developments by changing the name of the Division to the History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division.”
- 6) *Name change*. On March 15, voting for the name change concluded. By an overwhelming margin, Division members approved renaming the Division to the History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division of the GSA. The acronym remained the same (HPGD).
- 7) *Logo change*.



- 8) *Miscellaneous*: The Vice-Chair Rex Hanger began attending the Geoheritage monthly meetings, the Chair Kerry Magruder began occasional zoom calls with the Geoheritage Chair Tom Casadevall, and preparations were made to facilitate conversations and productive interactions between current Division members and new Geoheritage members at Connects 2025. The HPGD booth and a Geoheritage Booth will be near each other. The sessions proposed by HPGD included one on geoheritage as well as one on history/philosophy of geology, with the resulting three full days evenly balanced between history and philosophy of geology and geoheritage (not to mention, of course, the overlap in every session). The Nominating Committee has proposed persons involved in geoheritage as the next candidates for First and Second Vice-Chairs of the Division. The lifetime achievement award was given to a person who represents both the history of geology and geoheritage. The Division has supported the GSA's series of geoheritage webinars. A process to revise the by-laws to accommodate a Geoheritage Committee will take place in 2026.

Awards Report:

Submitted by David Spanagel.

The History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division Awards Committee met via Zoom on 2 May, 2025 to conduct and finalize our deliberations. The members of this year's committee are David Spanagel (chair), Ashley Dineen, and Claudine Cohen. Having had ample time to review the materials in advance, we discussed all of the nominees for each award, and we were able to arrive at final decisions within this one meeting.

There are three categories of awards for which we are empowered to make selections:

- The **Mary C. Rabbitt History and Philosophy of Geology Award** which recognizes outstanding achievement in scholarship in the history and philosophy of the geosciences — for 2025, our committee has unanimously voted to give this award to **Renee Clary**.
- The **Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman Distinguished Service Award** - for 2025, our committee cannot make any award recommendation since there were no nominations.

- The **Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award** — for 2025, our committee has unanimously voted to give this award to **Aja Tolman**, as the clear and obvious best choice among all eleven of the student submissions.

On September 11, after meeting again to discuss applicants for the **Student Travel Award**, Claudine, Ashley, and I carefully reviewed all of the GSA History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division Student Travel Award applicants' materials; we just spent a most pleasant half-hour together (virtually), sharing our reactions and impressions regarding each project with respect to each of the criteria. Based upon our collective deliberations, we have selected **Diab Hamida** as the worthiest student to be offered the HPGD Student Travel Award in 2025.

David Spanagel
Chair of the 2025 HPG Awards Committee

Student Activity Report:

Anna Whitaker, the 2025 Division Student Representative, has encouraged the Division to create a Past Student Rep position (as in the Geology and Society Division). She writes: "having staggered student reps or a past student rep would be helpful, especially for the continuation of 'in-house' knowledge and practices." With a Past Student Rep position, an incoming Student Rep would have someone to coach them, encourage them and mentor them, not to mention pass along log-ins and logistical info. Anna is willing to serve as Past Student Rep in 2026. The Board believes this step might enable the Division to cultivate and nurture more active student member participation in the Division going forward.

Michele Aldrich Student Research Award Report:

No applications were received for the Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award for 2024. In 2025, this award was given to Aja Tolman to research archives in London in 2025-26. Her report will be included in the 2026 Division report.

Student Travel Awards Report (Connects 2024):

The Student Travel Award for Connects 2024 was given to Cheyenne Woodward, who presented a paper in a session sponsored by the Division. In 2025, this award was given to Diab Hamida to come to Connects 2024. Confirmation of her acceptance of this award and participation in Connects 2025 will be included in the 2026 Division report.

Affiliated Society / Division Partnerships Report:

There is both immediate urgency and a long-standing need for the Division to establish partnerships with similar divisions of other geological societies around the world. These partnerships would constitute formal channels for two-way communication based on a recognition of affiliation in a shared mission reflecting the Division's objectives to advance History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage. These communication and collaboration needs are not addressed by higher-level relationships between the GSA and the international geological societies. For instance, a general relationship between GSA and the IUGS does not address the problem of establishing vibrant relationships between GSA divisions and IUGS commissions.

