

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
Vice President Nominee Biographies
(2019-2020 term)

Christopher J. Bell

Jessica Theodor



Christopher J. Bell

Current Positions: Professor, The University of Texas at Austin

Previous Positions: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, The University of Texas at Austin

Education: BS Geology, The College of William and Mary in Virginia, 1988; MS Quaternary Studies, Northern Arizona university, 1990; PhD Integrative Biology, The University of California at Berkeley 1997.

Professional Service (SVP):

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SERVICE - Secretary, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (September, 2009 – October, 2012).

HOST COMMITTEE SERVICE - Chair, Host Committee for the 2007 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Annual Meeting (held in Austin); (official responsibilities began in July, 2005) 2005 – 2007.

OTHER COMMITTEE SERVICE - Chair, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Archives Committee (October, 2012 – present). Member, Field Conferences Committee for the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (September, 2010 – 2015). Member, Development Committee, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (summer, 2005 – September, 2010). Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Awards and Funds, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (Spring, 2010). Member, Publications Committee, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2002 - 2005). Member, Student Poster Prize Committee, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (1998 - 2005). Member, Estes Award Committee, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (1999 - 2003). Member, Program Committee, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (1996).

EDITORIAL SERVICE - Editor, Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (2003 - 2004). Associate Editor, Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (1998 - 2002). Southwestern Region Editor, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology News Bulletin (1998 - 2002).

EXHIBITION SERVICE - (In collaboration with Steven Cohen and Lou Taylor) History of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology: A self-guided exhibit on the history of the SVP developed for, and on exhibit during, the 75th Annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Dallas, Texas in October 2015.

(In collaboration with Steven Cohen and Lou Taylor) Publications of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. Exhibit / display case developed for, and on exhibit during, the 75th Annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Dallas, Texas in October 2015.

(In collaboration with Laura Brenskelle, Matt Brown, Will Gelnaw, Chris Jass, Josh Lively, Selva Marroquin, Adam Marsh, Alicia Power, James Proffitt, Simon Scarpetta, and Chiara Tornabene) Photographic Reflections. A self-guided exhibit on the history of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology developed for, and on exhibit during, the 75th Annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Dallas, Texas in October 2015. A collection of 52 photographs of deceased members of the SVP, with accompanying obituaries or biographies, mostly published in the SVP News Bulletin.

Professional Service (non-SVP):

Co-Editor (with Travis LaDuc), Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (January, 2013 – present). Member, Editorial Board, Asiatic Herpetological Research (1998 – 2004; 2006 - present). Editor, Bibliotheca Herpetologica (Journal of the International Society for the History and Bibliography of

Herpetology) (Fall, 2008 – Fall, 2014). Participant, Summit on the Future of Undergraduate Geoscience Education, January 10-12, 2014, Jackson school of Geosciences, Austin, Texas. Editor, Scientific Publications series of the Texas Natural Science Center (Formerly Texas Memorial Museum), The University of Texas at Austin (Spring, 2008 – Spring, 2012).

Honors:

G. Moses and Carolyn G. Knebl Distinguished Teaching Award (Introductory Level Geology Course), 2005, 2006, 2008, 2014, 2016. Jackson School of Geosciences Outstanding Educator Award, December, 2010. The University of Texas At Austin Chancellor's Council 2006-2007 Outstanding Teaching Award, Spring, 2007. Texas Exes Teaching Award, Fall, 2006. Joseph C. Walter Jr. Excellence Award, Spring, 2006. Houston Oil and Minerals Corporation Faculty Excellence Award, May, 2004. UT Austin Dads' Association Centennial Teaching Fellowship, Fall, 2001.

Research Interests:

Evolutionary morphology of the skeleton of squamate reptiles; Quaternary paleontology, biogeography, and biostratigraphy of arvicoline rodents; History of vertebrate paleontology; impacts of 20th century wars on the study of zoology, natural history, paleontology, and geology.



