

THE

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY

DIVISION

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<http://gsahist.org>

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Editor's Note:

With this edition of the Newsletter of The History of Geology Division of The Geological Society of America, the first of the new year of 2008, Volume 32, Number 1, I begin the editorship role so ably carried out by our good friend and colleague of long-standing, Bill Brice. Bill has elected to retire from these duties after ten years of unfailing, dedicated, and committed service. As your new Secretary-Treasurer-Editor, I will make a best effort to maintain the high standards established by Bill. Let me express my personal thanks to Bill who so ably introduced me to the tasks at hand and, more importantly, who served this membership in such an exemplary fashion for the past years. Best of luck, Bill, from all those you have served so well. I know your future challenges will provide new and equally demanding opportunities.

Christopher (Chris) J. Schubert

OFFICERS FOR 2008 HISTORY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION

CHAIR: Steve Rowland, Department of Geoscience, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV 89154-4010; 702-895-3625; steve.rowland@unlv.edu

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WEB MASTER: Hugh Rance, 4310 Kissena Blvd, 11H, Flushing, NY 11355; hughrance@rcn.com

CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

History of Geology Student Award: The History of Geology Division is soliciting proposals for a student award for the amount of \$500. The selected paper will be given at the GSA Annual Meeting for that year. This award, established in 2004, is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Mary C. Rabbitt. Consideration will be given to both undergraduate and graduate students provided the person is a student in good standing at the time of application; the presentation at the GSA Annual Meeting may take place after graduation. While both oral and poster presentations are acceptable, oral presentations are preferred. Faculty advisor(s) may be listed as second author(s), but not as the lead author of the paper. The proposed paper may be, but not limited to: (1) A paper in the history of geology; or (2) A literature review of ideas for a technical work or thesis/dissertation; or (3) Some imaginative aspect of the history of geology we have not thought of before.

The award consists of a plaque and a check for \$500 presented at the Division luncheon. The student will present the winning paper in the History of Geology Division disciplinary session at the next GSA Annual Meeting. It is open to all students regardless of discipline, provided the proposed paper is related to the history of a geological idea/person/etc. After the applications have been received and reviewed by the Award Committee, the winner will be notified. The winner should formally submit his/her abstract for the next GSA Annual Meeting and then register for that meeting in order to present his or her paper at the History of Geology Division disciplinary session. A ticket to the History of Geology luncheon will be provided for the student and a guest. The \$500 award and plaque will be presented and the student will be recognized at the annual luncheon. If there are multiple authors, the cash award will be presented to the senior author and further distribution is up to that person.

Proposal guidelines and application forms are available from the Division web site at <http://gsahist.org>, or if there are any questions about the award, please contact the Division Secretary-Treasurer. All applications and proposed abstracts are to be forwarded to the Division Secretary-Treasurer whose contact information is available in the Division Officers list.

Due date for proposals and application is **May 1** each year so that the proposal content can be reviewed and the selection made for the award in time to meet the official GSA deadline. Also in this way, the GSA abstract, perhaps, can be refined. The Division award committee will make the selection.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

2004 Michael C. Rygel
2007 Eric J. Brown

2005 Lee J. Florea
2008 To be Determined

2006 Alistair Sponsel

Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award: The Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award is presented annually by the GSA History of Geology Division to an individual for exceptional scholarly contributions of fundamental importance to our understanding of the history of the geological sciences. Achievements deserving of the award include, but may not be limited to, publication of papers or books that contribute new and profound insights into the history of geology based on original research or a synthesis of existing knowledge. The award was established by the History of Geology Division in 1981 and renamed in memory of Mary C. Rabbitt in 2005. The award consists of an embossed certificate and a pewter Revere bowl. The deadline for receipt of nominations by the selection committee is **February 1** each year.

