

2014 Student Awards
GSA Vancouver
Citations by Gary D. Rosenberg
October, 2014

- 1) First Place:
Ashley Inglehart (PhD Candidate)
Department of History and Philosophy of Science
Indiana University, Bloomington
Supervisor: William R. Newman
Abstract: The “Sceptical Chymist” as Geologist? Robert Boyle on Mineral Formation.

Ashley Inglehart examined Robert Boyle’s thesis that mineral formation is the result of coagulated fluids, an idea that influenced Steno. By careful translation of Boyles’ writing on “Petrific Spirits” Ashley concludes that Boyle did not invoke mystical, vitalistic forces, but that he was starting on the road to modern explanations using empirical evidence. The lesson for all historians of science is to carefully consider the context of archaic writing in order to properly interpret the meaning that the founders of our science intended.

- 2) Second Place:
Stacy Phillips (MS candidate)
Department of Earth Sciences
Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John’s
Supervisor: John Hanchar
Abstract: The Origin of Granite: From Werner to Read, From Bowen to Chappell.

The origin of granite is still open to question some 300 years after the granite controversy of Hutton and Werner was resolved. How could three little minerals, quartz, feldspar, and mica which constitute a common rock, cause so much trouble? Stacy Phillips gives us the highlights of the enduring granite mystery to the present day and tells us how that history has improved the rigor of her own studies with cutting edge analytic equipment that adds new nano spatial and chemical dimensions to the mystery. What once was one big question mark now is hundreds of little question marks. Perhaps as Read concluded, “there are granites and then again granites.”