Jessica Theodor

Current Positions: Associate Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary

Previous Positions: Assistant Curator of Geology, Illinois State Museum (2001-2006); Postdoctoral Research Associate; Dept. of Organismic Biology and Evolution University of California, Los Angeles (2000-2001); Postdoctoral Research Associate, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Brown University (1997-2000).

Education: B. Sc. Palaeontology, University of Toronto (1989); Ph. D. Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley (1996).

Professional Service (SVP): Information Management Committee, 1998-2002; Chair, Information Management Committee, 2002-2008; Program Committee, 2007-2008; Publications Committee, 2003-2011; Associate Editor, Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, 2009-2013; Co-chair, Local Organizing Committee, 2017 Annual Meeting

Professional Service (non-SVP): Taxonomic Databases Working Group: Subgroup on Accession Data, 1996-97; Member, Local Organizing Committee, 6th Annual Meeting, Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution 2011; Chair, Comparative Morphology and Development Section, Canadian Society of Zoologists, 2014-15; Vice-president, Canadian Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, 2017-2018; Member, Norman Newell Grant Committee, Paleontological Society, 2018-2019.

Honors: Claude Place Class of 1901 Award, University of California, Berkeley, 1990; National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, 1990-1994; George D. Louderback Award in Paleontology, 1993; Annie Alexander Museum of Paleontology Scholarship, 1995; University Faculty Award, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, 2006-2011; Meierjurgan Fellowship for Visiting Scientists, University of Oregon, 2015.

Research Interests: I am interested in the evolution of Cenozoic herbivores and their responses to changes in climate, vegetation, and biogeography. My work has focused on the evolution of ungulates using a variety of analytical techniques, with the goal of understanding the interactions between large mammalian herbivores and their environment.

I have been involved with SVP since my first meeting in 1988, and have seen the Society grow and change through that time. What has not changed is the commitment I see among the membership to sharing our excitement about the fossil record and what it can teach us about the environmental challenges we face. I think that the greatest challenges SVP faces in the next decade will come in communicating our science to the public in the face of increasing suspicion of expertise, and around the ways we can demonstrate and improve in our commitment to diversifying science.

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Secretary Nominee Biographies

(2019-2021 term)

Samantha Hopkins

Hans CE Larsson



Samantha Hopkins

Current Positions: Associate Professor of Earth Sciences, University of Oregon; Associate Dean, Clark Honors College, University of Oregon; Curator, University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Previous Positions: Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, University of Oregon Clark Honors College (2007-2014); Postdoctoral Fellow, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, Duke University (2006-2007); Temporary Faculty, Sonoma State University Department of Geology (2006)

Education: Ph.D. 2005, Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley. B.S. Summa Cum Laude 1999, Biology and Geological Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Professional Service (SVP): Member, Government Affairs Committee (2014-present), Member, Program Committee (2015-present). Session moderator 2003, 2008, 2011-13, 2015-16.

Professional Service (non-SVP): Member, Committee on Diversity in the Geosciences, Geological Society of America, 2010-13. President, Oregon Academy of Sciences, 2013-2014. Associate Editor, *Journal of Paleontology* (2016-present) and *Evolution* (2017-present). Curator, Explore Oregon and PaleoLab exhibits, University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Honors: Goldwater Scholarship (1998-1999), National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (1999-2003), National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (2004-2006), National Evolutionary Synthesis Center Postdoctoral Fellowship (2006-07), National Evolutionary Synthesis Center Short Term Visitor Award (2010), Williams Fellowship (2017), University of Oregon.

Research Interests: My research centers around the evolution of ecology in mammals. I examine these questions from both neontological and paleontological perspectives, combining phylogenetic comparative methods with geological fieldwork and taxonomy with biogeography. I am interested in the influence of biotic, climatic, and tectonic change on mammalian evolution, looking at how the diversity of mammals responds to external forcing and how those responses are constrained ecology and evolutionary process. While my personal taxonomic interests are primarily focused on small mammals, I have worked on a variety of mammalian clades in tackling evolutionary problems. My fieldwork and most of my research interests are focused in the mid-Cenozoic, the Oligocene and Miocene, although my work in recent years has increasingly incorporated the entire course of the past 40 million years. My field interests are focused on evolution of mammals in active landscapes, so I have worked in the Cenozoic of Wyoming, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Kyrgyzstan. In recent years, that fieldwork has led me to explore methods for teasing apart relationships between biostratigraphy and biogeography as an essential step to solving paleoecological problems.

