SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY NEWS BULLETIN

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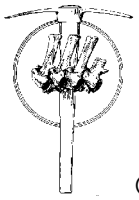

Table of Contents

Official Business

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SVP MEMBERSHIP

1999 has been a time of significant changes, challenges, and advances. Our Society remains incredibly vibrant, with significant professional achievements (reflected in the doubling of *JVP* submissions over the last four years, and the ever-growing number of Annual Meeting abstract submissions) and wide recognition of the significance of our work to the broader public (for example, press coverage of vertebrate paleontological work presented at the Denver meeting and throughout the year).

The first nine months of my presidency were consumed by an unpleasant, but essential set of "housecleaning" and "housekeeping" efforts. As many of you noticed, service under our former business office (Smith Bucklin and Associates) had deteriorated tremendously, following the departure of Pam D'Argo and Kathy Lundgren to raise their new twins and triplets (respectively). For those of you who worked closely with Pam and Kathy, you will be pleased to know that mothers and children are all doing well. We had become spoiled by their dedication and talents, but SBA was riddled with internal problems, related to dramatic changes within the organization (including, we later

learned, partial sale of SBA to a financial company). The SVP Executive Committee had attempted to work with Smith Bucklin to resolve their problems, but we ultimately determined that we should depart before a catastrophic extinction occurred (be it step-wise or impact-related, them or us), as it would be impossible for us to get the service we needed from them.

We are pleased to introduce to you the staff of our new business office, run by the much smaller, but very talented and service-oriented Sherwood Group. Our business office is run by Administrative Executive Greg Schultz and Meetings Coordinator Liz Freyn (Greg and Liz are two of the three partners in the firm, so they have a lot invested in making the SVP office work well). Sean Allen runs the day-to-day operations of SVP's business office and Deb Pederson is Liz' assistant. At Sherwood, the whole team is supported by a group of talented accountants, publications experts, and other support staff.

Vibrancy of SVP

The vitality of our organization is reflected in so many different ways. These include:

Fund-raising

1999 was marked by significant gifts from nonmembers and members--the generosity of all of you keeps SVP going. I especially would like to acknowledge the continuing, and extremely forward-looking, sponsorship of SVP awards by three dedicated supporters of paleontology--Joe Chance, Ying-Chien Chang, and John Lanzendorf. David Krause (Chair of the Development Committee) also will announce soon an important fund-raising program already initiated by the SVP Past-Presidents.

Steadily Growing Submissions to Our Flagship Journal, Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology

The Executive Committee remains committed to printing the large number of *JVP* pages published annually--each volume of the *JVP* contains at least 800 large format pages, up from 640 pages only a few years ago. Submissions continue to grow, and our editors have done an amazing job with review and publication. I especially wish to thank David Elliott, now completing his three-year term as Co-Editor, for his dedication and leadership of *JVP*. The editors and Publications Committee also worked hard to increase our ability to report more science, by reformatting the journal (font, margins, illustration sizing, etc.) to add another 15-20% more text to every volume.

The past few years have been marked by a series of wonderful *JVP Memoirs* (Wilson and Sereno [dinosaurs], Grande and Bemis [fishes], Rowe et al. [crocodile]), supported by the authors and various external funding sources. In addition, Memoir Editor Nick Fraser has developed a pilot marketing arrangement with the University of Chicago Press, enabling us to sell the Memoirs to a larger scientific audience. The Rowe et al. monograph represents SVP's first foray into electronic publication--overall a great success, but one marked by a few unpleasant lessons (we apologize to those of you who received broken CD-ROMs, and of course have replaced them!). We hope to continue to move actively into more electronic publication initiatives in the future.

Membership
SVP now has more than 1,900 members--our largest membership ever!

Meeting Attendance
Registration for the Denver Annual Meeting was more than 1,000 registrants--also the largest ever! Each of the past four annual meetings has been marked by growth in our attendance, by professionals, students, avocational paleontologists, vendors, and the press. We look forward to seeing you all at our next Annual Meeting in Mexico City (the first time in Mexico since 1983). That was a marvelous meeting, and 17 years later, our 2000 Annual Meeting promises to be a great success with numerous field trips, a great program, and an opportunity to interact with our host colleagues and students.

While growth of our meetings is exciting, we remain acutely aware of the pressures created by such a large number of attendees, and related increases in both platform and poster sessions. This requires us to ensure that the meeting location can handle such a large number of attendees, investigate the need for expanding the number of meeting days (more costs for attendees) and/or running more concurrent sessions (logistical hassles and fewer opportunities to sample the breadth of an SVP meeting), and debate relative merits of meeting in large versus small communities. We also continue to monitor the cost of our meetings--while it can seem that our meetings are expensive, our host committees and business office work hard to contain costs, through tough negotiations with meeting venues and hotels, identifying cheaper housing alternatives, active solicitation of sponsorships for social events, etc. Meeting in a large city often yields higher room and food costs, but travel and meeting venues can be cheaper and our meeting can be held in a single location. Dale Winkler (Treasurer) has done an informal comparison of our meeting costs to those for comparable societies--our registration costs are not especially high (particularly since we include a banquet and several other social events, breakfast items and snacks at coffee breaks, etc.). Comparison to the GSA (and Paleontological Society) meeting that followed SVP in Denver was especially telling, with our costs significantly lower. For now, we are trying to maintain our historical and current programs, including meeting in a variety of different-sized cities throughout North America (focusing on those willing to host such a large meeting, in places with VP collections and/or access to field trips), while containing costs as much as possible.

Joint Endeavors with Other Professional Societies
At the Denver GSA meeting, SVP co-sponsored an all-day teacher's workshop and associated publication (EVIE--"Evolution: Investigating the Evidence") with the Paleontological Society (PS) and GSA. In January 2000 the SVP and SICB co-sponsored a symposium "Beyond Reconstruction: Using Phylogenies to Test Hypotheses about Vertebrate Evolution". Finally, the SVP Executive Committee and Paleontological Society Council adopted a joint statement of the societies, on fossil resources on US federal lands (see below). It has sometimes been claimed that there are wide disagreements among professionals regarding protection of fossil resources, but this document makes it clear that we have a common perspective and many more areas of accord than disagreement. We hope this joint statement, by the two largest professional

paleontology societies in the world, will be useful for our peers, land managers, and public policy discussions.

Budget
Treasurer Dale Winkler, and his predecessor John Bolt, have steered a prudent course for SVP, even during the difficult transition of business operations. We are in very good shape now, after years of careful prioritization of expenses and budget planning to reduce "spend-down" of our unrestricted contributions or endowment income ("pseudo-deficit" spending, in which revenue from journal subscriptions and membership dues does not cover basic operating costs). With growth of our Web site (another all-volunteer effort), many of the functions of the News Bulletin can now be handled more and effectively, leading SVP to move to a twice-yearly *News Bulletin* publication schedule (see below), with enhanced Web site and meeting circular announcements. Because of this careful budgeting, SVP now can begin small-scale expansion of key initiatives, such as further support for our publications, creation of a major Web site, expanded committee and award programs, etc. The survey that accompanied your annual membership renewal was designed to help the Executive Committee understand your priorities for SVP as we move forward.

Dedication of Committees
We all know that SVP is primarily a volunteer-run organization. Remarkably, a huge percentage of our membership (and even many nonmembers) are willing to serve SVP through committees and other efforts. Without those efforts, most of our operations would stop completely, like the journal, Web site, committees, etc. Most of our committees were quite active this year, including those recommending winners for a record number of prizes and awards, the GLC (and sister organization SAFE) dedicating major efforts to advising on policies for fossil resources from federal lands, the Education Committee collaborating on joint workshops and books, and the Information Management Committee spinning-off a new initiative for the SVP Web site (to be managed by it first Editor, David Polly, with several associate editors including the first appointee, Mark Uhen). We look forward to continued advances from all our committees over the coming year.

New Initiatives and Continued Challenges
SVP can, and will, continue to grow and evolve. This must include maintaining our existing strengths, and focus on our core mission of promoting science and understanding of vertebrate paleontology. While the great majority of our members are professionals and students, we include increasing numbers of dedicated avocational paleontologists, artists, and other friends of paleontology. This member diversity reflects both recognition of the many ways to contribute to our core missions, and the broader societal impact of vertebrate paleontology. Our annual meetings should remain a celebration of the vibrancy of our field, the breadth and depth of our science, and an opportunity to exchange ideas with old colleagues or make new ones. It remains a challenge to determine sites that can handle our huge meetings, while allowing access to collections and field sites and maximizing professional discourse.

Our most visible legacy is through publications. As mentioned above, we continue to seek means for publishing more scientific papers of the highest quality. This includes maintaining or expanding the *JVP* and *Memoirs*, creating a Web Editor position (supported by associate editors), and exploring novel avenues of publication. New publication efforts include co-sponsoring the electronic journal *Paleontologica Electronica*, melding of electronic and print publication (like the Rowe et al. Alligator Memoir), and consideration of other styles of Web-based or electronic publications.

Beyond publications, we need to seek creative ways to broaden the impact of our discipline. The Web site is an obvious means to do so, including initiatives in development by the editor and several committees. It also is clear that databases will be essential to future scientific investigations, as recognized by governmental agencies and foundations throughout the world. SVP is involved in on-going discussions regarding a variety of database initiatives that can build on our unique BFV database, and perhaps our expertise and data from the collections made or supervised by many of our members. We are looking for ways to use these initiatives to increase funding for our members' programs, collections, and students.

Funding for science, particularly field- and collections-based ones like paleontology, remains extremely limited. While traditional funding sources should continue to provide support for many aspects of our work, SVP should seek additional ways to fund our work in particular. This is founded on a variety of development efforts, like that being initiated by the Development Committee and SVP Past-Presidents, complemented by new and continued support from dedicated patrons (within and outside the Society, like Joseph Chance, Ying-Chien Chang, John Lanzendorf, Don Baird, Herbert Axelrod, the estates of Francis Schloeder and David Jones, several anonymous donors, and others over the past few years). The Development Committee continues to set its sights high, by exploring ways to increase our endowments dramatically, to provide significant support for vertebrate paleontology research (in addition to the funds for our current SVP programs).

Even though we are one of the largest paleontology professional societies in the world, we really represent only a small segment of the broader scientific community and society. Exploring common ground with related organizations is essential. Our traditional relationships with the Geological Society of America (fostered by SVP member and GSA administrator Cathleen May), the American Geological Insitute (particularly relating to government affairs), and The Paleontological Society remain strong. These relationships are complemented by newer connections with biological organizations like SICB, and discussions with members of anthropological professional societies (especially regarding their experiences with vulnerability and protection of artifacts from federal lands). We have had productive discussions with the new Executive Director of the Association of Systematics Collections, Bobbie Faul-Zeitler, and she is very supportive of joint programs with SVP and other organizations. For many years, the SVP has been committed to assisting governmental agencies in developing policies and programs for protecting fossils and enhancing the knowledge and educational programs derived from them (examples include GLC, SAFE, Presidential, and member letters to the Department of the Interior during formulation of recent policy recommendations).

In addition to these positive trends, we must seriously consider the bigger impact of vertebrate paleontology on science and society, and potential threats to our science. VP is one of the most powerful ways to engage and educate children, and to interest adults, in science--there is a clear public fascination with fossils (vertebrates in particular), and they provide some of the key sources of information on evolution and change through time in land, marine, and freshwater environments.

But we must transcend simple fascination and help instill a deep appreciation of the rarity and importance of vertebrate fossils, so that people better understand the significance of our work and the importance of discovering and preserving vertebrate fossils for future generations. Recent school curriculum decisions in several states make it clear that public education in general, as well as teaching of evolution in particular, remains an area in which we must focus attention. The Executive Committee sent letters indicating that evolution is an essential component of science curricula (for example, see letter to the Governor of Kansas), while the Education Committee and SVP members continue to organize and participate in relevant workshops and edited volumes.

There are clear indications that many people view fossils as mere commodities, rather than the bearers of the record of past life. While sale of fossils has long occurred, both legally and illegally, commercial markets continue to grow and threaten long-term preservation of scientifically and educationally significant fossils. Serious damage or pilfering of sites occurs throughout the world, as do illegal collecting and exportation of many fossils. We must make every effort to stop these losses, and encourage those who collect legally, to do so responsibly and to deposit significant specimens in public institutions. Nowhere has this increasing commercialization been more obvious than through recent on-line auction sales of fossils by eBay, Discovery/Amazon.com, and others. These sales caught the eye of both professionals and the press, as they cannot ensure that important specimens are placed in a public repository (as stated by SVP's ethics by-laws). Discovery's joint auctions with Amazon.com were the focus of many discussions at the Denver SVP meeting, leading to a formal SVP statement (later in this issue), and a previously solicited comment I wrote for the January 2000 issue of AGI's magazine *Geotimes*. On Saturday evening of the SVP meeting in Denver, Discovery sent a representative to meet with members whose work has been featured in Discovery programs, as well as SVP officers. Discussions were intense and extensive, sometimes heated, but conveyed the concerns held by the SVP and individual members. Discovery offered to have senior executives meet with SVP to help resolve our concerns--this is an extremely positive offer, and we intend to pursue active discussion in early 2000. As SVP members, we must remain active in education and providing clear responses to issues that threaten our ability to undertake research and education and to preserve significant fossils for future generations. Please help in any way you can.

As I enter the last eight months of my term as President, I am excited to continue working with you on the many programs we have underway, and to explore new ways to make SVP better. I remain amazed by the complexity of our organization, often barely keeping up with the wide array of things that we need to do. But I am always motivated by the knowledge that so many of our members are so deeply committed to SVP, and that our

objectives are important to both our profession and to others (plus, someone else gets to do this job soon, Richard Stucky!). 1999 was another successful year for SVP, and 2000 promises continued progress.

Thanks.
John

LETTER TO KANSAS GOVERNOR BILL GRAVES FROM SVP
27 December 1999

Dear Governor Graves:
On behalf of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and its Executive Committee in particular, we write to express our support for your efforts to bolster the teaching of evolution in Kansas public schools. Our organization consists of more than 1,800 faculty, museum curators, amateurs, and students from over 40 countries--all of us are interested in vertebrate fossils, the evolution of vertebrates and life in general, and the history of the earth. Many of us in the Society are teachers, and evolution is at the core of our classes and our research.

