

## Natural Treasures of Milwaukee: The Story of Thomas A. Greene Geological Collection

On Friday, November 1st, the Thomas A. Greene Geological Museum, located on the campus of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, hosted an event celebrating their new [IUGS](#) (International Union of Geological Sciences) designation as the first (and currently only) Geoheritage Geo-Collection in the United States, in fact the only one in the Western Hemisphere.



Don Mikulic, curator at the Weis Earth Science Museum, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Fox Valley Campus, discussed the history of the collection which contains over 65,000 fossils and minerals most of which Thomas Greene collected, bought, or traded in the 1880's and 1890's. His fossil collections were extensive and consisted primarily of invertebrates—particularly brachiopods—from the Silurian Niagara Formation derived from quarries in the vicinity of Milwaukee. What makes this collection especially significant and worthy of this unique recognition is how well documented each specimen is with respect to where and when it was collected.

Rob Graziano, Instructional Lab Manager/Lecturer and Instructional Program Manager at UWM Geosciences then discussed the current status and future trajectory of the collection. They hope this new designation allows them to obtain grants to permanently staff the museum and resume the digital documentation and cataloging of the collection.

Don Mikulic and Dr. Lindsay McHenry, current department Chair of the Geosciences department at UWM presented the award. The event was attended by several WGS members: Pierre, Jody and Dave, Chris and Shannon, and Rebecca and Jared. Information on the Greene collection can be found at

<https://uwm.edu/geosciences/greene-museum/>