Attempts were made this year to establish a partnership with INHIGEO (International Commission for the History of the Geosciences), the history division of the IUGS, which is our gateway to collaboration with other similar divisions around the world. Perhaps the definition of "partnership" might be distinguished in ways that would allow this to move forward in the future. We simply wish to be listed on the INHIGEO web page for

affiliated societies (<https://inhigeo.org/affiliated-bodies/>), and to contribute reports to the INHIGEO Annual Record and news items to the INHIGEO Quarterly Circular. After this, we would like to seek similar affiliations with history divisions of various national geological societies, including HOGG (the History of Geology Group) of the Geological Society of London, which issues a splendid newsletter of their own (a rich, detailed, color magazine). We already have earnest expressions of interest from INHIGEO and HOGG to enter into these common efforts. Consider, for example, how in recent years we — the History and Philosophy Division of the GSA — provided signage for Etheldred Benett's home. Benett was a woman geologist who was a collaborator with the better-known Mary Anning in Lyme Regis, a town located in the center of the "Jurassic Coast," a geoheritage site of great significance not only for HOGG but which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Similar joint efforts in which we invite international colleagues, even focused upon locales within North America itself (think of Charles Lyell's visit to Niagara Falls), are attended with many obstacles owing to the present form of inter-relationship being vested simply in individuals who happen to be members of both organizations. Individual effort is not an adequate strategy for lateral communication and collaboration. We feel it is time to move beyond the efforts of independent individuals into some kind of mutual organizational recognition.

Welcoming the Geoheritage Committee into the Division this year added urgency to this issue of recognizing affiliations and formalizing channels of two-way communication related to geoheritage efforts around the world. The highest priority is again the relationship with the similar division of the IUGS, in this case, the Geoheritage Commission of the IUGS (<https://iugs-geoheritage.org/>).

In both cases, serious obstacles arise hindering effective communication and collaboration with our sister divisions in international geological societies and organizations. This lack of international affiliation fragments our actions, narrows our vision, and has negatively impacted the Division in the past and we foresee that it will only continue to do so. We were not able to make discernible progress this year addressing these concerns, despite the urgency of such collaborations for the HPGD in the future.

Emerging Activity and Needs:

The Division Board is unanimous about the need to revise the by-laws and prepare a separate guidelines document.

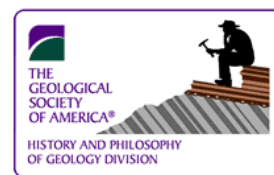
- The guidelines document will contain practical and logistical information that may be updated in the future without the requirement of a formal by-laws change.
- The desire to add a Past Student Representative has already been mentioned above.
- Other changes to the by-laws are needed to provide stability and continuity from year to year. For example, the Nominating Committee is currently established de novo each year: "A nominating committee consisting of three voting affiliates of the division who are not members of the management board shall be appointed by the chair." We believe that a structure similar to the Awards Committee, where one new member is appointed each year to serve a three-year staggered term, and the most senior member serves as Chair of the Committee, would be more conducive to the function of the Committee and the benefit of the Division.
- The present Board believes and has received assurance of support from GSA that the by-laws revision process should not alter the terms of agreement with the donors for the Mary C. Rabbitt Award in the History of Geology, the Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman History of Geology Distinguished Service Award, and the Michele Aldrich History and Philosophy of Geology Student Research Award. New awards may be established in the future specifically targeted toward Geoheritage. In any case, geoheritage scholars are not excluded from the Rabbitt, Friedman, and Aldrich awards even as presently written because of the great overlap between geoheritage and the history and philosophy of geology.

- The by-laws and/or the guidelines document should be revised to recognize the constitution and function of a Geoheritage Committee within the Division. We anticipate that the Geoheritage Committee will function as a semi-autonomous unit with its own governance and activities, much as the Awards Committee now functions without being internally managed by the Board. It may so arise, now or in years to come, that additional committees for the History of Geology, and/or the Philosophy of Geology, might be constituted on parallel lines. The Board does not anticipate the need to specify these things in precise detail, for the shape and function of the Geoheritage Committee (like any History/Philosophy Committee) will emerge organically over time. The by-laws should specify only what is essential to ensure that the Committee receives the support that it needs to carry out its own mission in connection with the Division.

Submitted by: Kerry Magruder

Date of Submission: October 10, 2025

From: History and Philosophy of Geology Division Board
Kerry Magruder, Chair (kvmagruder@gmail.com)
Patricia Coorough Burke, Past Chair (coorough@mpm.edu)
Rex Hanger, First Vice-Chair (hanger@uww.edu)
Christopher Hill, Secretary Treasurer (chill2@boisestate.edu)



Date: Friday, November 15, 2024

To: Chuck Bailey, GSA President (Acting)
Nathan Niemi, GSA President (Incoming)
Tom Casadevall, US Geoheritage Advisory Group
Melanie Brandt, GSA Executive Director

Re: Letter of Support for the GSA Geoheritage Initiative

Dear Chuck, Nathan, Tom, and Melanie,

Members of the History and Philosophy of Geology Division (HPG) received the announcement of the transfer to GSA of the US Advisory Committee on Geoheritage with excitement and keen interest. As Division officers, we wish to declare our earnest support of this initiative and to pledge our availability to work together with you to ensure the initiative's immediate and long-term success. We thank all of you for the care and thoughtfulness behind the planning document that was shared with us.

