

David B. Rowley

1954 – 2024

David Ballantyne Rowley was born on March 14, 1954 and passed away on May 30, 2024. He received his BS from Denison University in 1976 and his MS and PhD from the State University of New York at Albany in 1980 and 1983, respectively. After serving as a Research Associate and Senior Research Associate at the University of Chicago, he joined the faculty in the Department of the Geophysical Sciences in 1993 where he remained until his retirement in 2024. Along the way, he served as Department Chair from 1999 – 2006, and was the Editor of the Journal of Geology, run by the department, from 2008 – 2021.

David's research focused on understanding the motion of Earth's tectonic plates over its history and how they connect to the interior evolution of the Earth. He made significant contributions to the fields of paleogeography, paleoaltimetry, the formation of the Himalaya-Tibet Plateau, and the central role of heat from Earth's core in driving tectonic movement. He advised and served as a mentor for many early-career scientists, from undergraduate and graduate students, to postdocs, and junior faculty throughout his career. David's work earned him recognition from the American Geophysical Union, where he was named a Fellow in 2018.

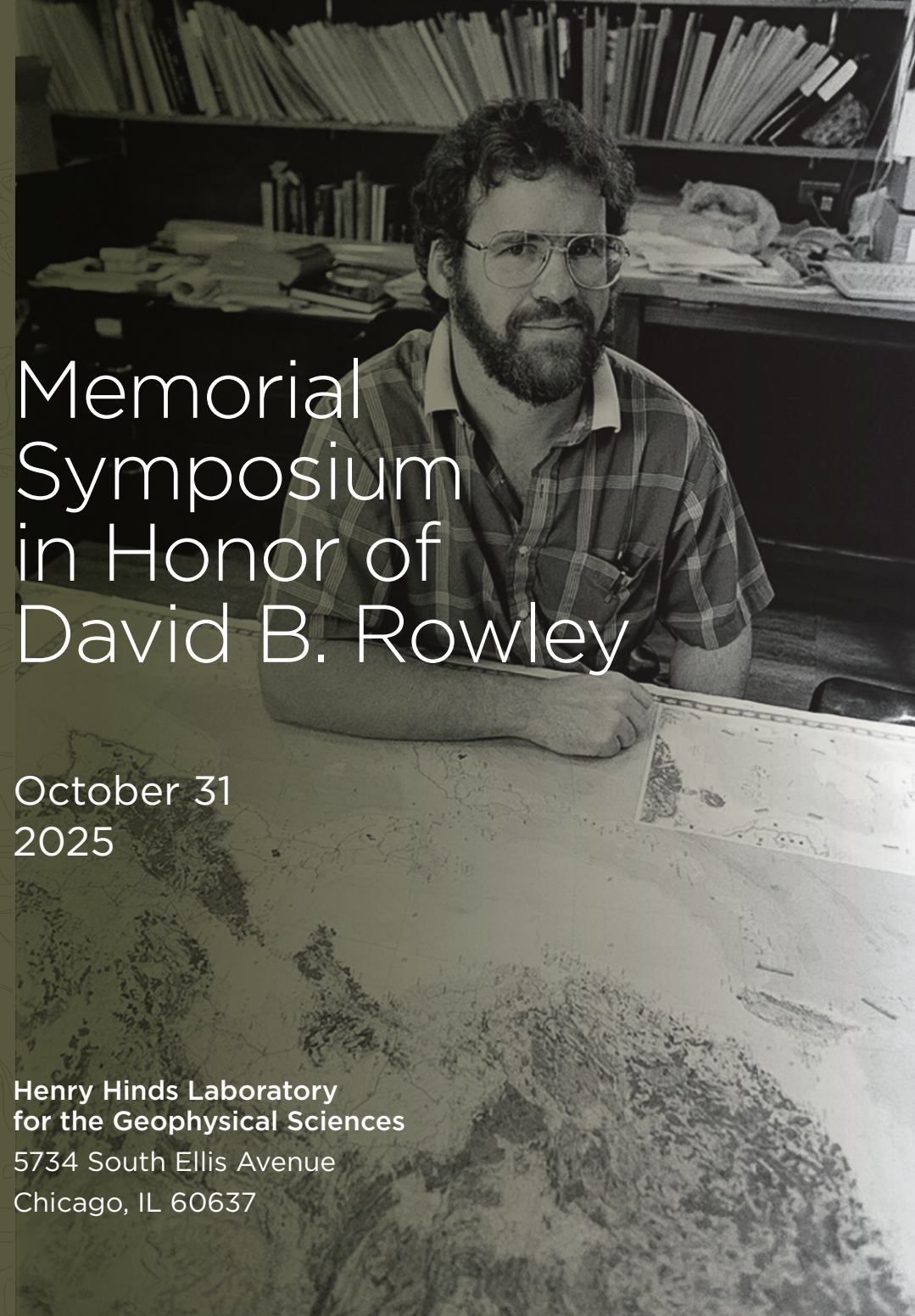


Memorial Symposium in Honor of David B. Rowley

October 31
2025

Henry Hinds Laboratory
for the Geophysical Sciences

5734 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637



9:00 AM — GOLDSMITH ROOM / HINDS 176
Welcoming Breakfast and Speaker Check In

SESSION I

9:45 AM — GOLDSMITH ROOM / HINDS 176

Welcome

Fred Ciesla

CHAIR, DEPT OF THE GEOPHYSICAL SCIENCES

Dave Rowley—A Big Issues Global Geologist

Frank Richter

EMERITUS PROFESSOR

Fred Ziegler

EMERITUS PROFESSOR

Stable Isotope-Paleoaltimetry:
David Rowley's Role in the Evolution
of a New Scientific Concept

Brian Currie

MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Paleoaltimetry:
What's Carbon Got to Do with it?

Albert Colman

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

When the Ridge Stands Still:
Reflections on a Shared Journey from
the East Pacific Rise to Earth's Core
A tribute to friend and colleague—
David B. Rowley (1954 – 2024)

Alessandro Forte

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

12:00 PM — GOLDSMITH ROOM / HINDS 176
Catered Lunch

SESSION II

1:15 PM — HINDS 101

Memories of Mountains:
How Dave Rowley Shaped My
Geologic Perspective

Michael Hulver

RETIRED; SAUDI ARAMCO

Long-Term Sea-Level Change
from the Bottom Up

Jerry Mitrovica

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Is Peak Oil Here, Again?

Shangyou Nie

NON-RESIDENT FELLOW AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY;
FORMERLY SHELL

Sea Level, Epicontinental Seas,
and Biogeochemical Cycles

Daniel Schrag

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

3:00 PM — GOLDSMITH ROOM / HINDS 176
Coffee Break

SESSION III

3:20 PM — HINDS 101

Dave Rowley on Paleogeography

Chris Scotese

FIELD MUSEUM; NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Tribute

Louis Derry

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Tribute

Lee Kump

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Tribute

Robert Moucha

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Additional Remarks

4:00 PM — GOLDSMITH ROOM / HINDS 176
Catered Reception