Nominations should be sent to the Division Secretary-Treasurer; contact information is given in the Division Officers list.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

1982 George W. White	1983 Claude C. Albritton, Jr	1984 Mary C. Rabbitt
1985 Cecil J. Schmeer	1986 Ursula B. Marvin	1987 Martin J. S. Rudwick
1988 Stephen Jay Gould	1989 Albert V. Carozzi	1990 Gordon Y. Craig
1991 William A. S. Sarjeant	1992 Michele L. Aldrich	1993 Martin Guntau
1994 François Ellenberger	1995 Robert H. Dott, Jr.	1996 Gordon L Herries Davies
1997 Kennard B. Bork	1998 Hatten S. Yoder, Jr.	1999 David R. Oldroyd
2000 Hugh Torrens	2001 Walter O. Kupsch	2002 Dennis Dean
2003 Ellis Yochelson	2004 Stephen G. Brush	2005 Gerald M. Friedman
2006 Sandra Herbert	2007 Kenneth L. Taylor	2008 To be Determined

The Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman History of Geology Distinguished Service Award: The Friedman Distinguished Service Award of the GSA History of Geology Division, created in 2005, may be given from time to time to an individual or individuals, for exceptional service to the advancement of our knowledge of the history of the geological sciences. This service may include, but not be limited to, the discovery of and making available rare source materials; comprehensive bibliographic surveys; organizing meetings and symposia in the history of geology; exceptional service to the Division. The deadline for receipt of nominations by the selection committee is **February 1** each year. Nominations should be sent to the Division Secretary-Treasurer; contact information is given in the Division Officers list.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

2006 Robert Ginsburg	2007 Michele L. Aldrich and Alan E. Leviton
2008 To be Determined	

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Nominations for all three HOGD awards (1. Rabbitt Award, 2. Gerald and Sue Friedman Distinguished Service Award and 3. Student Award) go to the Secretary-Treasurer, who is Christopher (Chris) J. Schuberth kyanite23@verizon.net; 12 Chelsea Court, Marlton, NJ 08053-2804; voice: 856-983-3820.

Immediate Past Chair of the division serves as the *de facto* chair of the awards committee. Past Chair Julie Newell jnewell@spsu.edu will coordinate the award process for 2008.

HOGD bylaws stipulate that the awards selection committee shall consist of three voting affiliates of the division. These three committee members serve three-year staggered terms, with a new member appointed each year by the division chair. Our tradition is that each year's Rabbitt Award winner is asked to serve on the review committee for all three Division awards. Our last three Rabbitt awardees are Ken Taylor (2007), Sandra Herbert (2006), and Gerry Friedman (2005); they will comprise the award selection committee for 2008.

A new member will be appointed in 2008 to replace Gerry Friedman, who will rotate off the Awards Committee.

2008 RABBITT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The 2008 committee to review proposals for money from the Rabbitt fund will be as follows:

Bill Brice (to serve for 3 years)
Ken Bork (to serve for 2 years)
Bob Ginsberg (to serve for 1 year)

A new member of this Review Committee will be appointed in 2008 to replace Bob Ginsberg, who will rotate off.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2008

Jim Dawson will serve as chair of the Nominating Committee for one more year (but Jim won't be able to attend next year's GSA Annual Meeting in Houston).

Rex Buchanan (of the Kansas Geological Survey) has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. He will serve for two years and will chair the committee in 2009. Because Jim will not be at the 2008 Annual Meeting, Rex will give the Nominating Committee report at the Division luncheon.

Renee Clary of Mississippi State will serve for three years and will chair the Nominating Committee in 2010.

A **new member** of the Nominating Committee will need to be appointed in 2008 to replace Jim Dawson, who will rotate off the Committee.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations (including self-nominations) of individuals who are willing to serve as History of Geology Division officers/committee members. Please consider serving your profession in this way. To submit your name or that of a colleague, contact the 2008 Nominating Committee Chair, James Dawson (2008) james.dawson@plattsburgh.edu; or Rex Buchanan (2008-2009) rex@kgs.ku.edu; or Renee Clary (2008-2010) rclary@geosci.msstate.edu.

