

Citation for Eric Peterson GBM Award 2022

On behalf of colleagues Steve van der Hoven and Todd Halihan, I am honored to recognize Dr. Eric Peterson as the 2022 recipient of the George Burke Maxey Distinguished Service Award.

Eric, a Professor at Illinois State University and GSA Fellow, has performed long-term exemplary service to the GSA Hydrogeology Division and to GSA. He served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Hydrogeology Division for 6 years. Before that, he organized the Hydrogeology Division Student Reception, a highlight event for the division, attended by hundreds of students and currently serves on the Birdsall-Dreiss Award Committee. He has both attended and organized countless topical sessions for Annual GSA and the North Central-South Central GSA meetings. In addition to serving the Division, Eric is currently co-Editor of Environmental and Engineering Geoscience journal, a GSA publication.

Eric was Secretary-Treasurer for the GSA Hydrogeology Division (2012-2018) during the time I served on the Management Board. Eric's oversight of the Division's finances was superb – he was on top of every detail. The travel reimbursements for the Birdsall-Dreiss lecture tours were particularly challenging but Eric worked with both the lecturer and GSA to make sure that reimbursements were done correctly and in a timely manner. Being Secretary-Treasurer is the most time-consuming position on the Board, as the financial oversight is year-round. Steve, Todd and I were so grateful to work with Eric on the Management Board as he was a stable force and also a generous and collaborative colleague.

At Illinois State, Eric has taught and mentored countless numbers of students. He is the coordinator for the Hydrogeology Graduate Program and teaches a long list of courses in hydrogeology and geology, impacting a wide range of students from introductory courses for non-majors in water to graduate students in applied groundwater modeling. Over the past 20 years, he has advised 49 M.S students in the Illinois State Hydrogeology Graduate program. As colleague Steve Van Der Hoven said "... Eric's greatest service to our profession is training of students to be good scientists and hydrogeologists. His courses have always been challenging, full of real-world examples, and well received by students. And after providing students the tools to be good hydrogeologists, Eric uses his personal and professional network to help them find employment or pursue graduate studies at another university. He has always brought a large contingent of students to GSA annual meetings, encouraging them to present and introducing them to potential Ph.D. advisors. His research has always involved students which is illustrated by the large percentage of his publications that are first-authored by students."

Eric Peterson has an unwavering commitment to serving students, his department and university, the Hydrogeology Division, GSA, our profession, and society. He is most worthy of this prestigious award for service to the hydrogeology community.