Evolution and earth history, which are intellectual foundations of paleontology, are important components of public science education. These sciences offer a detailed understanding of the processes by which biological diversity arose, how artificial selection works on the biological resources that humans use for food, and how disease organisms affect their hosts. The teaching of evolution is an excellent example of the process of scientific discovery and of hypothesis-testing in science. Evolution is the only rigorously tested, and widely accepted, scientific theory that explains the past and present diversity of life. Also, learning about the history of life adds to our understanding and appreciation of the value and complexity of life, and the breathtaking diversity of life on earth today. None of these scientific teachings demean the stature of human beings or the special mental and technical abilities of humans. The goals of teaching evolution and earth history are to increase our understanding of the earth, its biological and physical resources, and the choices and consequences of using those resources in different ways. The goals of teaching evolution and earth history are not to undermine anyone's religious faith.

We feel that the Kansas State Board of Education has done students a great disservice by removing any mention of evolution from the state standards examination. The Board has thereby chosen to undermine the most important idea in biology and one of its most critically tested and extensively corroborated theories. Evolutionary knowledge is critical to the current practice of agriculture, medicine, conservation, and oil exploration, as well as to fundamental research in biology and geology. A substantial understanding of science today requires knowledge about evolutionary patterns and processes.

We appreciate your support for the teaching of evolution. Many members of our Society would be willing to speak publicly to the value of learning about evolution and the history of the earth. Please call upon us if we can further support your cause.

Most sincerely,
John J. Flynn, President; Louis L. Jacobs, Past President; Richard K. Stucky, Vice-President; Catherine Badgley, Secretary; Dale Winkler, Treasurer; Zhexi Luo, Member-at-Large; Richard Cifelli, Member-at-Large; Kenneth D. Rose, Member-at-Large

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY STATEMENT REGARDING THE SALE OF VERTEBRATE FOSSILS ON LINE

The following motion was passed unanimously by the Executive Committee of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology on 20 October 1999:

"The recent auction of vertebrate fossils on Amazon.com, sponsored by the Discovery Channel, has raised significant issues for members of the Society. According to the ethics by-law of the Society, 'The barter, sale, or purchase of scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is not condoned, unless it brings them into or keeps them within a public trust.' We are deeply concerned by the on-line auction sale of vertebrate fossils, as the nature of the process cannot assure that scientifically significant fossils are deposited into not-for-profit scientific and educational institutions.

The Executive Committee of the Society will actively pursue dialogue with the senior officers of Discovery Communications, Inc., to inform them of the ramifications of vertebrate fossil sales, with regard to issues of theft of specimens from public and private sources, restrictions in access to important specimens by students and professional scientists, and related issues.

We hope this dialogue will result in joint efforts by Discovery and SVP members to protect vertebrate fossils so as to derive the maximum scientific and educational benefits from them, and to collaborate on public education efforts."

At the SVP Annual Business Meeting, 21 October 1999, Denver, Colorado, a motion was proposed from the floor that the membership vote to formally demonstrate support for this Executive Committee action. The motion of support was approved by all present (approximately 200 members), with one dissenting vote.

JOINT POSITION STATEMENT BY THE PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY ON PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES ON US PUBLIC LANDS

The Paleontological Society and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology are committed to increasing scientific knowledge, educational benefits, and appreciation of the natural world based on fossils--for everyone--child or adult, the general public, or amateur or professional paleontologists. Fossils are an invaluable part of our scientific and natural heritage. They yield detailed information about the history of life and of our planet, and provide lessons for the modern world and our future.

Many important fossil localities occur on US public lands and belong to all people of the United States, including future generations. The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology and

The Paleontological Society therefore support the development of policies and practices that can be used by different federal agencies to regulate the collection of fossils on US public lands in an appropriate, clear, and consistent manner.

Many fossils are common (for example, many nonvertebrate fossils) and should be allowed to be collected--in a responsible way--by any amateur or professional paleontologist, thus allowing them to experience and benefit from the excitement of discovery, recovery, identification, and study. In particular, because of the benefits that derive from increased public appreciation of fossils, it is important that the participation of amateurs in paleontology is not discouraged by federal policies and practices.

Other fossils are rare (for example, many vertebrate fossils and some nonvertebrate fossils), and require special protection, especially from destruction by vandalism or commercial exploitation. In particular, because of the dangers of overexploitation and the potential loss of irreplaceable scientific information, commercial collecting of fossil vertebrates on public lands should be prohibited, as in current regulations and policies. The commercial collecting of other paleontological resources on US public lands should be strictly regulated by permit through the appropriate land management agencies. Regulations and polices regarding the collection of paleontological resources from US public lands should be strictly enforced.

In this context, the Council of The Paleontological Society and the Executive Committee of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology strongly support actions that:

- protect fossils on public lands as finite natural resources;
- encourage responsible stewardship of fossils for educational, recreational, and scientific purposes;
- promote legitimate access to, and responsible enjoyment of, paleontological resources on public lands by the public and amateur paleontologists for personal use, and by the professional paleontological community, including professional paleontologists from outside the US; and
- bring fossils from public lands into public institutions where they are available for purposes of education and scientific research.

Approved 24 October 1999

NEW GUIDELINES FOR *SVP NEWS BULLETIN*

Publication Schedule

Starting in 2000, two issues of the *News Bulletin* will be published each year: the Spring issue (March) and Fall issue (September). The *News Bulletin*s will be mailed in bundle with the *JVP* in March and September respectively. Information on the SVP Web site and mailings to members (e.g., meeting circulars, membership renewal notices) will include supplementary information, delivered in a more timely and cost-effective manner.

Submission Deadline and Copy Due Dates

Copy is due to the Managing Editor by January 5 (for regional and foreign editors) and

January 19 (for the business office) for the Spring issue; July 1 (for regional and foreign editors and business office) for the Fall issue.

As usual, member news items should continue to be sent to the regional editors following their submission requirements (see inside front cover of print version for delineation of districts and contact information). All other items (e.g., announcements, obituaries, etc.) should be sent to the Managing Editor (Mary Ann Schmidt; note new e-mail address: maryanns@andrew.cmu.edu; see inside front cover of print version for mailing address). Preferred format for these submissions is via e-mail, with the text included in the body of the message, not sent as an attached file. Of course, fax, hard copy, and disk copy are still acceptable. Photos and illustrations should be printed and mailed, not sent as attached e-mail files or disk files.

Contents
The Spring issue will contain: the SVP annual business meetings minutes, secretary and treasurer reports, awardees, committee reports, auditors report, committee listings; and announcements for upcoming awards. The Fall issue will include notices for annual meeting and awards.

All issues also will contain new members, news from members, order forms, application forms, endowment contributor and sponsor listings, president's report, or other important SVP news. The News from Members must be a readable narrative. The text should not contain listings of papers published, in press, etc. The *News Bulletin* will no longer print address corrections, which will be up-dated by the biannual membership directories and handled routinely by the SVP Web site.

Page Limit
There is a limit of one printed page per institution for news from members.

ANNOUNCING: THE SVP ARCHIVES
The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology has been developing an archive for many years to document the founding, history, and activities of the Society. This archive is professionally maintained by the Smithsonian Institution. We need your help to ensure that this record be as complete as possible. In addition to maintaining complete series of both the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology and News Bulletin, the archives will include relevant records of Society business, such as formal minutes of executive committee meetings, annual financial reports, legal documents, annual reports by committees, and publications associated with each annual meeting.

The SVP Archives should also include records and memorabilia of historical value, such as photographs of meetings, distinguished members, early field expeditions, and obituaries of presidents, honorary members, and awardees. The archives may also serve as a repository for field notes or other documents critical to the value of vertebrate fossil collections. If you have any such photographs or other appropriate materials, we encourage you to make them part of the SVP Archives. Color or black-and-white prints are preferred. Please attach a separate piece of paper to each photograph indicating:

identity of people in the picture, place taken, when taken, and name of the photographer. Before sending material, contact one of the following two members: Sally Shelton, Collections Officer, Room 414B, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560-0107, (Shelton.Sally@nmnh.si.edu); or Blaire Van Valkenburgh, Department of Organismic Biology, Ecology and Evolution, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1606 (bvanval@ucla.edu).

Guidelines for SVP Archives

The archives will document the founding, history, and activities of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, hereafter referred to by the acronym, SVP, from its beginning to the present, excluding those records currently in use. Documents shall be available to all, with written permission of the President of the SVP.

The records will include minutes and accounts of all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Annual SVP Business Meeting; annual reports by committees; fiscal records and correspondence; biographical data of past and present members; memorabilia of the Society; and voucher sets of all Society publications. The records will not include any internal correspondences, such as e-mails, of the Executive Committee or any other SVP committee, and SAFE records.

The responsibility for the SVP archives will be carried out by a standing committee of at least two (2) persons. The committee chairperson will act as liaison between the Smithsonian Archives (repository) and the Society. It will be the chairperson's responsibility to receive material listed in the guidelines and transfer it once a year to the repository. As far as is possible, it will also be the responsibility of the chairperson to locate those documents relating to SVP history that appear to be missing.

Below are listed materials appropriate for the archives.

A. Priority items: these should be placed into the archives on a regular (e.g., annual) basis:
    1. *SVP News Bulletin*s;
    2. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*;
    3. Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings;
    4. Annual financial reports (which may be part of the minutes);
    5. Legal documents such as audit reports; anything that is a formal legal document (deeds, gifts, acquisitions, delegations of responsibility, contracts with non-SVP entities);
    6. Annual reports by committees;
    7. Programs, abstracts, and logos of each annual meeting.
B. Optional materials: The optional materials to be included would be up to the designated archival person but should be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee. Included items might be:
    1. records and memorabilia of historical value (e.g., photos of meetings; photos, obituaries of distinguished members; photos of early field expeditions);

2. field notes.

Use of the Smithsonian Archives
The Smithsonian Institutions Archives is open to the scholarly and general public. Material received by the Archives is placed in acid-free boxes and envelopes. Accumulated material is reviewed and finding guides and aids are established. A publication for the researcher, Guide to the Smithsonian Archives, is regularly published by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

To protect the documents entrusted to its care, the Archives requires researchers to conform to certain search-room procedures which generally requires identification and registration to use archives, acknowledgments of materials used, and adherence to rules for handling materials. Permission to quote from any document in its holdings is required. The Archives recognizes that many documents in its physical possession are not the literary property of the Institution, and the staff will endeavor to inform the researcher when permission to publish should be sought elsewhere.

The Archives recognizes that some restrictions on access to records are necessary to protect personal privacy, legitimate proprietary right, or to maintain confidentiality. (Blaire Van Valkenburgh)

MINUTES OF THE 59TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 21 OCTOBER 1999, DENVER, COLORADO
John Flynn, President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed the group to the business meeting. He noted the strong status of membership in the Society and the strength of theJournal and Memoirs. Also, he summarized the change in the Society's business office and introduced the principal SVP staff members from the Sherwood Group. On the horizon for the coming year are strategic planning for the next several years, increased efforts in public education, greater interaction with other professional societies, and participation in relevant political and legislative issues.

Catherine Badgley presented the Secretary's report. First, a motion to accept the minutes of the 58th Annual Meeting was moved, seconded, and passed by acclamation. Next, she reviewed highlights of the minutes of the June 1999 midyear meeting of the Executive Committee. Notable actions from this meeting include approval of new guidelines for proposing a symposium at annual meetings; establishment of the new Chang Award to support collaborative research in vertebrate paleontology between American and Chinese scientists; the proposal to produce two rather than three News Bulletins each year, with the option of members receiving an electronic rather than paper version; discussion of hearings at the US Department of Interior about federal review of fossil resources on public lands and the importance of SVP members writing letters during the comment period; decision, following the recommendation of the editors of JVP and David Polly, to post the tables of contents and abstracts of *JVP* on the SVP Web site; SVP becoming a Tier 1 sponsor of *Paleontologica Electronica*; approval of guidelines for submitting material to the new SVP archives; discussion about moving election of SVP officers to earlier in the year; and establishment of new SVP positions of Web Editor and Associate

Web Editor. Catherine also reported on the results of the 1999 election, in which she was re-elected as Secretary for another term, Dale Winkler as Treasurer for another term, and Ken Rose as Member-at-large. Finally, she summarized attendance figures (over 1,000) for the Denver meeting and noted that 17 countries were represented by participants.

Dale Winkler, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's report. He reviewed the account balance and distribution of investments for the 1998 1999 fiscal year. He also presented the 1999 predicted and 1999 actual budgets and compared the near-actual budget for 1999 with the proposed budget for 2000. (See Treasurer's report, page 20.) A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was moved, seconded, and passed by acclamation.

A number of committee reports followed; detailed committee reports are published beginning on page 35 of this issue. Donald Prothero, Program Committee chair, summarized changes to this year's program. He mentioned the new guidelines for the number and submission of proposals for Wednesday symposia. There was similar attendance of the four symposia at this year's meeting as at the eight symposia at last year's meeting. Web-based abstract submission operated more smoothly this year than last, and over 90% of abstracts were submitted in this manner. An unusally large number of abstracts was submitted this year, requiring considerable adjustment of the program. A question arose from the membership about peer review of abstracts versus censorship, and some discussion ensued. In this context, Kevin Padian proposed a motion that criteria for accepting an abstract for a platform versus poster presentation be published on the SVP Web site, with notification to this effect in the first circular. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

Tony Fiorillo, co-chair of the Education Committee, presented the report for this committee. He noted that there were more applicants this year than last for the Pre-doctoral Fellowship. Also, SVP co-sponsored production of a book, Evolution--Interpreting the Evidence, in association with a workshop for K-16 teachers at the 1999 GSA meeting immediately following the SVP meeting in Denver.

Becky Mattison, co-chair of the Membership Committee, gave this committee's report. She showed the 1999 membership figures in comparison with those of previous years. Currently, the membership of SVP--1,929--is at an all-time high.

David Polly, chair of the Information Management Committee, presented the committee report. He noted that the Web-based abstract submission process is working better this year than last. The domain name, "vertpaleo.org," has been registered for the SVP Web site, to be implemented at an unspecified future date. There will be two or more Web editors for managing the Web site, which continues to grow in content and operations. New additions to the SVP Web site this year include the tables of contents and abstracts of JVP issues from 1994 1998, with more on the way, and also guidelines for using the SVP archives.