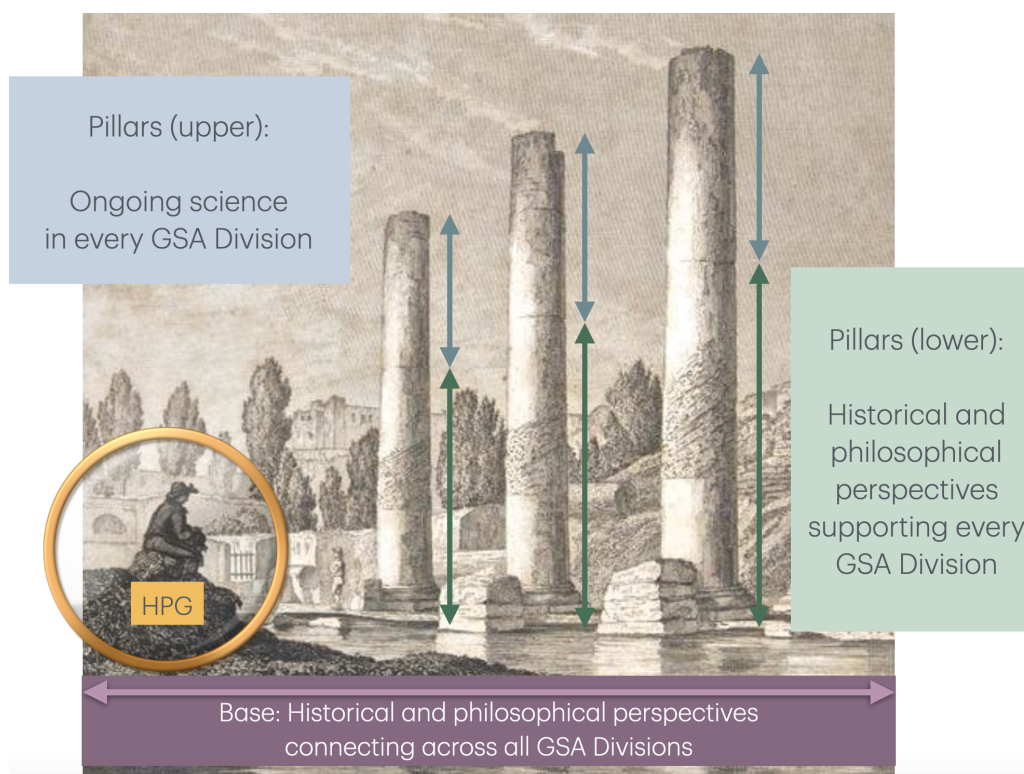


Figure 1: The History and Philosophy of Geology Division (HPG) supports every GSA Division.

[Image: Charles Lyell, *Principles of Geology* (London, 1830), vol. 1, frontispiece, "Present state of the Temple of Serapis at Pozzuoli."]

Most GSA Divisions are focused on scientific research in a single subject area. In contrast, the History and Philosophy of Geology Division (HPG) is integrating and cross-cutting in scope. The HPG Division seeks to serve and support every Division, for each Division's subject area has its own history, philosophy, and geoheritage dimensions. In Figure 1, each GSA Division is a pillar. The top of the pillar is the ongoing scientific work of the Division. The lower portion of each pillar is the heritage of that Division, which is contemplated by the observer on the rock. Like that figure on the rock, the HPG Division explores perspectives which support every other Division. The figure on the rock also contemplates the bedrock on which the pillars are anchored and the sea which flows around them — which rises sometimes to unsuspected heights. These are the natural relationships that connect GSA Divisions together with each other and with cultural and social streams. In other words, we strive to help every Division tell the story of its own field, and to interweave those stories into the broader narratives of the natural sciences, and into stories of wider cultural currents. We have been striving to put the “heritage” into the geosciences from our inception. This integrating and cross-cutting nature of the HPG Division makes it a natural fit to support the GSA's Geoheritage initiative.

