

Earth Science Achievement Award Citation for Dr. Barry Kues
Prepared by Nelia W. Dunbar, April 12, 2019

Beginning in 2004, the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources has presented two annual Earth Science Achievement Awards, honoring citizens of New Mexico who have made outstanding contributions in to earth science in New Mexico, either in the arena of public service and public policy, or in the area of research and education.

I am honored and pleased to be presenting the 2019 Earth Science Achievement Award in Research and Education to Dr. Barry Kues.

Although I have known Barry for many years, I really got to know him when we worked on the NMGS executive committee together in 2009. Over the 4 years that we worked together on this committee, I developed an admiration and respect for Barry, and his dedication to New Mexico geology, which led to the presentation of this award today. As a paleontologist and stratigrapher, Barry has focused his research career almost exclusively on the geology of New Mexico, since he arrived at University of New Mexico in 1974. During his career, he has sought to develop a better understanding of the stratigraphy, paleobiology, and paleogeology of late Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks of New Mexico, and also to communicate the importance of paleontology to the public. Through his work, interactions with colleagues, and rigorous education of generations of New Mexico geoscience students, he has created a legacy that will go forward for many years to come.

Barry is originally from California, where he earned an undergraduate degree in zoology from Cal State Riverside in 1967, an MS degree in marine biology from UCSD in 1969 and a PhD degrees from Indiana University in 1974. He came to UNM in 1974, and has been here ever since. He retired from UNM in 2011, but has remained on as an emeritus professor.

In the 45 years since he began working as geology professor at University of New Mexico, Dr. Barry Kues has contributed greatly to the science of geology in New Mexico through research, teaching, leadership, and service. A paleontologist and stratigrapher, Barry has focused his research almost exclusively on New Mexico geological problems. Many of his 117 scholarly papers have been published in New Mexico-based journals, and focus largely on creatures that lived in or near shallow seas that covered New

Mexico between 145 and 65 million years ago. He has published technical papers on Cretaceous sauropods, mosasaurs, gastropods, crabs, bivalves, and nautiloids, among other things, and is also the author of the University of New Mexico Press book *“The Paleontology of New Mexico”*, which provides a detailed examination of the flora and fauna of New Mexico over the past 500 million years. His most recent book, *“A Brief History of Geological Studies in New Mexico with Biographical Profiles of Notable New Mexico Geologists”*, contains 42 sketches of the lives of men and women who influenced our understanding of the geology of the state, as well as a detailed narrative of the evolution of geoscience in New Mexico. Barry has authored, edited, or co-edited 14 other books, including 11 NMGS Fall Field Conference guidebooks.

In addition to being an engaged researcher, Kues has influenced the field of geoscience education at all levels. As a professor at the University of New Mexico between 1974 and 2011, and an emeritus professor since 2011, he has educated and inspired hundreds of students through the teaching a wide range of courses and the advising graduate students. He has also raised public awareness in New Mexico through his interactions with museums and public schools, and through his writings in newspapers.

Finally, given the presentation of this award at a New Mexico Geological Society meeting, I have to mention Barry’s long-term involvement in the society. Barry has been a long-time member of the society, and was awarded honorary lifetime membership in 1993, and later also served in the NMGS executive committee, where he generously served two consecutive years as society president. He also served on the NMGS publication committee for a number of years. He edited his first NMGS guidebook in 1976, and has been involved in editing another 10 since then. He has been leader of 2 NMGS field conferences, and has participated in many others, were he is often the person sought out to identify any “mystery fossils” that have been discovered. Barry always patiently and cheerfully identifies them, and explains about the world they lived in.

For all of these past and ongoing achievements, it is our privilege to present Barry Kues with the 2019 Earth Science Achievement Award in Research and Education, commemorate by the plaque, made of a polished slab of Belen travertine. Congratulations, Barry.