

Gerald M. Friedman

1921 - 2011

Gerry Friedman earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. He earned a Doctorate of Science from the University of London and received an honorary Doctorate of Natural Science from the University of Heidelberg in Germany. Gerry initially worked as a geochemist and petrologist in the Appalachians and the Canadian Shield. He then went on to become a research geologist and director of sedimentology research at the Amoco Research Laboratory in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Gerry began teaching at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1964. He retired from RPI in 1984 and went on to join the faculty at the City University of New York, Brooklyn, where he worked with graduate students and post-doctoral researchers on carbonate deposits, regional stratigraphy, the environmental geology of rivers, amongst a variety of other topics. He retired from CUNY in 2004, but continued his research on the sedimentology and stratigraphy of Paleozoic deposits and prospective gas storage reservoirs in New York State and evaporite and carbonate deposition worldwide.

Gerry was the founder and director of the Northeastern Science Foundation in Troy, New York, which hosts symposia and published several journals, including *Northeastern Geology*, *Environmental Science*, and *Carbonates and Evaporites*. He has served as an officer for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Geological Society of America, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, the New York State Geological Association and as President of SEPM Society for Sedimentary Geology as well as chief editor of *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology* (now JSR). He also served as editor of several other publications and as a member of more than 20 advisory committees. As the author or co-author of over 500 publications, his ability to communicate difficult topics is illustrated by his classic textbook, *Principles of Sedimentology*, co-authored with J.E. Sanders.

Gerry has won numerous prestigious awards for his work. He is the recipient of the SEPM Twenhofel Medal, our societies highest award, as well as Honorary Membership and Distinguished Service Award. Other awards include the American Geological Institute's 2005 Legendary Geoscientist Award, the Geological Society of America's Mary C. Rabbit Memorial Medal, the AAPG Sidney Powers Memorial Medal, the John T. Galey, Jr. Memorial Award, The Association of Earth Science Editors Award for Outstanding Editing, the Distinguished Educator Award and the Hollis D. Hedberg Award in Energy from the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man at Southern Methodist University.

In 1999, Gerry and Sue helped establish the SEPM Foundation **John E. Sanders Fund** for student research and later in 2002 the **Gerald M. Friedman Fund**, again for student research, was also founded by several of Gerry's students. Donations to the Foundation in Gerry's name can be made by contacting Theresa Scott at SEPM Headquarters.

In 2006, the SEPM Foundation published his autobiography, *Saxa Lonquintur (Rocks Speak): The life and times of the geologist, Gerald M. Friedman*. All proceeds from this book go into the SEPM Foundation.