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AGI Announces Distinguished Service Award Recipients

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American Geological Institute (AGI) announces the recipients of two distinguished service awards: the William B. Heroy Jr. Award for Distinguished Service to AGI will be presented to Michael J. Baranovic, and the AGI Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of the Geosciences is awarded to Michael P. Collier.

The William B. Heroy Jr. Award for Distinguished Service to AGI is presented annually for superb and beneficial long-term service to AGI. This year, Michael J. Baranovic of Shell Exploration and Development, will be awarded for his dedication to serving AGI.

For ten years, Baranovic has been a member of AGI's Human Resources Advisory Committee, as well as facilitating the NSF-sponsored AGI workshop on geoscience human resource issues in 2001. Throughout his service to AGI, Baranovic has been a leader in improving the communications within the professional community about the pressing issues related to the critical human resources of the geosciences. His leadership was instrumental in the development and implementation of the AGI Associates Conference, bringing together geoscience leaders in academia, industry, and government, to examine areas of common concern and action. Likewise, Baranovic has continued to champion the issues of minority recruitment and retention in the geosciences in all aspects of his involvement with AGI, AGI is grateful for his contributions to AGI and its mission.

AGI will also present Michael P. Collier the Outstanding Contribution to Public Understanding of the Geosciences Award. From Flagstaff, Ariz., Collier's love of and dedication to structural geology has led him to pursue various geoscience and educational paths, while maintaining his daily profession as a family physician. As a freelance writer and photographer since 1970, Collier's work can be seen in numerous popular magazines including *Scientific American*, *Nature* and *National Geographic Traveler*. He has published 13 books and has been involved with the production of several documentary films as script-writer, director and on-screen commentator. Collier's photography and publications are exemplary examples of his ability to engage the public in the geosciences.

The awards will be presented to Baranovic and Collier at the Friends of AGI Awards Reception in Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 18, 2005.

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The American Geological Institute is a nonprofit federation of 43 scientific and professional associations that represent more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in our profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources and interaction with the environment. More information about AGI can be found at <http://www.agiweb.org>.