Rich Cifelli, chair, presented the report of the Publications Committee. He noted that SVP has agreed to become a Tier 1 sponsor of *Paleontologica Electronica* in 2000. *JVP*

Memoir 6 came out this year with an accompanying CD-ROM; Rich asked for feedback from the membership about the CD as a publication enhancement. Discussion is underway about a new editorial structure for *JVP* because of the increased workload resulting from an increase in submissions. Finally, Rich praised the work of Don Prothero in preparing the supplement to *JVP* issue 3 (Abstracts and Program of the 1999 meeting).

David Krause, chair, gave the report of the Development Committee. He described a new planned-giving program that would originate with the SVP past presidents. Also, he noted several large donations to SVP in 1999. He mentioned that Stuart Sumida will join him as co-chair of the committee.

Ted Vlamis presented the report for SAFE (Save America's Fossils for Everyone). He reviewed the collaboration of SAFE with the Government Liaison Committee during 1999. He described the report from the Department of Interior on regulations for collecting fossils on public lands. The report was expected to be made available to the public within a few days of the SVP meeting. Ted strongly encouraged SVP members to comment on the report during the 30-day comment period. He also mentioned Senate Bill S610 about the sale of BLM land. Finally, he noted the estabishment of a new SVP fund--the Government Affairs Fund--and a raffle for an airline ticket to Mexico City, as fund-raising mechanisms to support SVP's presence on Capitol Hill.

Mike Woodburne, co-chair of the Government Liaison Committee, gave the report of this committee. He emphasized the importance of SVP members contributing to the new Government Affairs Fund. He mentioned the work of Jan Campbell, who has been monitoring legislative issues in Washington, D.C., for over a year, in collaboration with SAFE and the Government Liaison Committee. Laurie Bryant also noted the 30-day comment period for the Department of Interior Report about fossils on public lands and recommended sending comments via letter or fax rather than e-mail.

David Elliott, one of the *JVP* editors, reported on the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. First, he thanked Dick Fox and Jim Mead for their work as editors of the journal during an expansion phase. David noted the growth of the journal, with 141 submissions this year, compared to 66 two years ago. Over the last year, the journal contained 72 research publications, comprising 786 pages. Also, the time between receipt of a manuscript and decision about acceptance or rejection has decreased; likewise, the time between acceptance and publication has diminished. The rejection rate is about 30%.

Blaire Van Valkenburgh reported on the newly established SVP archives at the Smithsonian Institution. She issued a general request for submissions of records, photos, obituaries, and possibly field notes of SVP members. Guidelines for submissions to and use of the archives are posted on the SVP Web site and appear later in this *News Bulletin*.

President Flynn called for new business. Richard Stucky raised the subject of the sale of fossils on the Internet through Amazon.com and promoted by the Discovery TV channel. This matter had been brought to the attention of the Executive Committee as an issue requiring a response from the Society's leadership. Richard presented the motion, passed

unanimously on 20 October 1999, by the Executive Committee of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology: The text of this response appears later in this *News Bulletin*.

The motion of support was approved by all present (approximately 200 members), with one dissenting vote.

Invitations to future SVP meetings were made. Oscar Carranza gave the invitation to the 2000 meeting in Mexico City, hosted by the Instituto de Geolog¡a. The dates will be 25-28 October 2000. Four field trips are planned. Pat Leiggi gave the invitation for the meeting in 2001 in Bozeman, Montana, hosted by Montana State University and the Museum of the Rockies. Future meetings are open to suggestions. Tentative plans are underway for the 2002 meeting to be held in Oklahoma City.

John Flynn announced the time and place of the open Executive Committee meeting and invited the membership to attend.

Finally, the Motion of Thanks to the Host Committee was given by Greg MacDonald:

Wow, what a meeting! I've been a mile high since I got to Denver. At this point in the business meeting, I'm sure many of you are expecting me to say a few things in a well-known format. However, recent developments in Kansas have forced me to consider a new approach. I'd like to think of our annual meetings as a kind of revival, and this year, since the chair of the host committee is named Graham, I think it is even more appropriate. So I'd like for you all to take a moment and quietly contemplate these meetings and the opportunity we have had here to ponder the mystery of the past history of life on this planet.

Now give me a big hallelujah--I mean a big hallelujah! For is it not written in Ezekiel, "Can these bones live?" And I say as a vertebrate paleontologist--YES--Give me a hallelujah!

Thanks be to our field trip leaders for we have walked in the valley of dry bones, whether it has been from the Triassic to the Tertiary or the hallowed ground in Meade County, Kansas, where Claude Hibbard strode. And for this I think we should all say--Hallelujah!

And to ensure that we do not go astray nor wander too far from our fossil sites nor that we lose our stratigraphic position, we have been introduced to the miracle of GIS and GPS, and for that we give thanks.

And we give thanks to our symposium organizers, for is it not appropriate that we have discussed the genesis of bonebeds? And while loaves of bread were not shared during the symposium on fish heads, knowledge was shared, and for that I call on all the participants to give me a big hallelujah! And while I have no idea on how to work cladograms into this, I am sure there are many out there who undoubtedly would say hallelujah for Hennig.

And is it not written in Ezekiel, "There was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone?" So I say, let us give a hallelujah to the organizers for the Silver Anniversary preparator's symposium for making it possible for these words to be true.

So my fellow paleontologists, I ask you all to stand up and be counted and to testify by rising up and bringing your hands together to show your appreciation to our host committee for this 59th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, as we acknowledge the efforts of Russ Graham, Logan Ivy, Ken Carpenter, Bryan Small, Cheryl DeGraff, Emmett Evanoff, Peter Robinson, Paul Murphy, Martin Lockley, our field trip leaders, symposium organizers, and program committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. (Catherine Badgley, Secretary)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOTIONS
Motions passed by e-mail during 1999:
MOTION: Funds received from the 1999 Auction held at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology shall be designated into endowment for support of the Patterson Prize to support graduate-student research.
Proposed by: Richard Stucky
Seconded: John Flynn
PASSED: 11/9/98

MOTION: SVP agrees to join the Paleontological Society in co-sponsorship of the book,Evolution--Investigating the Evidence, to be published by The Paleontological Society and to be ready for release at the Denver GSA meeting in October 1999. SVP support will include a contribution of $500, and SVP will be acknowledged as a sponsor of the book, with a request that the SVP logo appear on the cover.
Proposed by: John Flynn
Seconded: Rich Cifelli
PASSED: 11/25/98

MOTION: Accept the guidelines for an SVP archive at the Smithsonian Institution, as set forth by Blaire Van Valkenburgh, Zhexi Luo, and Sally Shelton.
Proposed by: Catherine Badgley, amended by John Flynn
Seconded: Richard Stucky
PASSED: 12/1/98

MOTION: Accept Nick Fraser's recommendations about *JVP Memoirs*, in four parts. (1) SVP agrees to exchange a complimentary exhibitors-booth registration at the Annual Meeting for the University of Chicago Press display of the *JVP Memoir* series and an advertisement/order form (produced at SVP cost) at the relevant meetings for which they have an exhibitor booth. (2) The order form should contain some marking that enables the SVP Business Office and University of Chicago Press to monitor success of Memoir sales, to determine if we might enter into direct marketing of the *JVP Memoir* series by the University of Chicago Press in the future. (3) The SVP should obtain ISBN numbers for all future *JVP Memoirs* (beginning with no. 5), in addition to the ISSN numbers that

would be assigned to the Memoirs shipped to SVP members as supplements to the JVP. (4) The SVP should obtain, retroactively, ISBN numbers for existing *JVP Memoirs*, to enable sale and distribution of the Memoirs outside of member mailing, assuming the cost is minimal.
Proposed by: John Flynn
Seconded: Richard Stucky
PASSED: 12/9/98

MOTION: Approve the proposed 1998-99 budget, as presented and discussed at Snowbird, subject to the modifications made at the Annual Meeting and potential additional modifications, when approved by the Executive Committee, during the fiscal year.
Proposed by: Catherine Badgley
Seconded: Louis Jacobs
PASSED: 12/14/98

MOTION: SVP offers discounts to bookstores and book dealers on sales of *JVP Memoir* 4. These discounts are on a nonreturnable basis only. For orders of 1-9, a discount of 20% is offered; for orders of 10 or more, the discount is 30%. In addition, for up to one year, SVP should offer a discount of 20% to customers who order Memoir 4 on forms displayed by University of Chicago Press at symposia and professional meetings (subject to a modified agreement that may be entered into later).
Proposed by: John Flynn
Seconded: Rich Cifelli
PASSED: 12/19/98

MOTION: Accept the recommendation of the ad hoc Search Committee for a replacement firm (for SBA) to accept the Sherwood Group proposal for services, as specified in their reponse to the SVP's RFP solicitation and in updated documents to the Executive Committee. If approved, the Sherwood Group will become SVP's management firm as of 1 March 1999.
Proposed by: Blaire Van Valkenburgh
Seconded: Zhexi Luo
PASSED: 1/29/99

MOTION: SVP approves the request (as amended by Dale Winkler) from Dave Elliott and Jim Mead, current editors of *JVP*, to cover expenses (registration and airfare) to attend a seminar on editor training, sponsored by Allen Press in Lawrence, Kansas.
Proposed by: Rich Cifelli, amended by Dale Winkler
Seconded: Zhexi Luo
PASSED: 3/15/99

MOTION: Two parts concerning *JVP Memoir* 6 were proposed by Nick Fraser. (1) The SVP orders 1,000 extra copies of Memoir 6 to be sold at $35 per copy (this fee to include postage and packing). The Society will offer discounts of 20% to customers ordering on forms distributed by the University of Chicago Press at conferences and meetings at

which it exhibits. In addition, the Society will provide a 30% discount to book dealers who order ten or more copies on a no-return basis. (2) The extra copies of Memoir 6 should have the ISBN number printed directly on the cover at a one-time cost of $450.00.
Proposed by: Catherine Badgley
Seconded: Rich Cifelli
PASSED: 4/6/99

MOTION: Accept the guidelines for symposia at annual meetings, as presented by Don Prothero.
Proposed by: Catherine Badgley
Seconded: Rich Cifelli
PASSED: 6/26/99

MOTION: SVP accepts (1) the report about the new preparator's award (report submitted by Amy Davidson and the Preparator's Award Committee and modified by John Flynn), and (2) the name of the award as the "Joseph F. Chance Preparator's Award."
Proposed by: Blaire Van Valkenburgh
Seconded: Zhexi Luo
PASSED: 6/29/99

MOTION: The Executive Committee shall create two new positions for managing the SVP Web site. The positions are Web Editor and Associate Web Editor.
Proposed by: Blaire Van Valkenburgh
Seconded, Catherine Badgley
PASSED: 9/1/99

TREASURER'S REPORT
This budget summary was presented at the annual meeting in Denver and represents preliminary results of the closing figures for FY 1998–1999.

Review of Endowment and Investment Funds as of 30 September 1999
The SVP investment funds, managed by Merrill Lynch, posted modest gains for the year ending 30 September 1999, well in line with comparable investment mix indices. Our transition of management companies during this fiscal year affected not only the operating budget, but also the timely transfer of assets to the investment portfolio. This should be rectified in the coming fiscal cycle with money residing in relatively low-yielding bank accounts being moved to the Merrill Lynch account. All funds are commingled, except the Estes Endowment. Total investment income for the year was $144,249.

Our asset allocation continues to be near the recommended mix with 61% in fixed income securities and 39% in equities. This ratio reflects a slightly higher proportion of equity-oriented mutual funds than last year, but closer to previous targets. The change is due largely to the strong performance of our mutual fund holdings relative to the fixed income investments. Overall, the portfolio value would have been higher if not for the loss in spot resale value (weak bond market) of the fixed income securities (we do not

sell them prior to maturity anyway). Our fixed income holdings (a five-year bond ladder of CDs and investment-grade corporate bonds) provide a reliable income stream to facilitate the Society's programs and initiatives. Going forward, this income stream will be slightly depressed by the relatively low interest rate environment over the past year when part of the bond ladder matured and was reinvested. Rising interest rates of late and new contributions from members should help recoup this loss.

Review of FY 1998–1999

Administration

Administrative income derives mainly from member dues. Although added costs were incurred this fiscal year due to the change of management companies, total expenses were not far off budget, and an unexpected increase in membership revenue more than offset this loss.

Investment and Endowment Fund

As noted above, the SVP investments did reasonably well, with earnings on investment coming in well above budget.

JVP

Our overall loss in this category stems from the fact that membership dues do not cover the cost of publishing the number of pages included in the annual volume. Also, far fewer authors have contributed voluntary page charges toward publication of their articles in the past year. The budget overrun in this line comes from Memoir publication and has been recouped in part, and covered by new donations to the Society.

Annual Meeting

The budget saver for the year was the unexpected revenue from the Annual Meeting in Snow Bird. Attendance was far above projections and many registered late (at higher fees), thus generating a handsome profit for the Society. This year, proceeds from the annual auction were not included in the Annual Meeting budget, but were allocated to SAFE for fossil protection efforts in Washington. Hats off to the Annual Meeting Committee.

Summary

Our largest single expense continues to be the JVP. With current revenues we can continue to print approximately 800 pages and to make improvements in some of the other SVP programs and begin small initiatives. We continue to see declining income from the sale of the BFVs and have had lower than expected sales of the JVP Memoir 4. However, these form a relative small part of our overall revenue. FY 1998–1999 proved to be a very successful year for the SVP despite some turmoil.

Summary of Proposed FY 1999–2000 Budget

The proposed budget assumes conservative projections for administrative income and earnings from investment funds.

Administration
We project revenue and expenses to be near last year's levels.

JVP
The proposed budget is based upon maintaining a high page production for the next volume.

Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting is projected to be successful in making a profit for the Society, an expectation no doubt bolstered by the record attendance.
Some relatively small changes are reflected in the proposed budget including: an increase in the Estes Award and Patterson Prize, the initiation of full sponsorship of Paleontologica Electronica, and an upgrade to the Web-hosting abilities of the SVP.
Overall, a modest budget deficit is projected for operations, which will be easily offset by some of the earnings from the investment funds.