DIVISION SEEKING A VOLUNTEER

Due the increasing complexities of organizing the annual meeting activities at GSA, *i.e.*, doing both the academic sessions and the logistics of setting up for the reception, the meeting rooms, and the booth, the Management Board feels that the duties should be divided. The Division Chair will continue to organize the academic sessions, select topics, organize speakers, etc., while the logistical side of the planning will be done by another person. That person, a Meeting Coordinator, will work closely with both the Chair and the Secretary-Treasurer and preferably should be willing to continue in the role for several years, hence not be one of the officers under term limits. For the Denver meeting, Steve Rowland volunteered to do that work, and First Vice-Chair Yildirim Dilek is handling those duties for the Houston meeting. But we need someone to assume those duties who is willing to continue for several years thereafter. Based upon past experience, it will take at least two meetings to become familiar with all the ins and outs of organizing the catering, getting tables and chairs for the booth, and so on. We are seeking

a volunteer from our members to assist the Division in this very important role. If you are willing to help, please contact Steve Rowland, History of Geology Division Chair, at steve.rowland@unlv.edu so you can work with him on setting up the Houston meeting.

BIG PLANS IN THE WORKS FOR THE 2008 GSA ANNUAL MEETING IN HOUSTON

Your Division officers are planning an exciting program of topical sessions, a history of geology field trip, a short course/workshop, and other activities for this year's GSA Annual Meeting. Details will be announced in the next newsletter. Remember that this year's meeting is a bit earlier than usual (Oct 5-9, 2008), and also the abstract deadline is early (June 3). Please plan to attend, and consider presenting in one of our sessions. Contribute to the vibrancy of your Division.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE SYLLABUS SAMPLER -- VOLUME III

The History of Science Syllabus Sampler volumes I (1992) and II (2001) have provided an invaluable resource to faculty members wishing to extend, enrich, and improve their approaches to history of science in the classroom. The Committee on Education announces the creation of a third sampler volume, building on and updating the strong tradition established by *Sampler I and II*, Henry Steffens, editor.

The third volume will be online, rather than a print or "hardcopy" project. This will allow the syllabi to be readily available and easily cross-indexed. It will also eliminate printing and shipping costs and will allow for the inclusion of many more syllabi than a print version could accommodate.

The *Sampler III* project will include syllabi and syllabi sections for three broad categories of courses:

Majors: History of Science Courses for History of Science Majors

Minors: History of Science Courses as Enrichment in Other Majors

Harmonics: History of Science Content for Non-History of Science Courses

Submissions will be evaluated by a referee committee. Those selected will be published as *pdf* documents accompanied by brief statements on course philosophy and organization by their authors. **The deadline for submissions is 30 June 2008.**

Please consider submitting your own syllabi, and encourage your colleagues, teachers, and students to submit their own.

All inquiries and submissions should be directed to the Editor:

Julie R. Newell

HSS Committee on Education Chair 2007-08

jnewell@spsu.edu

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ELLIS YOCHELSON

Ellis Yochelson loved celebrating anniversaries of institutions and organizations. Whether it was the Diamond Jubilee and soon the centennial of the National Museum of Natural History, the sesquicentennials of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Smithsonian Institution, or the upcoming 25th anniversary of the History of Earth Sciences Society, he was always prodding the powers that be to publish a book, hold a symposium, throw a party, and celebrate the rich history of that organization. The Paleontological Society is a non-profit corporation registered under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donation is fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Enclosed is my check for _____ for the Centennial Fund Named Award for Ellis Yochelson.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Checks should be made payable to The Paleontological Society with a notation of Centennial/Yochelson in the corner. Please mail your contributions to:

Dr. Mark E. Patzkowsky, Treasurer, The Paleontological Society, Department of Geosciences, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802-2714

Questions? E-mail Mark Patzkowsky mep12@psu.edu or Abby Yochelson ayochelson@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN ELLIS'S MEMORY

UPCOMING SECTION MEETINGS

CORDILLERAN-ROCKY MOUNTAIN JOINT MEETING

19-21 March 2008 University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Contact: Rod Metcalf, University of Nevada, Dept of Geoscience, Las Vegas, NV 89154-4010; 702-895-4442; rod.metcalf@univ.edu

NORTHEASTERN

27-29 March 2008 Hyatt Regency Buffalo, NY
Contact: Gary Solar, SUNY-College at Buffalo, Dept of Earth Sciences and Science Education, 1300 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222-1004; 716-472-7015; solargs@buffalostate.edu

