

### **A Few Words Of Acceptance**

Thank you, John. I barely recognize the person you described in that fine citation, but a few key words like "Ohio" and "Yale" and "Greenland" suggest that you might be on the right track. Warren asked me to say a "few words" in reply to the citation. In light of the interpretation of a "few words" at other ceremonies at this GSA meeting, I will take his suggestion literally.

As the 15<sup>th</sup> Awardee of the Gilbert Harris Award, I am delighted to to join such distinguished colleagues as Bill Oliver, Bill Cobban, Erle Kauffman, Brian Glenister, Rod Feldman, Tom Waller and, the only other brachiopod person so far, Art Boucot. More than one-third of the award winners were intimately associated with the SI/USGS group in the National Museum for nearly half-a-century.

Although each of us was a specialist in a major group of fossils, and produced an amazing number of systematic publications on just about every aspect of paleontology, none was merely a taxonomist. We worked together as a team (or teams) to solve geologic problems of every sort which, in the case of the USGS-related people, arose from every part of the globe and throughout the entire geologic column.

I have never considered myself a systematist, as such, but a paleontologist using my special knowledge of brachiopods to help solve geologic problems or all sorts— from simple age designations to interpretations of paleogeography, paleoecology and paleotectonics. Each new advance in technology has produced more and more complex geologic problems, many of which can only be solved by teams of scientists, including paleontologists, geochronologists, geophysicists, geochemists, and others. To produce adequate results, systematic work on any and all groups of fossils is essential. I feel fortunate, indeed, to have worked in the congenial atmosphere of the National Museum for all these years.

John mentioned my long-time dedication to PRI and the Museum of the Earth. I want to thank the institution, and Warren in particular, for honoring me with this cherished award.

Tom Dutro