This is reflected in the kinds of activities which we seek to promote and support, working with other Divisions, including:

- *Thematic sessions* at annual and section meetings, often co-sponsored with other Divisions. Numerous recent sessions have been directly related to geoheritage, including those resulting in the recent publication of *Geology's Significant Sites and their Contributions to Geoheritage*, ed. Renee M. Clary, E. J. Pyle, and W. M. Andrews (London: Geological Society, 2024).
- *Field trip guides* for geosites with historical, cultural, and philosophical dimensions.
- *Educational outreach*, including signage (e.g., an Etheldred Bennett display at Lyme Regis) and short-form articles accessible to lay readers (e.g., numerous “Rock Stars” profiles which appear in *GSA Today* and are downloadable from the HPG Division website).
- *Scholarly research* with historical and/or philosophical dimensions, including studies of the development of each subject area as well as geoscience ethics and justice issues.
- *Documentation*, including preparation of open-access editions of primary sources.
- *Newsletter* (recently lapsed, which we plan to restart this coming year).
- *Awards*: The HPG Division recognizes outstanding research and teaching through various awards, including for students.

Each of these activities is directly relevant to HPG support of GSA Geoheritage endeavors. To enhance our service to the GSA, we are ready to step up our responsibilities and to strengthen our support of these activities and other opportunities opened up by the Geoheritage initiative.

What would HPG Division support of the Geoheritage Advisory Group look like? We are open to considering various possibilities as outlined in the planning document. We appreciate the particularly helpful discussion in Section 2, “Division Considerations.”

Some of the questions we look forward to discussing with you are the following:

1. *HPG Division name change:*

Upon consultation with our membership, the name of the Division might be changed to explicitly mention geoheritage. Changing it to “The History, Philosophy, and Geoheritage Division” would retain the current “HPG” acronym.

2. *Governance:*

Consistent with our by-laws, we could establish a Geoheritage Committee within the HPG Division. Existing Geoheritage Advisory Board members would all become members of this committee. In addition, other Divisions could be invited to designate Geoheritage

Committee liaison members. This committee could plan and implement Geoheritage activities with the full support of the HPG Division.¹

3. *Capacity:*

To preserve the administrative capacity of the existing HPG Division officers without overloading their responsibilities, each year the HPG Board might designate a member to serve as the HPG liaison to the Geoheritage Committee. This person might be an officer of the HPG Division or another representative chosen at large from among the membership.

4. *International Collaboration:*

The HPG Division would seek deeper relationships with similar associations around the world (see table below for just three examples). These and similar groups are involved in the geoheritage activities of their own larger organizations and geographical regions. We would seek to establish external partnerships with them to ensure channels of communication that would effectively promote coordination and collaboration on a global scale. Given its global reach, INHIGEO would be a priority for us in this regard.

HPG Division	Geological Society of America
History of Geology Group (HOGG)	The Geological Society of London
Comité français d'Histoire de la Géologie (Cofrhigéo)	Société Géologique de France
International Commission for the History of Geology (INHIGEO)	International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

5. *Geoheritage Library (GHL):*

The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) serves biologists and paleontologists around the world by providing species-based access to historical literature. With the transfer of the US Geoheritage efforts to the GSA, the possibility arises of facilitating or catalyzing a coalition of libraries and other cultural institutions to work with the BHL to enable place-based access to existing sources, and to incorporate additional new sources for the history of geology. Any researcher, educator, student or traveler interested in a particular geoheritage site would then be one-click away from accessing open-access digital versions of historical sources which touch upon that site. This bold vision exceeds the capacity of any one Division and of any single institution to initiate, but it is a natural fit with HPG Division interests. We commend it as a worthy objective of the overall GSA Geoheritage initiative.

The GSA commitment to deeply support geoheritage activity is a rousing call to the HPG Division to rise to the occasion to more fully realize our longstanding mission. Toward that end, we earnestly affirm the vision of the planning document and appreciate every opportunity to support the GSA in this new initiative.

Kerry Magruder, Patricia Coorough Burke, Rex Hanger, Christopher Hill

¹ To ensure that our future support for other Divisions retains its full scope and potential, we might establish a History of Geology Committee and a Philosophy of Geology Committee as well as a Geoheritage Committee, inviting liaison members from other Divisions to serve on any combination of committees. The three committees, unequal in size but complementary and overlapping in purpose and activities, would represent the non-exclusive emphases of the Division. Exploring the feasibility of measures like these might address concerns about diluting aspects of the history and philosophy of geology which extend beyond geoheritage. All three committees would reinforce the integrating and cross-cutting mission of the Division and attract greater participation by members of other Divisions.