SOUTH-CENTRAL

30 March-1 April 2008 Hot Springs Convention Center, AR
Contact: Jeff Connelly, Univ. of Arkansas, Dept. of Earth Sciences, 2801 So. University Ave, Little Rock, AR 72204-1099; 501-569-3543; jbconnelly@ualr.edu

SOUTHEASTERN

10-11 April 2008

Hilton Charlotte University Place, Charlotte, NC

Contact: Andy Bobyarchick, Univ. of North Carolina, 9201 University City Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28223-0001; 704-545-1337; arbobyar@email.uncc.edu

NORTH-CENTRAL

24-25 April 2008

Casino Aztar, Evansville, IN

Contact 1: Paul Doss, Univ. of Southern Indiana, Dept. of Geology, 8600 University Blvd, Evansville, IN 47712-3534; 812-465-7132; pdoss@usi.edu

Contact 2: John P. Szabo, Univ. of Akron, 64B Crouse Hall, Univ. of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-4101; 330-972-8039; jpszabo@uakron.edu

JOINT TECHNICAL PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE

Julie Newell has offered to serve as our division's Joint Technical Program Rep for 2008, which means that she will be the lead person scheduling the Division's technical program for the Houston meeting.

DIVISION CHAIR'S MEETING REPORT FROM JULIE NEWELL

There is a push by GSA divisions to protect historically and scientifically important exposures — being referred to as “Geoantiquities.” A white paper has been prepared which will be distributed to division chairs. There is a sense that the U.S. has been slow to pay attention to this topic, compared to many other countries. Both public and private lands are involved. This is an opportunity for our division to work with other divisions. Steve will advance this initiative during his term as division chair.

GSA will contribute \$200 for each Division chair to attend the division chairs meeting (first weekend of May, 2008) in Boulder, CO. Julie pointed out to the other Division chairs that our Division serves all of the Divisions. Our student award, for example, can go to a student working in any area of geology.

Divisions are being encouraged to be more active at section meetings. Our Division has been active in the Northeast Section; North-Central has a history of geology session in the planning phase (papers needed). Julie proposed that our Division should have at least one session in at least one section meeting each year, and that the 2nd Vice-Chair should take on this task, so that during his/her year as chair there is a history session that he/she helped organize — thus providing about 18 months of lead time. Vic Baker, incoming 2nd Vice-Chair, will be asked to begin now to promote the organization of at least one HOGD session at a section meeting during his term as chair in 2010.

The Divisions unanimously supported a Pardee session on workforce issues (e.g., cyclicity of employment), possibly for the 2008 meeting in Houston.

The 2008 meeting will be a joint meeting with the “tri-societies” (Agronomy, Soils, and Crops), which meet together regularly, and also with the Gulf Coast Geological Society. Deadlines will be earlier than usual for everything associated with this meeting: December 4 deadline for proposals for fieldtrips, topical sessions, etc.; early June deadline for abstracts (to be reviewed in late June).

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH

2008 is the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). GSA has asked each Division to organize at least one session that is related to an IYPE theme. For our Division, the most appropriate IYPE theme is "Outreach — bringing earth sciences to everyone." Steve will work on a session relating to this theme for the Houston meeting. This item was not actually discussed at the Executive Committee meeting, but Steve got an e-mail about it after the Denver GSA meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bill Brice reported that we are financially in good shape. Our operating budget contains approximately \$4500.

Bill offered the advice that any personal funds expended by the Division chair or other officers, and not reimbursed by GSA, are tax deductible as a donation to GSA; receipts should be submitted to GSA, and GSA will provide a letter documenting the donation.

Getting money out of the GSA Foundation is often a slow process, even when it is our division's money. "History of Geology Division Operating Fund" should be written on the check if the money is to go to our Division.

The Rabbitt fund is now approximately \$198,000. We are in a position to start using these funds. We can provide more support for the spring Division Chair's meeting in Boulder, CO. GSA now contributes up to \$200 for each Division Chair to attend, which currently covers lodging. Our division can reimburse the airfare.