I have been a member of SVP since I started graduate school in 1999. In my time as a member of the society, I have seen a huge growth in the awareness of members of SVP that we need to grow the diversity of our field. I am excited to take

part in efforts to support the increasingly diverse student membership and to consider how our society can help them find paths into careers, diversifying our professional membership. I also see the important role SVP can play in offering scientific advice on other societal issues, such as management of public lands and resources and climate change. I would be happy to take part in helping SVP support great science and its impact on society.



Hans CE Larsson

Current Positions: Director, Redpath Museum, McGill University; Professor, Redpath Museum, McGill University; Adjunct Professor, Dept. Biology, McGill University; Adjunct Professor, Dept. Earth and Planetary Sciences, McGill University.

Previous Positions: Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University (2001 - 2003)

Education: Bsc, Biology, McGill University (1994); PhD, Organismal Biology and Anatomy, University of Chicago (2000)

Professional Service (SVP): Member, Romer Prize Committee (2007 - present)

Professional Service (non-SVP): Associate Editor, Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society (2005 – present); Organizational Chair of the annual Canadian Palaeontology Conference (2014); Organizational co-Chair of the Genomes to/aux Biomes conference (2014); Organizational co-Chair of the annual Canadian Palaeontology Conference (2006), Chair of the Billings Medal - Geological Association of Canada, Canadian Palaeontology Division) (2005, 2015); Scientific Adviser to Parks Canada, Grasslands National Park fossil research policy (2007 – present); Member at Large for the Canadian Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology (2014 – present); Chair for the Canadian Palaeontology division of the Geological Association of Canada (2012 – 2014); Vice-chair for the Canadian Palaeontology division of the Geological Association of Canada (2006 – 2012); Chair of the Comparative Morphology and Development division of the Canadian Society of Zoology (2008 – 2009); Vice-Chair of the Comparative Morphology and Development division of the Canadian Society of Zoology (2006 – 2007)

Honors: Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists (2015 – present); McGill Biology Student Union Award for Best Classroom Instructor (2014-2015 academic year); Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (2014 – present); Canada Research Chair of Macroevolution, Tier II (2004-2014)

Research Interests: My lab researches Macroevolutionary patterns and processes. Research is split between three major axes with cross-interactions: paleobiology, developmental evolution, and theory. Spliced within these is a research direction working toward digitizing morphology. This effort is to bring the wealth of anatomical information in organismal biology into the 'digital age' where computational methods and rapid database sharing reign. Classical comparative anatomy requires a career to fully appreciate and describe restricted groups of organisms. Finding ways to digitize this complex information will bring anatomy on par with the already digitized molecular research. I currently manage a nano CT scanner to this effect. All research efforts in my lab are toward understanding how anatomy evolves. Research emphasis in my lab has been on two macroevolutionary transitions: fish to tetrapod and dinosaur to bird. Some ongoing tangential projects include Crocodyliformes evolution, high latitude paleoecology, high latitude extant terrestrial arthropod and plant biodiversity, fish skin biomechanics, molecular/morphological evolutionary rate covariance, and ecotoxicology on vertebrate embryos.

I joined the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in 1990 under the encouragement of Bob Carroll and Phil Currie. Since, I've attended nearly every annual meeting and appreciated the rise of the SVP. I've also appreciated the collegiality and diversity in the Society and its annual meetings as it's grown. JVP is the only journal subscription I maintain because I believe in the values of SVP and this is the society I feel helped me the most develop my academic career. At last year's SVP annual meeting, Phil asked me, over some pints, if I would be interested in being nominated for Secretary of the SVP Executive. I immediately said yes and would like to evolve my support of SVP at the Executive level. I direct a university museum, have been a member of several other society executives, and manage two large research and

infrastructure grants at McGill University. I would like to bring this experience to the SVP Executive to help the continued growth and development of our Society.