Summary of the FY 1998–1999 Budget
Financial Statement Summary:

1999 Budget Budget-Actual Variance 1999 Year End Preliminary
Membership/Administration
Increase 123,300 24,678 147,964
Expense 29,820 (44,580) 74,400
Net Increase (Decrease) 93,480 69,258 73,564

Leadership & Awards
Increase 200 200 0
Expense 9,500 2,186 7,314
Net Increase (Decrease) (9,300) (1,986) (7,314)

Journal
Increase 57,350 (3,353) 53,997
Expense 109,800 (7,215) 118,075
Net Increase (Decrease) (52,450) 3,862 (64,078)

News Bulletin
Increase 1,400 (5) 1,395
Expense 18,500 690 17,810
Net Increase (Decrease) (17,100) (695) (16,415)

Merchandise Sales
Increase 3,430 (417) 3,013
Expense 2,130 (2,796) 4,926
Net Increase (Decrease) 1,300 2,379 (1,913)

Annual Meeting
Increase 143,155 51,030 194,185
Expense 90,205 (6,227) 95,473
Net Increase (Decrease) 52,950 57,257 98,712

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS LESS ENDOWMENT 68,880 82,556
ENDOWMENT INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS 122,572 172,915

1999 GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUNDRAISING DONATIONS: $32,000
1999 RESTRICTED DONATIONS: $2,150
Summary Proposed FY 1999–2000 Budget
Financial Statement Summary:

2000 Budget
Membership/Administration
Increase 144,080
Expense 118,633
Net Increase (Decrease) 25,447
Leadership & Awards
Increase 14,600
Expense 47,798
Net Increase (Decrease) (33,198)
Journal
Increase 56,830
Expense 119,870
Net Increase (Decrease) (63,040)
News Bulletin
Increase 1,575
Expense 23,105
Net Increase (Decrease) (21,530)
Merchandise Sales
Increase 5,140
Expense 4,520
Net Increase (Decrease) 620
Annual Meeting
Increase 192,550
Expense 153,800
Net Increase (Decrease) 38,750
General Endowment
Increase 112,500
Expense
Net Increase (Decrease) 112,500

OPERATING REVENUE $414,775
OPERATING EXPENSE $467,726

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS LESS ENDOWMENT $(52,951)
2000 GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUNDRAISING GOAL: $40,000

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
REVIEW OF NET ASSETS

Net Asset	9/30/99 Value	09/30/98 Value	09/30/97 Value	9/30/96 Value
Permanently Restricted				
Patterson Award	$19,226	$16,960	$13,869	$4,864
Estes Memorial	43,247	39,704	32,390	27,399
Axelrod	156,022	0	0	0
Temporarily Restricted				
Patterson Award	10,161	10,161	10,161	10,161
Romer Prize	11,858	8,519	8,942	6,636
Skinner Award	37,045	33,942	31,869	18,920
Chance Award	76,020	0	0	0
Unrestricted	1,461,293	1,449,769	1,233,143	1,100,019
Total Net Assets	$1,814,872	$1,559,055	$1,330,374	$1,167,999

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS

Major Type of Investment	9/30/99 Value	09/30/98 Value	09/30/97 Value	9/30/96 Value
Money Market/Cash Management Account	$288,719	$270,197	$189,901	$123,040
Money Market funds	68,273			
Mutual funds	660,261	555,211	514,386	289,373
Corporate bonds	157,823	177,407	66,550	65,996
Certificates of deposit	671,945	672,242	536,034	580,144
Government Security	10,034	10,354	110,619	112,051
Total investments	$1,857,055	$1,685,411	$1,417,490	$1,170,604

NOTE: Prior period information is shown for comparison purposes only. Research on the financial records at the end of 1999 indicated a need to change previously held assumptions regarding the restricted funds, resulting in changes to specific net assets, but not the overall net assets of the organization.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUCTION COMMITTEE

The auction at the 1999 Annual Meeting in Denver will be devoted to increasing the SVP endowment specified for the Patterson Award. The level of these funds presently allows for an award of only about $1,000 (currently supplemented from other funds to $1,200). Through the auction we hope to bring the funds to a level capable of funding the kinds of truly adventurous fieldwork students are capable of proposing. The Committee is grateful to the SVP Executive Committee for this important opportunity. (James M. Clark, Chair)

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee continues to develop the structure of a planned giving program. The program was dealt a serious setback with the recent change in management firms in that much of the headway made by Pam D'Argo, Betsy Nicholls, and Don Lofgren was lost in the shuffle. Nonetheless, a renewed effort is being made to get this program off the ground.

The program will be launched by the Past Presidents of the Society and you should expect a letter from them soon. You will be asked to consider changing your will and pledging a certain amount to the Society upon your passing, or upon the passing of your designated beneficiaries, as many Past Presidents have already done. Although some have pledged more, the Past Presidents have jointly decided upon a minimum amount of $1,600. This amount is equivalent to regular membership in the Society in perpetuity. It was calculated by realizing that an interest rate of 5 per cent of $1,600 will yield the current membership rate of $80. We sincerely hope that each of you will join in this effort, an effort that we regard as a building block for other initiatives. The Executive and Development committees are actively working on other ways to substantially increase the endowment through solicitations to companies, foundations, and non-members, but obtaining donations from outside of the Society will be that much easier if we are able to demonstrate that SVP members are a dedicated lot, committed to the future of our discipline.

The SVP has received several significant donations in the 1998-1999 fiscal year:

· Ying-Chien Chang of Athens, Ohio, donated $2,000 to support collaborative USA-China vertebrate paleontological field research in China. Ms. Chang has agreed to continue support, at the rate of at least $2,000 per year, with a will bequest for permanent future support.

· David B. Jones, a long-time member of the Society and regular attendee of the annual meetings, bequeathed $16,720.90 to the Society.

· Malcolm C. McKenna and Susan K. Bell, co-authors of their recently published "Classification of Mammals Above the Species Level", have generously agreed to donate the royalties from the sale of the book to the Society. The Society has received checks for $3,237.67 from each of them.

· Similarly, Michael Woodburne has generously volunteered to donate the royalties from his edited volume "Cenozoic Mammals of North America: Geochronology and Biostratigraphy," to the Society.

The SVP is very much indebted to all of these individuals for their generous contributions to the Society. (David Krause, Chair)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
During the past year, the SVP Education Committee focused energies in four areas: the SVP Pre-doctoral Fellowship; the book,"Evolution: Investigating the Evidence, co-sponsored by the SVP and The Paleontological Society (PS); the teacher workshop of the same name to be held as part of the Annual Meeting of the GSA in Denver, October 1999; and new paths to explore.

SVP Pre-doctoral Fellowship
We had five applicants (including one from Russia), compared to the two from last year. We would still like to see an increase in applications and will discuss strategies with the committee during our Roundtable at the SVP meeting. We reached a consensus on the recipient of the Pre-doctoral Fellowship, that person being Brenda Chinnery of Johns Hopkins. Her title was "Morphometric analysis of form and function in the neoceratopsian postcranial skeleton." The committee also recommended that F. Robin O'Keefe should receive an honorable mention without monetary award.

Evolution Book with the Paleontological Society
The book is entitled "Evolution--Interpreting the Evidence" (EVIE) to be published by the PS and available in Denver for the October meetings. Co-edited by Dale Springer, Chair of the PS Education Committee, and Judy Scotchmoor, the book is meant to serve as a resource for all science educators and the interested general public. This peer-reviewed book consists of 23 articles contributed by the scientific community.

The EVIE Workshop
The SVP and the PS are co-sponsoring a teacher workshop to be held on Saturday, 23 October 1999, as part of the K-16 education program of the annual GSA meeting. The program includes 13 presentations followed by a panel discussion. The target audience is science teachers, grades 6-16.

New Paths to Explore
SVP in Mexico in 2000 We would like to develop a teacher workshop for this meeting and are currently investigating possible funding sources for participating teachers. We have not yet been successful.

Expanding the SVP Web Site
We have had preliminary discussions with David Polly about adding a Paleontologist of the Month section to the SVP Web site. This would include profiles of both professional and amateur paleontologists, concentrating on those less often seen by the public. We would also like to include a section that highlights young students in paleo and have identified four great stories we would like to tell.

Boy Scout Merit Badge
Following suggestions from our last Roundtable discussion, Tony Fiorillo and Jim Diffily have made inquiries into establishing a national merit badge in paleontology through the Boy Scouts of America. The news was not encouraging as the process can take up to ten years. As an alternative, a regional award program may be possible to implement in a

much shorter period of time. In contrast to the bureaucracy of the BSA, if a national merit badge is a goal we may be better off establishing one through the Girl Scouts of America as they seem more receptive to new ideas.

An SVP Survey
Gabe Lyon is working on a proposed survey for SVP members so that we have a clearer picture as to what kinds of outreach projects our members are involved in and where idea-sharing would be advantageous.

There will be another SVP Education Roundtable scheduled for the 1999 meeting. (Tony Fiorillo and Judy Scotchmoor, Co-Chairs)

GRADUATE STUDENT LIAISON
My duties this past year have been to hear comments/concerns from students about the Annual Meeting and any other issues concerning the grad students of SVP and then pass those comments on to the President. The majority of the student comments have to do with the high cost of attending the Annual Meeting. I have passed this concern on to John Flynn and he assured me that SVP as a whole does a lot for graduate students but cannot afford to lower the registration costs for students at the Annual Meeting.

Despite this, students, in general, feel that the cost of attending meetings is too high and that SVP should do more to offset this expense. I suggested to John Flynn and Lou Jacobs that the graduate students could start a fund-raising operation to create an endowment for graduate students to provide grants for research and to help defray the annual registration costs of the SVP conference. I would like to develop this idea further if the executive committee allows me to. I would also like to present this thought to the graduate students of SVP and get their opinions. Other concerns/comments made by students included a request for a speaker at the graduate student luncheon at the meeting. I am happy to say there will be a speaker this year. Another student e-mailed me and asked if there was a list of students who needed roommates for the upcoming conference in Denver. Unfortunately, such a list does not currently exist. However, I do plan to generate some sort of list before the Mexico City meetings. (Ted Macrini)

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Abstract Submission
This was the second year that we have used the Web for abstract submission for the Annual Meeting. Generally this works very well: most users have no problems, it greatly reduces the editing required, and it automatically produces a small database containing the submission information. There were a few bugs with submission, though. At least two abstracts were not received properly and the authors had to resend via e-mail. At least one other user had problems when italics formatting extended over more than one line. If you had other unreported problems, please let David Polly know by January or so and we will try to correct the problem for next year's run.

A total of 370 abstracts were received by Web: platform talks, 159; posters, 127; student posters, 19; Romer Session, 15; symposia, 49.

Bibliography Volunteer Network
Following vrtpaleo listserver discussions, the IMC took up the task of coordinating a volunteer network to add new references to SVP's on-line vertebrate paleontology database. John Damuth and Jessica Theodore agreed to coordinate the process. They are working with some of the vrtpaleo discussants to get something going. John has now developed prototype forms for adding new references. The next step will be to organize volunteers who want to enter appropriate bibliographical information. It is not conceived that this exercise can hope to duplicate the depth or breadth of coverage provided by the Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates project, but it should at least allow coverage of key journals in on-line searches of our database.

SVP Internet Domain Name
Thanks to the efforts of both Ralph Chapman and Greg Schultz, SVP now owns the Internet domain "vertpaleo.org." Other more obvious names, such as "svp.org" and "svp.com" already belong to other organizations. We will begin making use of this name in the coming year, which should mean that our main Web site becomes "www.vertpaleo.org" and Business Office e-mail addresses become simpler. Associated with this will come major decisions about whether the Society continues to rely on server space provided voluntarily by our members and their institutions or whether we contract space directly from a commercial provider. Both have advantages and disadvantages.

On-line Membership Directory
For several years now, the SVP Web site has hosted an on-line directory of vertebrate paleontologists' e-mail addresses. This began as a searchable form of the vertpaleo subscription list and has grown through the voluntary contribution of information from vertebrate paleontology. However, over the years confusion has grown about the distinction between the on-line directory and SVP's membership directory. The two have been completely separate and, until now, we have avoided posting information directly from the membership directory to protect the privacy of members. This year on the membership renewal form we will ask each member whether he or she would like their address information to be provided on line and will then create a new database covering those who respond positively. We hope to accompany this with an on-line form allowing users to update their contact information with the Business Office electronically.

***JVP* on the Web Site**
The IMC has been working with the Publications Committee to enhance use of our site as regards *JVP*. As a start, we now have the tables of contents for volumes 1 through 18 and abstracts(!) for volumes 14 through 18. There is also an author index for the latter which allows the user to browse an alphabetical list of authors with links directly to relevant abstracts. Karen Nordquist, a volunteer at the Field Museum, has been scanning covers to enhance the contents page layouts. We will continue working with the Publications Committee in studying the feasibility of providing data matrix files for downloading, printing corrections for papers, and making the article submission process more electronic. (David Polly, Chair)

MEDIA LIAISON COMMITTEE
During the past year, the Media Liaison Committee has been involved in a number of activities aimed largely at increasing the public profile of the SVP and its members.

First, the Committee has been working as a referral service, connecting journalists interested in particular paleontological topics with appropriate experts.

Second, the committee co-wrote two statements--one for the *SVP News Bulletin* and the other for the *JVP* abstract volume--intended as guidelines for SVP members when dealing with the media. In particular, these statements address the concerns of many members regarding presentation of unpublished research at scientific meetings.

Third, the bulk of the committee's energy has been focused on the annual press conference for the Denver meetings, once again featuring the research of several members, as well as the Society generally.

