Sandra Herbert, University of Maryland Baltimore County



Sandra Herbert is Professor of History at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and one of the world's leading authorities on the geological works of Charles Darwin. She has devoted a lifetime of study to Darwin's notebooks and correspondence, as well as visiting sites which most influenced him, to understand the foundations of the ideas that culminated in On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection.

In 2007 she organised a major expedition to the Galapagos islands, to identify where Darwin visited and collected geological specimens. The findings shed new light on Darwin's research, as well as stimulating a new phase of research on Galapagos volcanoes, contributing to both the geosciences and the history of science.

She has made outstanding international contributions to our present understanding of the role that nineteenth century geologists played in the history of science, as well as bringing to the attention of both academic and public audiences the important geological contributions made by one of the world's most celebrated scientists.