Citation by Warren D. Allmon

It is with pleasure and honor that the Paleontological Research Institution presents its 2003 Gilbert Harris Award to Carole S. Hickman.

The Harris Award is presented annually by PRI in recognition of excellence in contributions to systematic paleontology, to a scientist who, through outstanding research and commitment to the centrality of systematics in paleontology, has made a significant contribution to the science.

Carole was born in LaSalle, Illinois. Her parents and teachers had encouraged her to become an artist because of her love of drawing, but she chose to study science because she wanted to understand the origins and utility of patterns, in addition to its aesthetics. She received her BA from Oberlin College in 1964 and went on to the University of Oregon for her Masters, where she became acquainted with Paleogene mollusks that were to occupy so much of her life for the next decade. She went on to produce two major monographs on Oregon Paleogene gastropods, in 1976 and 1980, both of which were published by PRI. She moved on from Oregon to Stanford, where she was among the last students of the great Myra Keen, and received her PhD from Stanford in 1975. She soon moved to Berkeley where she is now Professor of Integrative Biology.

Since then, Carole has been among the most creative of gastropod researchers. Although she describes herself as simply a morphologist, her research and writing have covered the range from ecology to taphonomy to anatomy to evolution, from protoconchs to radulae. Over the past decade she has devoted particular attention to the evolution and ecology of gastropod larvae, especially the larval shell. Her research is driven not just by the pursuit of understanding, but also by a deep aesthetic appreciation, and this is often reflected in her writing.