Finally, we are now investigating the possibility of subscribing to EurekAlert!, an on-line news service sponsored by AAAS that is utilized by over 2,000 journalists worldwide to learn of the latest scientific announcements. If subscription to this service is approved by the SVP Executive Committee, press releases associated with each issue of JVP, as well as the annual press conference, will be accessible on line to journalists, with the potential of making available full-text articles. (Scott D. Sampson, Chair)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Membership for 1999 comprises: 1,929 total membership; 1,185 (61%) regular members, 72 (4%) sustaining members, 15 (.7%) 500 Club members, 8 (.4%) patrons, 217 (11%) associate, 401 (21%) student members, and 31 (2%) honorary members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I hereby present the following slate for consideration by the SVP membership.
Vice-President (two-year term) Richard Cifelli, Hans-Dieter Sues
Treasurer (one-year term) Dale Winkler (Unopposed)
Member-at-Large (three-year term) Catherine Forster, Judith Scotchmoor
All candidates have indicated their willingness to serve if elected.
(William A. Clemens, Chair)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
This year, the SVP program went through some major changes brought on by a number of new developments. The most important change was the limitation of the number of pre-meeting Wednesday symposia. In previous years, there were no limits or formal guidelines, and the number of symposia varied considerably. Last year in Snowbird, we had eight pre-meeting symposia (and a total of 98 additional presentations), and most members of the SVP and the Program Committee thought that it was too much. After considerable discussion, we limited the number of pre-meeting symposia by instituting a

formal proposal and review process for each symposium. We drafted temporary guidelines to screen the 12 symposium proposals we initially received. After much e-mail exchange among committee members, we agreed that only four symposia (for a total of 66 presentations this year) would be accepted. Those guidelines were reviewed by the Executive Committee by e-mail, and are now published (*SVP News Bulletin*, 176:30). We expect that the pre-meeting symposium process will be much more satisfactory in the future now that formal guidelines are in place, and symposium organizers know what to expect.

Another significant change is the great expansion of the Web submission process. In 1998, almost 71% of the abstracts were submitted over the Web; this year, over 90% were. Dave Polly did a lot of refining of the Web submission process, so it worked a lot smoother than last year, and then he was able to send the entire file to me electronically. I then handled all abstracts (either Web or diskette submissions) on my home computer, greatly speeding up the editing and reviewing process.

I was also able to improve the abstract volume in a number of ways: putting in a "program at a glance" figure; instituting a more comprehensive and easier-to-use index; and most importantly, I scanned the art, designed, and produced the entire abstract volume in a printer-friendly QuarkXpress file. Allen Press was able to produce the volume much cheaper and faster, since I did almost all the production for them. I hope when my term ends in two years that the next program chair will also have access to page layout software, so that this change can become permanent.

The most striking difference in the program this year came from the huge imbalance between oral and poster presentations. Although the total number of presentations (408 in 1998 vs. 420 in 1999) was similar, this year we received abstracts for 186 nonsymposium talks. Our program format of the past few years only had slots for 120 talks, so we had 66 more talks than we had room for. We discussed a number of options to deal with the problem. We could have gone back to triple sessions again (giving us 180 talk slots), but this was universally unpopular. Instead, we compensated for this excess by expanding the program in subtle ways (no unopposed sessions except the short plenary session; starting at 8:00 rather than 8:30; ending at 5:45), so we were able to increase the number of talk slots from 120 to 157. The remaining 30 excess talks were either diverted to pre-meeting symposia, or switched from oral to poster mode. This caused some grumbling among the authors, but there was no other fair way to deal with this huge excess of speakers this year. In the future, when we anticipate another meeting with near-record attendance (as we had at Snowbird and here at Denver, and probably will in Bozeman in 2001), we will have to deal with this issue more formally. The time may have come to address the likelihood that this meeting is too large to avoid triple sessions any more, or may need to expand to four days. The topical breakdown of this year's program was as follows: fish, 19; amphibians, 10; reptiles (mostly dinosaurs), 139; mammals, 134; birds, 24; history of paleontology, 3; theoretical/geological, 21. The Romer Prize session was much bigger this year, with 18 candidates (as opposed to only eight last year). (Donald Prothero, Chair)

Summary of Program Statistics, 1998-1999			
	1998 Snowbird	1999 Denver	
Total submissions	408	420	
via Web	290	364	
on diskette/via e-mail	118	38	
Total symposia	8	4	
Total symposia presentations	98	66	
Fish Heads	19		
Beyond the Cladogram	11		
Bonebeds	19		
Preparators'	17		
Total nonsymposium presentations	310	336	
Number of talks	120	186 (submitted)	157 (actual slots)
Number of posters	180	166	

Taxonomic breakdown (all presentations)		
	Number of talks	Number of talks/number of posters
fishes	25	19 (3/16)
amphibians	10	10 (3/7)
reptiles	128	139 (65/74)
mammals	93	134 (66/58)
birds	10	24 (12/12)
history of paleontology	4	3 (1/2)
theoretical/geological	19	21 (15/6)
Romer Prize	8	18

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

***JVP* Editor's Report**

This report covers the interval from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, during which time Volume 18, nos. 3 and 4 (September, December), and Volume 19 nos. 1 and 2 (March, June) of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* were published.

Total number of pages published: 786, distributed as follows: 18(3):230 [29.3%]; 18(4):150 [19.1%]; 19(1):198 [25.2%]; 19(2):208 [26.5%]. Of the research contributions, three were Rapid Communications, 59 were Papers, 10 were Notes; also published were two Book Reviews (total of eight pages), two Comment and Replies (total of seven pages), one Notice (one page), the Index for Volume 18 (total of six pages), and the Guidelines for Manuscript Preparation (two pages).

Number of titles of research contributions published (72 total): Rapid Communications (three total): one (33.3%) on dinosaurs; one (33.3%) on birds; one (33.3%) on mammals. Papers (59 total): 11 (18.6%) on fish; six (10%) on amphibians; 25 (33.8%) on reptiles (13 [22%] on dinosaurs); none on birds; 17 (28.8%) on mammals. Notes: (10 total): one (10%) on fish; two (20%) on reptiles; one [10%] on dinosaurs; one (10%) on birds; six (60%) on mammals. Number of pages of research contributions published (of 756 pages total): Rapid Communications: reptiles (dinosaurs) four pages (0.53%); birds eight pages (1.1%); mammals five pages (0.66%). Papers: fish 149 pages (19.7%); amphibians 72 pages (9.5%); reptiles 278 (36.7%) [dinosaurs 145 pages, 19.2%]; mammals 201 pages (26.6%). Notes: fish and fishlike vertebrates six pages (0.79%); reptiles six pages (0.79%) [dinosaurs two pages, 0.26%]; birds three pages (0.39%); mammals 23 pages (3.0%).

Mean time and range in months from submissions received to acceptance of published research contributions: Rapid Communications (3): 2.5 (2-3.25); Papers and Notes (69): 6.4 [versus 9.5 months in previous reporting year] (1.5-21); 18(3) 5.4; 18(4) 10.9; 19(1) 6.5; 19(2) 5.5. Mean time and range in months from date of acceptance to publication of research contributions: Rapid Communications (3): 4.4 (4.0-4.8); Papers and Notes (69): 8.6 [versus ten months in previous reporting year] (1.5-12.25); 18(3) 5.4; 18(4) 10.9; 19(1) 6.5; 19(2) 5.5.

Number of research contributions submitted, rejected, and accepted during the previous reporting interval: submitted (total of 141 titles [versus 119 last year and 66 the year before]): nonmammal 86 [versus 83 last year and 42 the year before] or 60.9%; mammal 55 [versus 36 last year and 24 the year before] or 39.1%. Final decisions during the reporting interval: nonmammals, 65 actioned of which 43 (66.2%) were accepted and 22 (33.8%) were rejected. Mammals, 30 actioned of which 19 (63.3%) were accepted and 11 (36.6%) were rejected.

Total submissions to the Journal have more than doubled during the last two years. However, despite that the average time between submission and acceptance, and acceptance and publication has been substantially reduced. This has been accomplished in large part by the dedicated assistance of the Associate Editors and the reviewers whose voluntary work is so important to the smooth running of the Journal. (David K. Elliott, James I. Mead, Co-Chairs)

SAFE REPORT

I am pleased to provide a summation of the activities of SAFE since the last Annual Meeting. Because SAFE and GLC work so closely together, this report should be

considered in the context of the GLC report, and the two should be considered mutually dependent. Much of the work which is being done, and which will be done involves joint activity between SAFE and GLC. I want to particularly thank the GLC co-chairs for their support of SAFE, and for all the hard work they have done to further the goals of SAFE and of SVP.

The decision to employ Jan Campbell has helped SAFE to greatly expand its influence and knowledge base. We have found that there is simply no substitute for a Washington presence if an organization is to significantly impact federal public policy, and Jan's savvy and efforts have paid significant dividends.

Proposed Revision of OMB Circular 110-A and FOIA
In a nutshell, this would amend the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to open up data resulting from any research (wholly or partially) funded by the federal government to disclosure under FOIA. This could potentially result in the disclosure of locality data without proper safeguards. Thousands of comments were received, including ones filed by and at the behest of the GLC and SAFE. I filed a comment on behalf of SAFE. SAFE contacted legislators to support legislative action, which would have overturned this regulation, but these were unsuccessful.

Subsequent clarifications of this regulation have been such that it is to be specifically applied only to research that is being used in the formulation of federal regulations. Given this change, we have dropped our opposition.

DOI Report on Management of Paleontological Resources on Federal Public Lands
The Department of the Interior is in the process of preparing a report on the management of paleontological resources on federal public lands. Staying abreast of this process and meeting with all agencies involved in this have occupied the vast majority of SAFE's time and energy. A meeting was held at which all DOI agencies heard testimony including that from SAFE and SVP, and additional written comments were provided. The Draft Report is expected to be published very soon, and a 30-day comment period will follow. It will be critical that SVP members express their views during this 30-day period. It is hoped that additional information will be available by the time of the Annual Meeting.

Projected SAFE Financial Needs/Fundraising Proposals
It has become clear that affecting public policy, which protects vertebrate fossils on federal public lands, will be a multiyear process. Similarly, the proposed FOIA revisions have made it clear that VP is affected by a wide range of political factors. In light of this, it appears that SVP would be prudent to plan on maintaining a strong Washington presence, and on active political activity for at least the next five years. This will require significant financial resources, and both fundraising ideas and contributions are sought from all SVP members. (Ted J. Vlamis, President, SAFE)

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AWARDS

JOSEPH F. CHANCE PREPARATOR'S AWARD

Helder de Paula Silva

I am a native of Rio de Janeiro where I was born on 18 March 1971. I went to the high school at Centro Educacional Sao Jose, which has a strong technical program. During that time I developed my interest in sciences and therefore decided to concentrate my studies in chemistry, an option provided by this high school. I also had an apprenticeship at the chemical company SGS do Brasil, where I had the opportunity to practice the methods that I learned in class. Due to financial difficulties I had to start working right after finishing high school. At some point I met Alexander Kellner, who at that time was with the Departamento Nacional da Producao Mineral (DNPM/RJ) doing his MSc. Kellner was developing a preparation technique using organic acids to prepare the pterosaur material preserved in the calcareous nodules from the Santana Formation (Araripe Basin, northeastern Brazil). I got interested in this technique and in my spare time learned and prepared Santana specimens. Later, when Kellner went to the Museu Nacional/UFRJ, I started to work there until the present. My interest in preparing fossils grew and I began to know a little more about different techniques.

The Joseph F. Chance Preparator's Award is an excellent opportunity for me to learn more about mechanical preparation techniques, particularly those dealing with delicate fossils that are practically unknown in Brazil. In the future I hope not only to learn more about preparation techniques but also to develop new methods that can be used in this field. I also would like to help other preparators in Brazil to learn about these techniques in order to improve the overall preparation quality in my country.

Raul Gordillo

I was born in 1969 in the city of San Juan in northwestern Argentina. I was introduced to paleontology quite by chance while I was a high school student. In 1998, I started as an assistant in the prep lab at the Museo de Ciencias Naturales of the Universidad Nacional de San Juan. Since that time, I was working almost exclusively in preparation of materials from the Upper Triassic Ischigualasto and Los Colorados formations. I also participated in several field projects in Ischigualasto, including the one in 1991 when we

found the primitive dinosaur *Eoraptor*. I had a great experience in Chicago in 1997 learning from the "masters" Qiang Cao at the University of Chicago, and Robert Masek in the Field Museum of Natural History. In Chicago I was also introduced to the blues, now my preferred kind of music. Last year, I spent a wonderful time working in Ischigualasto with a crew from Harvard; we worked very hard during the day, but we had a lot of fun every evening drinking good wine or beer and eating "empanadas" with Bill Amaral and Chuk Schaff. In 1999 I was in the University of Texas at Austin working in the mounting of the giant pterosaur *Quetzalcoatlus* and doing some preparation on Tim Rowe's dinosaurs from the Kayenta Formation. I am very excited and grateful for the opportunity that the Joseph F. Chance Committee gave me to work and learn with one of the best fossil preparators on earth as is Bill Amaral.

CHANG AWARD
Yaoming Hu

Born in a small village near Shanghai, Yaoming spent his childhood in his hometown. He had no chance for access to fossils before he went to the university, but the fascinating "Peking man" story and legends about dragons initiated his interest for prehistoric things.

Yaoming went to Peking University in the fall of 1984, where he spent four years and learned geology and biology. During his undergraduate years, he went to the field every summer and collected fossil invertebrates and fossil plants. He got his BS degree in 1988. His thesis is on the succession of ostrocods through the P/T boundary. He was impressed with the mass extinction at the end of Permian.

In the fall of 1988, Yaoming became a graduate student in the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Beijing (IVPP), under the supervision of Chuankuei Li. Together with colleagues from IVPP, he spent a couple of field seasons in the Qianshan Basin, Anhui Province. They collected Paleocene fossil mammals from red Paleocene sediments. Now the collection from Qianshan forms a main part of the Paleocene fossil mammal collection at IVPP. Among them, anagalids are Yaoming's favorites; his MS thesis is a study on the phylogeny of this extinct endemic Asian group.

After receiving his MS degree in 1992, Yaoming began his professional career in IVPP. Besides continuing his work on Paleocene mammals, he, with Chuankui Li and Yuanqing Wang, both from IVPP, spent a lot of time hunting Mesozoic mammals in northeastern China. It was exciting that they found a new Early Cretaceous fauna from coal areas. Yaoming also became involved the study of the mammal collection from IVPP's Jehol Fauna Project. His study on the skeleton of *Zhangheotherium* eventually initiated his interest in the evolution of the mammalian locomotion pattern.

In the spring of 1998, Yaoming visited Berlin Free University as an exchange scholar, where he studied the skeleton of *Henkelotherium* under the direction of Bernard Krebs and Thomas Martin. The great success of the Guimarota Project stimulated his idea to hunt vertebrates in the Jurassic coal mines of China.