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Member at Large Nominee Biographies (2019-2021 term)

David L. Fox

Larisa R. G. DeSantis



David L. Fox

Current Positions: Professor, Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of Minnesota (started in 2001 as Assistant Professor); Graduate Faculty, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota; Graduate Faculty, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota; Museum Associate, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota

Previous Positions: NSF Earth Sciences Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Earth Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz (1999-2001)

Education: A.B. in Biological Anthropology, Harvard University (1987-1991); M.S. in Geological Sciences, University of Michigan (1993-1995); Ph.D. in Geological Sciences, University of Michigan (1995-1999)

Professional Service (SVP): Member (1996-2008) and Co-Chair (1999-2000), Membership Committee; Member, Host Committee, SVP Annual Meeting (2003); Chair, Romer Prize Committee (2006-2015); Member, Program Committee (2007-2015)

Professional Service (non-SVP): Treasurer and Editorial Board Member, *Palaentologia Electronica* (2003-present); Associate Editor, *Paleobiology* (2010-present); Associate Editor, *PALAIOS* (2011-present); Member (2012-2014) and Chair (2013-2014), Paleontological Society Committee on Nominations

Honors: Edward P. Bass Distinguished Visiting Environmental Scholar, Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies, Yale University (2010); Visiting Fellow, University College, Oxford University (2016-2017).

Research Interests: I am an evolutionary paleoecologist and my research focuses on the connections between changes in environmental conditions through Earth history and changes in the composition and structure of organismal communities. As we await the full extent of anthropogenic climate change over the next few human generations, understanding past connections between environmental change and biotic response gains currency as a means of understanding the potential impact of impending changes on today's biota. The primary tools I use are the stable isotope geochemistry of various materials (sedimentary minerals and organic matter; teeth, bones, and other tissues of fossil and modern organisms), the biogeography of modern and extinct vertebrate species, and quantitative analyses of the three dimensional morphology of the teeth, jaws, and skulls of fossil and modern vertebrates. Most of my projects focus on Cenozoic and modern ecosystems in North America and East Africa, with an emphasis on mammalian communities.

I joined the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in 1994. Since then, I have only missed two annual meetings, both due to unresolvable scheduling conflicts. I have been active in service to the SVP in various capacities since early on and I look forward to another opportunity to serve. Vertebrate paleontology is one of the main public faces of science, and as vertebrate paleontologists we have the chance to influence the next generation of scientists, and the SVP plays a critical role in this. I am eager to further the integration of studies of vertebrate evolution with broader areas of Earth and life sciences and to see closer cooperation with relevant scientific societies to protect scientific and natural resources and promote our sciences and the value of scientific research everywhere.



Larisa R. G. DeSantis

Current Positions: *Assistant Professor* (2009-present), Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Vanderbilt University; *Assistant Professor* (honorary appointment, 2015-present), Department of Biology, Vanderbilt University; *Research Associate*, La Brea Tar Pits and Museum (2014-present); *Research Associate*, East Tennessee State University Center of Excellence in Paleontology (2010-present).

Previous Positions: *Ph.D. Student*, University of Florida/Florida Museum of Natural History (2004-2009); *Museum Educator*, Moveable Museum Program, American Museum of Natural History (2003).

Education: B.S. (with honors), Resource Management, University of California, Berkeley (2000); M.E.M. with an emphasis in Conservation Biology, Yale University (2003); Ph.D. in Zoology with a minor in Botany, University of Florida (2009).