We discussed the idea of raising the student award to \$1,000. The consensus was to keep it at \$500 for now, and try to solicit more applications. Julie will work to make this award more visible, for example by getting it announced in the newsletters of other Divisions. There was a consensus that the winner of the student award need *not be a student at the time the paper is presented at GSA*, as long as (s)he was a student when the paper was written.

MORE TIME IN THE PROGRAM FOR RABBITT AND STUDENT AWARDEES

Julie scheduled 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion for the talks presented this year by our Rabbitt Award winner and also the student award winner. There was a consensus that this is a good idea. Also, Sally suggested that the Rabbitt awardee should be invited/encouraged to submit an abstract and present a paper at the meeting at which he/she receives the Rabbitt Award (as this year's awardee, Ken Taylor, has done). Everyone agreed that this is a great idea.

CALL FOR GSA FELLOWSHIP NOMINATIONS

GSA is actively seeking nominations, through its Divisions and Sections, of GSA Members who have not been nominated in the past and who are deserving of Fellowship rank in the Society. The nominee should be an individual GSA Member who has offered significant contributions to the science of geology. While Fellowship Nominations are due **1 February 2008**, and therefore will miss this year's nomination cycle, nominees will be called for during the 2009 nomination cycle. It is encouraged that you keep this opportunity in mind. For complete information and the procedure in recommending a colleague, as well as how to access the correct nominating form,

kindly navigate the web site listed here <http://www.geosociety.org/members/fellow.htm> and click open the link *NOMINATE A FELLOW*. You must be a GSA Fellow to nominate a GSA Member for Fellowship rank.

DARWIN DAY CELEBRATION – FEBRUARY 12, 2008

This is an event that should be of interest to many. If you would like to organize a Darwin Day celebration please go to this web site <http://darwinday.org/englishL/assistevent/index.html> for event ideas and guidelines. If you already have plans for a Darwin Day please go to <http://darwinday.org/NEWlang/regevent/index.php> to register and advertise your event.

Now, on to the new developments. In order to increase its resources and impact, the Darwin Day Celebration (DDC) has become part of a larger organization. Existing DDC volunteers, such as founding president Bob Stephens, will stay involved, but Darwin Day will now be run as a distinct program within the Institute for Humanist Studies (IHS). The Institute for Humanist Studies <http://www.humaniststudies.org> is an international educational nonprofit that promotes reason and humanity. IHS shares the vision of Darwin Day as a way to honor Charles Darwin, to promote understanding of evolution and the scientific method, and to provide a new global holiday that transcends separate cultures and religious traditions. The Darwin Day Celebration will continue to support, promote and coordinate Darwin Day events organized across the world. To this end we will be improving the Darwin Day website and increasing media outreach in the coming months and years. Please send any suggestions for improvements to me at MCherry@DarwinDay.org.

As you probably know, **February 12, 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth**. While promoting D Day for 2008 we will also be working on making 2009 a global celebration that draws unprecedented attention to Darwin's life and legacy, and that also establishes D Day as a major annual holiday. Many people are already planning bicentenary events. If you have already developed plans for Darwin Day 2009 please go to <http://darwinday.org/NEWlang/regevent/index.php> to register and advertise the event. If you are looking for ideas for a Darwin Day celebration please visit <http://darwinday.org/englishL/assistevent/index.html>. We promise not to flood you with emails, but as you know the months leading up to Darwin Day are our busiest time of year, so you can expect a handful of updates between now and February 12th.

Sincerely,

Matt Cherry
Executive Director

Institute for Humanistic Studies
<http://humaniststudies.org>

HISTORY OF GEOLOGY DIVISION --2007 NECROLOGY

A brief moment of reflection for the passing of our colleagues who have so ably served the profession . . .

Ralph S. Cannon, Jr.	Woodstock, IL	-----
Rhodes W. Fairbridge	New York, NY	November 8, 2006
Henry M. Morris	Santee, CA	-----
William R. Reynolds	Oxford, MS	December 6, 2006
Kurt Servos	Menlo Park, CA	April 29, 2007