

Candidate for IUGS Executive Committee

Position: Councilor (2026-2030)

Name: Renee M. Clary

Affiliation: Mississippi State University

Nominating Organization:
US National Committee to IUGS



Biography:

A long-term resident of coastal Louisiana, I began my career as a chemist employed in industry, then worked as a high school teacher, before I discovered geology as a nontraditional student. My thesis research involved micropaleontological and geochemical analyses of an Arctic core. I returned to teaching geology at the college level, and next completed both master's and doctoral degrees in geoscience education at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Louisiana State University, respectively. My doctoral research led me to the United Kingdom, where I became enthralled with the history of geology and the insights provided by different perspectives and cultures. This became a lasting passion, and since 2002, my research regularly incorporates the history of geology to improve science understanding in the classroom and the public. I actively participate in the Geological Society of London's History of Geology Group, the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO), and the History of Earth Sciences Society (HESS), of which I am now Past President.

I joined Mississippi State University in 2006 and have been promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor to Professor. I am an elected Fellow of four professional societies (Geological Society of London, Geological Society of America, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Mississippi Academy of Sciences), and have been honored with the National Association of Geoscience Teachers Transformation Award, a Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award, and the Mississippi Academy of Sciences Outstanding Contributions to Science Award. In addition to serving as a Professor of Geology, I am also the Director of the Dunn-Seiler Museum at Mississippi State University.

My research is broad and interdisciplinary. I mentor students in paleontology and geochemistry, as well as my primary research area of geoscience education. My research incorporates the improvement of visual learning through innovative visualization strategies, and the maximization of interdisciplinary geoscience learning experiences. Since 2004, I participated in International Geological

Congresses where I disseminated my research on fossil parks, geoscience education, and the history of geology. I work with colleagues across the world to broaden participation within the geosciences, facilitate a more geoliterate public, and promote geoheritage and sustainability of our planet.

Statement:

I am honored and humbled by the confidence my colleagues placed in me with this nomination. I am not afraid of hard work, especially when it results in increased global commitment to working towards solutions for our planet. A large part of my research focuses on increasing participation of historically underrepresented groups in geosciences so that *all* stakeholders can engage within our discussions and be a part of future solutions. I would like to continue these efforts as a Councilor in the International Union of Geological Sciences. If elected, I vow to listen, serve, and work toward shared solutions to the best of my ability.