Professional Service (SVP): *Member* (2007-present) and *Co-Chair/Chair* (2014-present), Education and Outreach Committee; *Member*, Program Committee (2015-present), *Member*, Romer Prize Committee (2016-present). I have also contributed to the scientific program by co-organizing two symposia (2010, 2015) and a dental microwear texture analysis workshop (2014).

Professional Service (non-SVP): *External Advisor*, Smithsonian Deep-Time Exhibit Renovation (2014-present); *Science Advisory Committee*, Adventure Science Center (2014-present); *Review Editor*, *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* (2017-present); Reviewer for 20+ journals and multiple divisions within NSF (and other international science foundations). I have also assisted Homeland Security with cases that involved fossils; advised on scientific content for television shows that aired on National Geographic Wild, Showtime, the Discovery Channel, and the Smithsonian Channel; publicly advocated for quality science education in the state of Tennessee with the assistance of the National Center for Science Education; and, have engaged in numerous education and outreach activities in Tennessee, throughout the USA, and in Australia.

Honors: *Award of Recognition*, Vanderbilt School for Science and Math, for excellence in the mentoring of high-school students (2016); *Littlejohn Faculty Fellow*, Vanderbilt University, for the advising of undergraduate students on projects of superior merit (2015-2016); *CAREER Award*, National Science Foundation, the most prestigious award in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization (2015-2020), *Junior Faculty Teaching Fellow*, Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University (2015-2016); *Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award in Physical Sciences*, Oak Ridge Associated Universities (2011), *Florida Museum of Natural History Austin Award* for excellent research in the natural sciences (2009); *University of Florida Alumni Fellowship*, Department of Zoology (2005-2009), *Lucy Dickinson Fellowship in Vertebrate Paleontology*, Florida Museum of Natural History (2004-2009); *Southeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate Fellowship*, National Science Foundation (2005-2008); *Edward S. Deevey Award*, Ecological Society of America for the best Paleocology Student Presentation at the Ecological Society of America (2008). *Gainesville Women's Club Award* (2007).

Research Interests: My research lab, also referred to as the DeSantis DREAM Lab (Dietary Reconstructions and Ecological Assessments of Mammals), focuses on clarifying ecological and evolutionary responses to global change, at a variety of spatial and temporal scales. We use modern, historic, and fossil records to inform ecologists and conservation biologists about floral and faunal responses to environmental change with a focus on answering the following major questions: 1) *How has climate change affected mammalian communities and their floral environments*; and, 2) *How can we improve our understanding of the paleoecology and paleobiology of mammals through the integration of ecology, macroecology, geochemistry, surface metrology, and morphology*? Collectively, we ask interdisciplinary questions with a focus on the ecology and evolution of mammalian communities and their environments during the Cenozoic (primarily in North America and Australia).

Having enjoyed bringing fossils to schools throughout New York City via the moveable museum program at the AMNH (and other outreach programs at the Yale Peabody Museum and Florida Museum of Natural History), I have made education and outreach activities a priority. With the help of students, we organize a *Fossils at the Fort* event (which communicates fossil history embedded in a Civil War fort, to the public), participate in women in science events through the Adventure Science Center, mentor high school students, and disseminate research results to global audiences via virtual school visits and national science teacher association workshops. Since joining SVP in 1998 as an undergraduate student, I have valued the role SVP and its members played in my professional development—including helping me connect with students, mentors, colleagues, and now friends. I appreciate all of the many role models who have helped our society become more diverse, relevant to society, and have helped to improve our professional culture. I have worked to advance our ability to communicate both our science and broader impact activities via the establishment of the Education and Outreach Poster session (with the additional provision that you can now present both your research and educational outreach, if so desired). I have also helped organize and/or present teacher workshops on behalf of SVP in Austin, Cleveland, Dallas, and soon in Albuquerque—to help disseminate our research to local teachers (and their students). I have tried to help women connect and network via organizing and/or participating in various Women of SVP luncheons and social activities, over the years. I would be especially honored to serve the society in a broader capacity and help represent a diversity of perspectives, while also continuing to make our society and our science relevant to today's grandest challenges.
