

## 2002 MEDALS AND AWARDS

### GSA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Presented to Samuel S. Adams,  
David E. Dunn,  
and John W. Geissman



Samuel S. Adams

#### **Citation by Anthony Naldrett**

Samuel S. Adams, Sam to his friends, has had and continues to have a long and distinguished career within the earth sciences. His roots are set firmly in New England, with degrees from Dartmouth and Harvard, and from there he entered the mining industry, first working in industrial minerals, and then in metal mining for 10 years with the former Anaconda Company. After another 10 years as a consultant, he joined the Colorado School of Mines, where he headed the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, before returning to the private sector. Sam has been president of the Society of Economic Geologists and continues to play a major role in that organization. He has served as president of the American Geological Institute and is currently editor in chief of *Geotimes*. His services in earth sciences have been recognized by many awards, too many to mention today. He has also volunteered his time in support of numerous

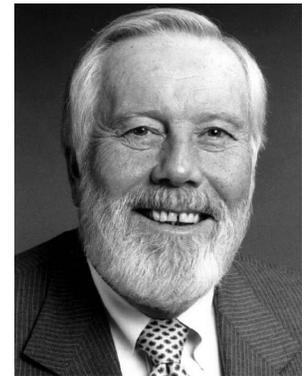
organizations in New Hampshire; most recently the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Sam has served on no fewer than 12 GSA committees, becoming chair of the majority of them. He has served on Council, and for one year was the council member at large on the Executive Committee. There can be very few GSA members who have contributed so much of themselves to our Society, and I am delighted that Sam has been chosen to receive one of this year's Distinguished Service Awards.

#### **Response by Samuel S. Adams**

Thank you for your kind introduction. I am flattered and appreciative that this organization would choose to honor me in this manner. Lord knows, there are numerous members among you here today who have volunteered for GSA through the years in a variety of ways and on a variety of occasions. It is precisely for that reason that I prefer to think of this award as a recognition of GSA volunteerism, especially the many among us who have pitched in as the opportunities have occurred. Since my name begins with "A" it seems I got chosen for some of the "pomp and circumstance".

In his thought-provoking book, *Bowling Alone; The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, Robert Putnam identified a disturbing trend that started in the mid 1960's in our country and which relates to volunteerism in GSA. Simply put, even though membership, and in some cases philanthropic giving, may have risen for an organization, attendance at meetings and voluntary service for most are decidedly down. We are tending to invest less of our time and ourselves in organizations and activities, preferring a more limited interpretation of "paying our dues" than we used to. Increasingly our activities are more solitary. What does this mean for GSA?

Without volunteers GSA is an anachronism. Perhaps *the* most important single benefit a scientific and professional organization provides to its members is the opportunity to learn how to serve selflessly in pursuit of a common vision. This exposure and training is critical to GSA achieving its mission and to earth scientists learning how to define and achieve theirs. The GSA staff is there as much to facilitate members' growth into service and volunteerism as it is to provide professional services to us. Membership is first a contract for services, but more deeply a covenant rooted in shared visions and opportunities for shared experiences. With the hope of contributing in some way to the strength of this covenant I gratefully accept this honor



David E. Dunn

#### **Citation by Sharon Mosher**

David Dunn's service to the society has been truly exceptional. Until a year ago, David was treasurer, an office he held with distinction for nine years. During this time, he served with three executive directors and provided much needed financial continuity and sage advice at the leadership level. As part of his responsibilities he chaired the Budget Committee and served on the Audit, Investments, Global Review, and Executive Committees. As a councilor over that

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time, he played an active and influential role in shaping the society, mentoring new council members, and providing a much needed corporate memory of past councils. David's most important contributions are mostly invisible to the membership, but his impact on the society as a whole has been significant. David also has a long history of contributions to GSA, and he has been a Fellow since 1962. David was a founding member and a chair of the Structure and Tectonics Division, GSA's largest division. David's more than 20 years of service include being General Chair of the 1990 Annual Meeting, being on the *Geology* Editorial Board, and serving on the Short Course and Nominations Committees and on the Committee on Committees. David now serves as a member of the GSA Foundation Board of Trustees and brings his wide experience with GSA's finances to the Investment Committee. He is extremely deserving of GSA's Distinguished Service Award.

### **Response by David E. Dunn**

Mr. President, fellow honorees, friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen: During the 16 years I was affiliated with GSA Council in one capacity or another, I was privileged to serve under, and learn from, Presidents Reds Wolman, Brian Skinner, Gary Ernst, Jack Oliver, Bert Bally, E-an Zen, Bob Hatcher, Bill Dickenson, Dave Stephenson, Eldridge Moores, George Thompson, Vic Baker, Gail Ashley, Mary Lou Zoback, Sharon Mosher, and Tony Naldrett. What an incredible array of talent and dedication! I am grateful for the learning experience and for the opportunity to have served. It has been a labor of love that has greatly enriched my professional life. Thank you.



John W. Geissman

### **Citation by Sharon Mosher**

John Geissman has been a dedicated GSA volunteer who over the years has contributed to the society in many capacities. John served as editor of *GSA Bulletin* from 1994 to 2000 where he made numerous contributions to GSA publications in addition to fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of editor. He was the driving force behind having GSA's Data Repository available electronically, instituting a reasonable page charge policy, and establishing the staggering of Science Editor terms—hence, his extra two years of service in this time-consuming endeavor. John also has co-chaired two, combined Rocky Mountain–South-Central GSA section meetings in Albuquerque, one in 1991 and one in 2001. John's contributions continue to this very week. He is the Technical Program Chair for the Denver 2002 Annual Meeting and was responsible for scheduling and overseeing the entire technical program. This position is key to the meeting's success and is the most important and time-consuming of all jobs related to the meeting. John will continue to serve on the Annual Program Committee to help advise the next Technical Program Chair. We hope and expect that his contributions and dedication to the society will continue throughout his career. John has dedicated a tremendous amount of time and energy to GSA and is very deserving of the Distinguished Service Award.

### **Response by John W. Geissman**

Greetings.

I remember an experience, decades ago, in my parents bedroom, watching my mom pack a suitcase for my dad, for one of many professional society-related trips. And I of course asked "why"? She responded, "that's what he does"; later (because I asked why again?) he responded with something like "professional societies are the essence of science and engineering, without them and people actively participating in them, we'd be lost." At the time, it sort of whizzed over my head. Since, illumination has allowed me to understand his remark (and question why a spouse should pack a suitcase for another).

I thank the many members at GSA Headquarters, notably Nancy Carlson, Larry Bowlds, Faith Rogers, Melissa Cummiskey, and Jon Olsen. Very importantly, my family, graduate and undergraduate students, editorial assistants Cathy Ratcliff and then Mary Simmons, and UNM colleagues suffered through occasional rantings and ravings while *Bulletin* Editor, and TPC for this meeting. To Lynn Walter and Allan Glazner; thanks for the opportunity to work with you. Art Sylvester's 1987 phone call, saying "say, I just noticed your mug in *Eos*, for an Editor's Citation; I need you on the *Bulletin* AE Board, and you have no choice" was the beginning.

To relatively young (whatever that means) members of GSA, your time devoted to a professional society only enhances your appreciation of the wonderful science, and the way in which it is done, of which you are an integral part. To Frank Rhodes, thanks for the best class of my life, 32 years ago, in the nat sci building, at dear old Michigan.

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And to all of you, I hope you find this meeting as stimulating and rewarding as I have found my experiences working with the many dedicated GSA professional staff and volunteers. Thanks.