Currently Yaoming is a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, under the supervision of Margery Coombs. He is still involved in several research projects based on fieldwork in China, and goes back to China for fieldwork in the summers. Thanks to the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology and Ms. Ying-Chien Chang, the Chang Award is providing essential support for his work in the field seasons of 1999 and 2000.

ESTES AWARD
Jason Head
It is a tremendous honor to receive the Estes Award, given the extent to which Dr. Estes' contributions to paleoherpetology form the basis of my research. My dissertation topic is the study of Miocene reptile faunas from the Siwalik Group of Pakistan, emphasizing correlations between species diversity, body size, and climatic change, as well as reconstructing biogeographic histories of Old World reptile lineages. Much of the dissertation requires constructing methodologies, and it is my hope that reptile fossils will become powerful, quantitative tools in paleoenvironmental and biogeographic reconstructions.

JOSEPH P. GREGORY AWARD
Malcolm C. McKenna
I thank the members of the Gregory Award Committee and the SVP as a whole for this recognition. The Gregory Award means a lot to me and to my family because Joe Gregory embodies so much that is good about this Society. During his career he has worked untiringly and well for the SVP, doing what was fundamental for our subject's continued health and for the furtherance of scholarship.

I became a member of the SVP about 1949. My wife, Priscilla, became an illegal member at one SVP business meeting, when we were desperate for a quorum! During my progression from whipper-snapper to curmudgeon at the American Museum I have watched the Society grow, sometimes with approval and sometimes not. The SVP was quite informal when I joined. It met in a single room. Members were simply called upon to get up and report on their thoughts or activities. Al Romer loved that informality and so did I, but as the Society grew I argued for more professional structure in its meetings. If you don't approve, I guess you can go start a new Society. That's what the SVP did when it separated from the GSA, after all. I've attended most of the SVP annual meetings and various of its field conferences. I've provided the SVP with a lot of new members and have flooded the job market with two dozen fresh-minted PhDs, a bunch of whom are in this room tonight. I served as a mediocre SVP President and I've tried to keep the Society out of debtors' prison by drumming up money for its endowment.

My interests since high school days with Ray Alf in California have always been an eclectic mix of geology, biology, field techniques, and exploration, not restricted to just drawing forked diagrams in the office as so many of the current generation of whipper-snappers seem content to do. I do not approve, for instance, of the narrowness of the "cladistics über alles" approach to phylogeny, nor of its nasty contentious side, nor am I a starry-eyed stratofanatic taking the fossil record at face value. I've taken clues where I

could get them in the detective work I've found to be the most fun. I've always been happiest in the company of good companions in the field, not sequestered indoors mid the asbestos fibers and dank atmosphere of museum politics.

So, I accept this award for service with great pleasure and I thank Priscilla for her part in it. Paleontologists' wives are not always thanked enough. As a further service to the SVP, I'll now sit down quietly.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP--MARY R. DAWSON AND ALEX PANCHEN

Mary R. Dawson

A lifelong interest in animals led Mary Dawson into her exploration of how various mammals got to be what and where they are. Graduate training with Robert Wilson at the University of Kansas began to focus these interests into small mammals, especially lagomorphs and rodents which, via a good fossil record, offer excellent opportunities to seek answers to the question.

A similar lifelong interest in digging in the ground steered her into an active field career which has centered mostly on northern and central parts of the Holarctic, including her favorite field areas of the Canadian Arctic, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology has been a strong force for her, especially as it develops contacts with colleagues and provides the ethical framework under which we do our science, including collecting.

Alec Panchen

Alec Panchen's first scientific paper (1951), an ecological report on the living reptiles and amphibia of Bookham Common, Surrey, was written while he was still a schoolboy, echoing his father's interest in natural history. His principal subsequent research during the last 46 years has been on the paleontology of early tetrapods, but teaching has reinforced his interest in taxonomy, evolutionary theory, and the philosophy of science, while a childhood interest in butterflies has re-emerged in research.

Alec was born in 1930 in the City of London and educated at Trinity School of John Whitgift, Croydon. Between leaving school and going to Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, he spent ten months as a temporary scientific assistant in the Zoology Department of the British Museum (Natural History). After graduating BA at Cambridge in 1953, he embarked on a PhD, supervised by Rex Parrington, on a new amphibian from the Permian of Tanzania (to be named Peltobatrachus and allied to the bizarre Triassic plagiosaurs). His first academic post was as Demonstrator in Zoology at King's College, University of Durham. His PhD dissertation was published by the Royal Society in 1959, and in 1961 he joined Newcastle colleague Alick Walker in a review of British Coal Measure Labyrinthodont localities. He was appointed to a lectureship in 1960, and in 1963-64 spent an exchange year (with John Chase) as a Senior Fulbright Scholar and Assistant Professor at Ohio Wesleyan University. Meanwhile, in that year, King's College was transmuted into the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and was to be his base until he retired in 1993. Alec was appointed to a personal readership in vertebrate

zoology in 1972. He is still an occasional teacher and regular user of the university libraries in Newcastle.

The Hancock Museum in Newcastle, where D. M. S. Watson had done his pioneering work on Coal Measure Amphibia, supplied much of the material for Alec's work and that of some of his graduate students. Eileen Beaumont, Andrew Milner, Angela Milner, Tim Smithson, and Jenny Clark all worked on Paleozoic tetrapods. There was also a strong Scottish connection with the Newcastle group. David Brown and Angela Kirton worked on Oxford Clay reptiles from the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, and Alec takes pride in giving the famous Scottish collector Stan Wood his first paleontological job, as technician/collector. John Dick and Mike Coates both paleoichthyologists, did their PhD research on material collected by Stan. One of Stan's many important finds was a Namurian (Upper Mississippian) fauna at Cowdenheath, Fife, with an almost complete skeleton of the enigmatic tetrapod Crassigyrinus. Alec's monographic papers on this was added to by joint work with Tim Smithson, who also co-authored two papers on early tetrapod relationships.

Alec's other synthetic works included a monograph on anthracosaurs for the Handbuch der Paläoherpetologie (1970); the Systematics Association Symposium The Terrestrial Environment and the Origin of Land Vertebrates, which he suggested, organized, and subsequently edited (1980), and the East Kirkton project. The latter was again thanks to Stan Wood, who in 1984 found what was to prove a Lagerstätte in the Scottish Mississippian, representing an early terrestrial biota. A major multidisciplinary symposium was held in the rooms of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1992 and edited into the Transactions for 1994 by Clarkson, Rolfe, and Panchen. But paleoherpetology did not set the bounds of Alec's work. He has published on butterfly mimicry and ecological genetics, resulting from trips to East Africa in 1974, Sarawak in 1978, and Corsica in 1972 and 1988, and has supervised two butterfly PhD students, Tim Melling and, from the University of Sunderland, Sam Ellis. Also his interest in taxonomy, evolutionary theory, and the philosophy of biology was finally focused in his book Classification, Evolution and the Nature of Biology, published in 1992, and since then by two essays on the history of the concept of homology and in a little book on evolution for philosophers (1993). Alec Panchen was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by Cambridge University in 1979, was Senior Visiting Scholar at Saint John's College, Oxford, in 1987, was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Biology in 1990, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1991. He has been Visiting Professor at the University of Sunderland since 1995.

BRYAN PATTERSON AWARD

Andrew Heckert

Born and raised in southwestern Ohio, Andrew began collecting fossils in the Ordovician Cincinnatian Series, although his real interest in collecting dinosaur fossils was piqued by numerous family vacations to the American West. Andrew graduated as a co-valedictorian of Talawanda High School in Oxford Ohio (1989), before attending Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where he earned a BS summa cum laude in geology (1993). Graduate studies provided an opportunity to finally push west and

engage in fieldwork in the badlands that fascinated him as a child. Following a Master's degree from the University of New Mexico supervised by Dr. Spencer G. Lucas of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, he chose to re-enroll at UNM as a PhD student. His dissertation focuses on Upper Triassic microvertebrate faunas from the Chinle Group, including some of the oldest dinosaurs and mammals.

The Snyder Quarry is perhaps the best Chinle locality discovered in the last 50 years. Discovered in June 1998 by Mark Snyder of Del Mar, California, the quarry has already yielded exquisitely preserved fossils of numerous vertebrates and invertebrates of Norian (approx 215 Ma) age. The vertebrate fauna includes semionotid fish, metoposaurid amphibians, phytosaurs, the aetosaurs *Desmatosuchus* and *Typothorax*, at least three individuals of a small, *Coelophysis*-like dinosaur, a larger theropod, and other fragmentary remains. To date, over 50 volunteers associated with the New Mexico Friends of Paleontology and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science have helped to excavate the quarry, and the Ghost Ranch Conference Center has provided valuable logistical assistance. Although Andrew hopes to fold at least some data from the Snyder Quarry into his dissertation, the project is so large that it will be years before all the fossils are prepared and studied. Thus, Patterson Award support will doubtless benefit future students as well.

POSTER PRIZE WINNERS

Steven Wallace

Although I was born in Indiana, my family moved to Ohio just prior to my fifth birthday. Most of my childhood and early adulthood was spent roaming the countryside of northwestern Ohio looking for vertebrate fossils. Although I was interested in studying fossils at that time, I did not truly consider paleontology as a career until I began undergraduate work at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. While attending BGSU, my interest in vertebrate fossils began to grow into a passion.

After obtaining my BS, I moved west to work with Dr. Richard Zakrzewski at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. There I was exposed to a host of vertebrate fossils ranging from Cretaceous mosasaurs to Miocene horses. A late Hemphillian fauna in western Kansas caught my eye and became the focus of my MS thesis, which (like most MS theses) is in the process of being "cleaned up" for publication.

Presently, I am working on a PhD under Dr. Holmes Semken at the University of Iowa. My dissertation includes three projects: a morphometric analysis of tooth morphology within selected species of the vole genus *Microtus*, an analysis of schmelzmuster within those same taxa, and a description of a late Pleistocene faunal assemblage from east-central Iowa. All three projects are near completion, and I hope to finish this semester.

I would like to thank my former adviser, Dr. Richard Zakrzewski, for my initial interest in enamel microstructure; Dr. Holmes Semken for encouraging me to look within *Microtus*; and the many unnamed others who have contributed to the numerous technical aspects of my dissertation. I also would like to extend thanks to the Department of

Geology for providing me with the opportunity to teach Evolution of the Vertebrates this semester.

POSTER PRIZE, HONORABLE MENTION
Gerald Grellet-Tinner
I am originally from Europe and immigrated to the US in 1981. I spent most of the free time of my childhood looking for Cenozoic fossils in the Basin of Paris or searching for minerals in my native Alps in Switzerland. Initially I concentrated on invertebrate fossils from the Bartonian and Lutetian, then I developed a strong interest in cephalopods (1970-1979). My first published paper, a very short one indeed, was in the Schweitzer Strahler (1972) on a certain type of ammonite from France. However to my deepest regrets, paleontology career prospects were grim in Europe, thus I chose, at that time, to study gemology. I financed myself through these years of study by having diverse occupations ranging from snow ski instructor, licensed swimming trainer, to backgammon player.

In 1994 after a 12-year career in gemology I came back to paleontology by studying at UT under T. Rowe specializing in vertebrates and especially in vertebrate eggs. My recent fieldwork consists of two field seasons in the Kayentae Formation (Navajo Territories) where one morning while walking with C. Schaff I discovered remains of a theropod later identified as *Syntarsus kayentakatae*. The following field season was devoted to the recovery of a major bone assemblage in that same horizon. I also participated in some minor explorations in Big Bend National Park with the UT team and on my own. Recently I spent five weeks in Patagonia with L. Chiappe, L. Dingus, and R. Coria working in the Rio Colorado Formation. The work revolved around eggs and nests of sauropods, and the recovery of a complete articulated theropod. We plan further expeditions in this region and also in China. My research also consists of numerous hours spent in front of SEM, EDS probe, and other microscopes to observe and describe characters from eggshells useful to construct evolutionary hypotheses of members of Dinosauria. Several grants from the AMNH allowed me to study specimens recently collected by M. Norell and his team in the Gobi. Some of these observations are the subject of future publications. Aside from the professional aspect of this field, I feel lucky in having met many wonderful paleontologists, many of whom became good friends.

The results of these recent activities are reflected by publication of four abstracts and three papers in press, along with a second place at the Poster Session of Denver. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology for acknowledging and supporting the work of so many paleontologists.

Laura Panko
I am originally from Hartsdale, New York. I was fortunate to have parents who understood and fostered my interest in natural history in general, and paleontology in particular. As an undergraduate I focused on vertebrate biology, getting my first taste of museum research at the Cornell Vertebrate Collections and also as a summer intern at the Smithsonian.

After receiving my BS from Cornell University, I moved on to the University of Chicago. When I first came to the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy, Stuart Sumida was there as a postdoc. It was he who first introduced me to the pelycosaur material at the Field Museum, leading to my prelim project on *Cotylorhynchus romeri*. From there my interests expanded to encompass the whole synapsid clade. My thesis concerns the functional morphology and evolution of the synapsid axial skeleton, and I look forward to building on this work to further clarify the locomotor evolution of nonmammalian synapsids.

I am grateful to the Society for the recognition of my poster on the difference in rib morphology between the cynodonts *Galesaurus* and *Thrinaxodon*, and I thank the people who served on the poster committee for their useful feedback. I would like to thank Jim Hopson for being a fantastic advisor. I have also benefited greatly from the guidance of the other members of my committee: Eric Lombard, Mike LaBarbera, and Andy Biewener. Finally, I owe thanks to my fellow University of Chicago students for their help and encouragement.

Jonathan Wynn
I began my career in the earth sciences far from the world of vertebrate paleontology, as a geological engineering major at the University of Utah. This sparked my interest in the properties of soils, and eventually led me to the study of paleosols and their paleoenvironments. In 1991 Frank Brown and Craig Feibel introduced me to the geology of the hominid localities in the Turkana Basin of northern Kenya, and I haven't been able to leave it since. In 1993 I began fieldwork at Koobi Fora, which marked my introduction to VP, as the area is riddled with diverse vertebrate fauna, not to mention the hominids. I have continued to work with Meave Leakey and the National Museums of Kenya on the paleosols of the Turkana Basin, expanding my study to localities such as the Nachukui Formation, Lothagam, and Kanapoi, all of which are strategic sites in the evolution of vertebrates in East Africa. Working with Thure Cerling at the University of Utah allowed me to use stable isotope ratios of carbonate in conjunction with my paleosol studies. In 1997, I joined Greg Retallack in a study of Miocene paleosols from hominoid sites in southwestern Kenya. I am currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Oregon on the paleoenvironmental interpretation of paleosols from vertebrate sites throughout the Neogene of East Africa.

PRE-DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP
Brenda Chinnery
First, I would like to express my appreciation to the Society for the receipt of this award, and my gratitude to the committee of their confidence in me and my project.

I am a relative late-comer to the field of paleontology--I was 25 and a sophomore at the University of Colorado before I had any clue what to do with my life. After an introduction to the field by Dr. Bert Covert and Dr. Peter Robinson, I was hooked, but decided to focus on something a little larger than Eocene small mammals. I interned in the preparation lab at the Denver Museum of Natural History under Dr. Ken Carpenter, and worked in the collections department with my dear friend Dr. Richard Stucky. I will

forever appreciate their patience with my nearly total lack of knowledge. I was introduced to fieldwork with these two impressive scientists, and haven't looked back since. It is by far the most exhilarating and exciting aspect of the field (although I must admit, I do prefer Eocene collecting--less back strain and more instant gratification!).

I have now spent four-and-a-half years as a graduate student at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and though it hasn't always been easy, it has been a valuable and rewarding experience. I now know something of both dinosaur and human anatomy, and understand the joy of teaching and seeing one's name in print. I thank all of my professors--Drs. Dave Weishampel, Ken Rose, Joan Richtsmeier, Chris Ruff, and Mark Teaford--and all of my fellow students for their support.

Robin O'Keefe--Honorable Mention

F. Robin O'Keefe is currently a PhD student at the University of Chicago, working with Jim Hopson and Olivier Rieppel. His dissertation concerns the phylogeny, morphometrics, and functional morphology of the Plesiosauria. Robin will hopefully complete is thesis by the spring or summer of 2000, and is planning to marry his fiancée, Angela Dudek, on August 5 of this year. After-thesis plans are still murky, but Robin would like to stay in academia and find a job somewhere on or near the West Coast.

After graduating from Stanford University with a BS in biology in 1992, Robin worked for Addison Wesley Publishing Company for three years as a textbook editor. He worked on junior-high and high-school textbooks in general biology, environmental science, health, and electronic-media curiculum aids. He has been a student at the University of Chicago since 1995.

ALFRED SHERWOOD ROMER PRIZE

Matthew Bonnan, Co-winner

I am deeply honored and humbled for being chosen as a co-recepient of the Alfred Sherwood Romer Prize, and cannot fully express in words the gratitude I feel toward the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology and the many people who have helped me along the way. Like many of the members of SVP, my fascination with paleontology started early. It was in junior high that I read several books on the "hot-blooded" dinosaurs, and was so inspired that I decided I should make a career out of studying their paleobiology. To Robert T. Bakker, Greg Paul, John C. McLoughlin, Dougal Dixon, and Adrian Desmond I owe my initial wonder and enthusiasm for paleontology and dinosaur paleobiology. I continue to share this enthusiasm for science with elementary and secondary school students by giving several dinosaur presentations in the northern Illinois area every year.

Early on, the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) and the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) in Chicago played important roles in my development as a budding paleontologist. At 17, Dr. Peter Sheehan and crew of the MPM Dig-A-Dinosaur program gave me my first exposure to fieldwork counting dinosaur remains in the Hell Creek Formation near Glendive, Montana. I was later privileged to work as an intern under Dr. Lance Grande, Bill Simpson, the late Steve McCarroll, and Bob Masek at FMNH,

preparing fossil *Amia* and other assorted fishes (and learning to lose at Hearts!). Thanks to each of you for opening the door.

During my undergraduate years at College of DuPage and University of Illinois at Chicago, I was fortunate to land two internships with Dinamation International Society. I learned much of my field and mapping skills from Dr. Jim Kirkland at the Mygatt-Moore Dinosaur Quarry, a Late Jurassic site in Rabbit Valley just west of Fruita, Colorado. Not only was Jim an excellent field paleontologist to learn from, but he did me the enormous favor of introducing me to many paleontologists and contacts. Many thanks are also due to DIS for their support during those summers and recent financial support of my dissertation work.

I feel extremely lucky to have found J. Michael Parrish at Northern Illinois University and to have been accepted into their PhD program. The guidance of Mike and my dissertation committee (Virginia Naples, Neil Blackstone, Bill Hammer, and Dan Gebo) has been the key to my current success. Under the *Barosaurus* mount at the American Museum of Natural History in 1996, Dan Chure deserves the credit (or blame?) for pointing out the weird and wonderful morphology of sauropod feet to me. Mike Parrish gave me the green light to study big feet, and I have since worked from the feet up into sauropod locomotion and functional morphology. All sauropod workers and graduate students, especially John S. McIntosh, have been a tremendous help with papers and locations of specimens.

The difficulty of studying heavy sauropod materials was eased tremendously by the help and support of all staff I have encountered in the collections I have visited. I wish to pay special thanks to the folks at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, especially Elizabeth Hill for loans and patience; to Bill Wahl and Tate Museum for allowing me to examine the accurate, light-weight casts of "Bertha"; to David and Janet Gillette for their hospitality in Utah; and to Larry D. Martin, Craig Sundell, and company at the University of Kansas for access to as-yet-undescribed *Camarasaurus* limbs and feet and for their hospitality.

Finally, I thank my parents and family who have provided support and encouragement for my interest in dead reptiles since the beginning. Again, I am honored to have received an award named after one of the greatest vertebrate paleontologists of the 20th century. I plan to put my best manus and pes forward, and to continue to walk beside sauropod dinosaurs for quite some time.

Katrina Gobetz, Co-winner

Katrina Gobetz is a PhD student under Larry Martin at the University of Kansas Natural History Museum. She is a Connecticut native, but is drifting westward with her interest in fossil mammals. Prior to her arrival in Kansas in 1998, Katrina earned a Bachelor's degree in geology from Colgate University, and spent a year abroad on a fellowship in 1994-95, visiting eight European countries to study Devonian reefs, the subject of undergraduate research which began in Alaska. Since then, she has switched to vertebrates and studied under Jim Farlow at Indiana University, where she obtained her

Master's in geology. Katrina received the Romer Prize last October for her work on mastodon and mammoth diets. Her technique involves scraping calculus (calcified tartar) from teeth, and extracting phytoliths from plants the animals ate. Katrina intends to continue work with phytoliths from teeth, particularly to compare early forest horses with later grazing forms. However, her dissertation will focus on Miocene fossorial rodent paleoecology and burrow structure. She recently received a grant from the KU Museum to collect fossil burrows in Nebraska, and to catch and videotape live "diggers" as modern analogues for digging behavior and morphology. Katrina is also involved in public education programs at the Museum, volunteers at a wildlife center, and is working on a paper with Dr. Donald E. Hattin from Indiana University describing rodent tooth marks on limestone.

Maureen Kearney, Honorable Mention

Kevin Seymour, Honorable Mention

I was born in Ottawa, Ontario, and did my undergraduate degree in biology and geology at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. I had seen dinosaurs and such at the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa as a kid, but was much more interested in the living fauna: insects, fish, herps, birds, whatever. It wasn't until my final year of undergraduate work that I came upon paleontology as a specialty, and I then realized that paleontology was a nice blend of both my biological and geological interests. So I went to the University of Toronto to do a Master's in the Geology Department, specializing in vertebrate paleontology. I worked under Gord Edmund at the Royal Ontario Museum, and shared an office space with the other grad student there at the time, Greg McDonald. Greg became my mentor because we both worked in the evenings and he never seemed to tire of answering my many questions! Although I wanted to work on fossil birds, there weren't any available at the ROM, so I worked on the Pleistocene fossil cats (primarily jaguar and puma) from the Talara tar seeps in Peru, collected by Gord Edmund. Shortly after graduating, the ROM fossil vertebrate collections manager job became available, and I have worked in this job ever since (starting in 1983). In 1990, I decided to take the plunge and go back to graduate school and do a PhD (while still holding down my full-time job at the ROM--which is why it took me so long to finish!). Working under Rufus Churcher in the Zoology Department at the University of Toronto, I approached the small cats of South America (fossil and Recent) with some trepidation. Their taxonomy is confusing, and they are variable yet so similar. Variability ended up being a major focus of my dissertation. I visited over 20 museums in Europe and North America (haven't managed to get to South America yet!) in order to study large samples. Hopefully these data will aid me in my continuing studies on fossil cats.

ROMER-SIMPSON MEDAL

Robert Warren Wilson

Dr. Robert Warren Wilson is the Romer-Simpson Medalist for 1999, a fitting time for this honor as this century nears its close and Dr. Wilson celebrates his 90th year. The superb and lasting quality of his paleontological contributions, his long-term dedication to our discipline and our Society, and his inspiring teaching of vertebrate paleontology are among the factors leading the Society to confer on him this honor.

Wilson is noted first as a pioneer in the study of the most numerous and diverse mammalian order, the Rodentia. Prior to his entering into study of this complex group, only a handful of rodents had been well studied, mostly by the late 19th- to early 20th-century English paleontologist Forsyth Major. During the course of his paleontological studies at the California Institute of Technology under advisor Chester Stock, Wilson undertook the study of this then seldom-studied order. The results, with the first publication in 1932, surprised even Stock for their insight into rodent evolution and their stratigraphic utility. Wilson's later work during his graduate student days centered on rodent faunas from the later Tertiary of the Great Basin.

Wilson's next undertaking, in post-doctoral work, was perhaps even more difficult: Eocene rodents of North America. He took on this project using the excellent collections made by Marsh's field collectors and kept at Peabody Museum, during his tenure as a Yale University Sterling Research Fellow. His careful analysis led to the first elucidation of similarities and differences between the Bridgerian rodents now allotted to the families Paramyidae, Sciuravidae, and Cylindrodontidae.

Later work on Eocene rodents of southern California and continued studies of later Tertiary and Quaternary rodents led to Wilson's important series of synthetic studies published in 1949 in *Publications of the Carnegie Institution of Washington*. Especially notable in this series was his paper, "Early Tertiary Rodents of North America," a highly insightful synthesis that is, even 50 years after its appearance, probably the single most influential paper for all subsequent students of fossil rodents. If there were a Nobel Prize for Paleontology, this paper would have produced a winner.

Throughout his entire career Wilson combined his thorough geological background and his talent for field investigations, both qualities developed during his student days at Cal Tech, with his unexcelled logic. In 1949 he published his first paper on the early Paleocene of New Mexico, based on his fieldwork in northwestern New Mexico. A series of single and joint-authored papers followed on the rich fossil faunas that he collected there. He also continued his fieldwork in northeastern Colorado, undertaken cooperatively with several graduate students at the University of Kansas. Here again his thoroughness and carefully analytical investigations paid off: during tenure as a Guggenheim Fellow in 1956 57 he developed the analysis of the Miocene "Quarry A" fauna of Colorado. His careful morphological studies and phylogenetic conclusions, published in 1960, led to the previously unappreciated concept of patterns of mammalian dispersal between North America and Eurasia during the mid-Tertiary.

Numerous other paleontological topics received Wilson's attention. He developed and published important concepts dealing with the use of mammalian fossils in correlation (1967), and worked on relatively rare late Cretaceous mammals from South Dakota. Following his year as a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the University of Vienna (1967-68), he published a series of papers (between 1968 and 1983) on the stratigraphy of the Vienna Basin and small mammals from the Turolian fissures at Kohfidisch, Austria. An extreme indication of his dedication to vertebrate paleontology: he was one of the few in attendance at the 23rd International Geological Congress, held in Prague in

August of 1968, who more or less calmly delivered his paper on the significance of the Kohfidisch faunas as tanks of the Russian invaders rolled into the streets of that city!

As a teacher Wilson was unexcelled. His lectures were beautifully organized, current, and complete. His examinations were thoughtful and challenging! His positive influence on numerous graduate and undergraduate students, in paleontology, mammalogy, and related disciplines, at the University of Kansas and the South Dakota School of Mines was far reaching. This influence was not limited to the lecture room. Lunches with Dr. Wilson were a highlight of the graduate experience for many students. Subjects ranged through baseball statistics, silent movies, evolutionary theory, stratigraphic correlation, and politics. The impact was not just the subject, but the factual completeness, compelling logic, and thorough analysis to which the subjects were treated! In other words, Wilson excelled at teaching students to think, following his own example. It was an honor, a sometimes terrifying challenge, and a life-long inspiration to have been a student of Robert Wilson.

Wilson is a Charter Member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and is currently an Honorary Member. He served as the Society's Secretary-Treasurer in 1954 and President in 1955. He was a long-time member and participant in the Society's committees (the Wood Committee of 1941 and its successor) on nomenclature and correlation of North American Tertiary deposits. He served also on the SVP committee on the status of fossil vertebrate conservation, which developed an important summary on this topic in 1972.

During the course of his career he received numerous awards, including the Sterling, Guggenheim, and Fulbright fellowships, and the Arnold Guyot award from the National Geographic Society for his work at Kohfidisch. It is also a great accomplishment that he had not only a distinguished career but also a distinguished retirement. After his retirement from the South Dakota School of Mines in 1975, he spent two years as a visiting professor at Texas Tech University, and then went back to the University of Kansas for the Rose Morgan Visiting Professorship. He now holds the positions of Associate of the Museum of Natural History and Emeritus Professor at the University of Kansas. To this day he is a daily arrival at that Museum and a mentor there for faculty and students alike.

Dr. Wilson's paleontological achievements place him firmly in the highest rank of vertebrate paleontologists. To follow his own logical turn of thinking, he is thus a distinguished, worthy candidate for the medal named for two other greats of our science, Alfred Sherwood Romer and George Gaylord Simpson.

MORRIS SKINNER PRIZE
Fred Grady
I am delighted to receive the Morris Skinner Award. I knew Morris and benefited from many conversations with him. I would like to thank the many people who have assisted and guided me in more than 25 years of collecting vertebrate fossils. I would especially acknowledge that many cavers who patiently waited while I dug for specimens and then

helped haul boxes of specimens and many bags of matrix out of several caves. Over the years I have traveled widely in search of fossil vertebrates and met many fine people with whom I have shared meals cooked over a camp stove, a drink of cold water on a hot badlands afternoon, and the spendor of a meteor shower on a warm summer's eve.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

All award nominations are due by 1 April 2000.

You are encouraged to nominate worthy individuals for the Society's awards and prizes by notifying the appropriate committee chair in writing. Each award nominee must be a current member in good standing.

Morris F. Skinner Prize

For outstanding and sustained contributions to scientific knowledge through the making of important collections of fossil vertebrates--it shall also be made to those persons who encourage, train, or teach others toward the same pursuits.

William R. Hammer, Committee Chair
Department of Geology
Augustana College
Rock Island IL 61201
Ph: (309) 794-7487; fax: (309) 794-7422; e-mail: glhammer@augustana.edu

Joseph T. Gregory Award

For outstanding service to the welfare of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Andre Wyss, Committee Chair
Department of Geological Sciences
University of California
Santa Barbara CA 93106
Ph: (805) 893-8628; fax: (805) 893-2314; e-mail: wyss@geology.ucsb.edu

A. S. Romer-G. G. Simpson Medal

For sustained and outstanding scholarly excellence and service to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology, the Society's highest award. Nominations must include a formal nominating letter and at least two seconding letters of support; there is no limit on the number of supporting letters that can be submitted. Nominating and supporting letters should explain how the individual being nominated fits the criteria for the award, emphasizing the nominee's contributions to vertebrate paleontology over the span of his or her career. Nominees should not be informed by the nominator or by anyone else that they are under consideration for the award. It is the responsibility of the nominator to gather all original letters and forward these to the committee chair by the due date. Please address questions and send complete nomination packets to:

Audrone R. Biknevicius, Committee Chair
Department of Biological Sciences
Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Athens OH 45701-2979
Ph: (740) 593-0487; fax: (740) 593-9180; e-mail: biknevicius@ohiou.edu

Honorary Memberships
In recognition of distinguished contributions to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology.
Christine Janis, Committee Chair
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Box G-B207, Brown University
Providence RI 02912
Ph: (401) 863-2215; fax: (401) 863-7544; e-mail: christinejanis@brown.edu

Pre-doctoral Fellowship
This fellowship is intended to promote a professional career in vertebrate paleontology by allowing the recipient greater freedom to pursue research during the final stages of the doctoral program. This year the fellowship award will be $2,500.

Applicants must be within 18 months of completion of a PhD program at a recognized university. The successful applicant will be chosen on the basis of:
1. Scholarly contributions to the field of vertebrate paleontology, including the dissertation project;
2. Professional activity within the field of vertebrate paleontology; and
3. Promise of a productive and important professional role in vertebrate paleontology.
Submit a completed application form which can be obtained from the committee chair.
Fellowship funding will begin in the summer of 2000.
Anthony R. Fiorillo, Committee Chair
Dallas Museum of Natural History
P. O. Box 150349
Dallas TX 75312
Ph: (214) 421-3466; fax: (214) 428-4356; e-mail: fiorillo@mail.smu.edu

Richard Estes Memorial Award
For graduate research in nonmammalian vertebrate paleontology.
The Richard Estes Memorial Fund was established to enhance graduate student research by providing a cash prize of $500 awarded at the annual meeting of SVP. The award is directed toward research in nonmammalian vertebrate paleontology, with emphasis on systematics, morphology, biogeography, and paleoecology.

Items supported include: consumable supplies or expendable equipment, living expenses in the field, at a research station, or a museum; and travel expenses. If travel by automobile is required, the current IRS per-mile allowance may be used to calculate costs. Items not supported include: travel and/or conference costs solely to attend the SVP annual meeting; permanent equipment, salary, or overhead.

Submit a three-page maximum (single-spaced) description of the project sufficiently detailed to be evaluated by the committee; a budget showing clearly the amounts and purposes for which the award will be used; a letter of support from the applicant's project advisor or major professor. Applications lacking requested information will not be reviewed. Completed applications should be sent to the committee chair.
Mark A. Norell, Committee Chair

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Bryan Patterson Award
The Bryan Patterson Award is for student fieldwork in vertebrate paleontology. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply. Applicants and their sponsors must be SVP members or pending members. There will be one award of $1,200 or two awards of $600.

Proposals for the Patterson Award must be for fieldwork, and particular consideration will be given to proposals for fieldwork that is innovative rather than routine, venturesome rather than predictable, unusual rather than run of the mill.

Submit a completed application form, obtainable from the committee chair. The winner will be decided in late May 2000.
James M. Clark, Committee Chair
George Washington University
Department of Biological Sciences
Washington DC 20052
Ph: (202) 994-7144; Fax: (202) 994-6100; e-mail: jclark@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu

Y.-C. Chang Science Award for USA-China Collaborative Field Research
This SVP award, supported through the generosity of an annual and will bequest pledge of Ms. Y.-C. Chang, is intended to enable "scholars to do field research in China, a very rich land of fossils" (quoting the donor). The Chang Award will fund vertebrate paleontology fieldwork in China, undertaken by collaborative US-China teams (of scientists and institutions). Applicants must be SVP members, and application is open to both professionals and students--the level of the award (up to $2,000) is expected to provide an opportunity to add a participant to an existing, funded project, lengthen a field season (e.g., to undertake exploratory research), enable a student to undertake a pilot study or join an expedition, etc.

All fossil vertebrate specimens collected as part of the fieldwork must be accessioned into appropriate Chinese or US not-for-profit repositories, under relevant laws and project agreements. Awards typically will be up to $2,000, awarded annually (pending support by the donor each year). Requests for funding of special projects requiring higher levels of support will be considered under special circumstances--justification must be provided in the application, extra lead time must be given for consideration (e.g., at least one year in advance of the proposed work), and advance discussion with the committee chair will facilitate consideration of the request.

Applicants should submit a one-page application to the committee chair, in care of Sean Allen (see below). Existing letters of agreement or collaboration should be attached, if

possible. Awardees will provide a short project report to SVP and Ms. Chang upon completion of the fieldwork.

Application for Ying-Chien Chang Science Award 2000 should include:
1. Applicant name and institution;
2. Project title;
3. Names of collaborating US and Chinese scientists and institutions;
4. Repository(-ies) for VP specimens;
5. Brief project description (less than 1/2 page; include mention of how the Chang Award will especially contribute to the project; attach copies of formal agreements or letters of collaboration, if available, as separate pages);
6. Budget (include total project budget, itemization of funds already received, funds requested from other sources, and how the Chang Award funds will support undertaking a specific part of the project--it should be clear that the project can be completed if the Chang Award is received). Submit application packet to:
Committee Chair, Ying-Chien Chang Science Award 2000
c/o Sean Allen
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
60 Revere Drive
Northbrook IL 60062

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-- News from Members --

BRAZIL
Museu Nacional/UFRJ, Paleovertebrate Sector, Rio de Janeiro
Helder de Paula Silva, preparator at MN/UFRJ, was the recipient the first Joseph F. Chance Preparator's Award of SVP. Helder will spend one month at the Yale Peabody Museum with Marilyn Fox, who kindly agreed to train him in fine mechanical preparation. We all are very proud of him.

Alberto Barbosa de Carvalho continued working on his Master's thesis on fossil squamates from the Itaboraé Basin, which he expects to finish this semester. Juliana Manso Sayão, biology undergraduate student at the University of Santa Ursula, continued her research on pterosaurs from the Crato Member. She is working with Alexander Kellner, finishing manuscripts to be submitted soon.

This year we have two more Master's students: Luciano A. Leal, who will work with a new prosauropod found in the Triassic Santa Maria Formation, and Marcelo Trotta, who will work on the postcrania of titanosaurid sauropods. Luciana Barbosa de Carvalho, a PhD student at USP, São Paulo, continued her studies on reptile teeth. Deise Dias Rego Henriques was admitted to our PhD program to work on vertebrate taphonomy of some Mesozoic sites. Together with Alexander Kellner and Cibele Schwanke, Deise published the children's booklet, "Gonti, an Adventure during the Time of the Dinosaurs" (in Portuguese).

Sergio Alex Kugland de Azevedo is very busy finishing some papers regarding marine reptiles and fishes found in the K/T transition in Brazilian basins. He is also studying a Triassic prosauropod with Luciano and others. Sergio is also developing, with Mauro João Cavalcanti, programs in morphometric analyses and both are working with Luis Carlos Alvarenga on computer programs for collection management.

Alexander W. A. Kellner continued his work on fossil archosaurs, particularly pterosaurs and dinosaurs. With Sergio, he finished the description of *Gondwanatitan faustoi*, a new titanosaurid sauropod, which made the cover of the popular science magazine *Galileu*. He also described a new theropod from the Santana Formation, *Santanaraptor placidus*, and,

with Diogenes Campos and Cibele Schwanke, published "Brazil during the Time of Dinosaurs" (in Portuguese).

Besides the above, the team of the Museu Nacional, together with the DNPM/Rio de Janeiro, organized the temporary exhibit, "The Time of the Dinosaurs." This exhibit will close on March 10 and is already the most popular temporary exhibit ever in the country. A nice byproduct of this exhibit was the equipment our lab obtained to make casts of our available specimens (for more info, see http://acd.ufrj.br/mndgp/pvdgp.htm or contact us). (Alexander W. A. Kellner)

BULGARIA
National Museum of Natural History/Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Current investigations on fossil birds includes: Zlatozar Boev, DSci (Head of the Fossil and Recent Birds Department of the National Museum of Natural History) defended his DSci thesis entitled "Neogene and Quaternary Birds (Aves) from Bulgaria" (December 1999), which deals with composition and evolution of the Bulgarian Neogene-Quaternary avifauna. More than 13,400 bone finds from ten Neogene and 83 Quaternary (14 Pleistocene) sites have been studied. Three hundred eighty-six taxa (303 species) have been established, of which 18 genera and five species are the oldest in the world. Five extant genera have been established for a first time as fossils. Two genera and 15 species are new to science. A unique (possibly the richest in Europe) Late Pliocene avifauna at the Varshets locality has been investigated. The "mixed avifaunas" on the Balkan peninsula in the Late Tertiary and the "boreal complex" in Bulgaria in the Middle-Late Pleistocene have been established for the first time. Reconstructions of the paleoenvironment near the sites are complete. Boev's new data support the hypothesis for the Pliocene origin of the Tetraonidae family in southeastern Europe (of D. Janossy), for the savanna origin of *Lagopus* (Z. Bochenski) and for the hypothesis on the polyphyletic origins of *Gallus gallus domestica* in southeastern Europe (N. Burchak-Abramovich, N. Ganya, M. Voinstvenskiy). Some of the new finds need additional identifications and must be prepared for publication. Those will be the main goals for the next several years of Z. Boev's work.

Dr. Vassil Popov (Inst. of Zoology, Acad. Bulg. Sci.) continued micromammal fossil studies on the Pliocene micromammalian faunas at the Muselievo (MNQ15) locality and Varshets (MNQ17) locality (more than 30 species). He is preparing a monograph on the small mammals from a large number of Plio-Pleistocene localities of Bulgaria. The Pleistocene locality in Kozarnika with human artifacts--among the oldest in Europe, has been explored by the Bulgarian-French archaeological team under N. Sirakov and J.-L. Guadeli. Last year, the site was dated on the micromammals by V. Popov. Presence of *Mimomys savini* (layer 11a and 11b) and *Mimomys pusillus* (layer 11a) clearly indicates that the Kozarnika assemblages should belong to the Biharian stage. The absence of *M. pusillus* at layer 11a suggests a correlation to the upper half of the Biharian. The concurrence of the above-mentioned *Mimomys* species in layer 11b shows that it should be referred to the first half of the Biharian. On the basis of biometrical analyses ofMicrotus and Lagurus, Popov supposes that layers 11b 11a are equivalent to the upper

half of the "*Mimomys pusillus-M. savini*" biozone, and probably also the lower part of the "*Mimomys savini*" biozone. Popov's data show that, according to the correlations proposed by Van der Meulen, the assemblage from layer 11a may tentatively be referred to the lower part of Cromerian and the assemblage from the lower part of layer 11b (with *M. arvalidens*) should belong to the upper half of Bavelian--a stage between 1,000,000 and 750,000 years according to the paleomagnetic data.

Popov observes that, for the time being, it is difficult to determine the upper chronological extension of layer 11a. In this respect he notes that the latest appearance of *Mimomys savini* in Romania extends back to a chronological equivalent of the Glacial B of Cromerian complex of the Netherlands about 600,000 years BP.

A new museum affiliated with the National Museum of Natural History was inaugurated in May 1999 in the town of Assenovgrad (Plovdiv District, south Bulgaria). On this occasion, a scientific meeting was organized (21-22 May 1999) on the "Late Miocene *Hipparion*-fauna from the Rila-Rhodopean Region and the Eastern Mediterranean" (Org. Committee: N. Spassov, Prof. Tz. Tzankov). Themes of discussion were connected with the Bulgarian *Hipparion* localities (mostly in the Strouma and Mesta river valleys) and the Neogene geologic and biotic events in the south Balkans region.

The new museum was created on the base of the mammalian fossil collections gathered from several Miocene localities in last 30 years. The materials were collected by Dimitar Kovachev (formerly a biology teacher in the Assenovgrad High School--now curator of the museum). Forty-five showcases and a diorama were prepared and finished by a team under Spassov from the NMNH in May 1999. Over 20,000 unpublished specimens of more than 40 species are stored in the collection.

Several studies of this large collection already started. The richest locality of late Miocene is Hadjidimovo (31 species in the preliminary fauna list--Spassov, in press). Investigations are in progress on the geology and taphonomy of the Strouma and Mesta valley localities (T. Tzankov, N. Spassov, G. Nikolov), on the Chalicotheriidae (D. Geraads, N. Spassov, D. Kovachev, in press), and on *Mesopithecus* began in 1999 (Spassov and Kovachev in collaboration with G. Koufos from the University of Thessaloniki), and on the Suidae (Kostopoulos, Spassov, and Kovachev).

Spassov is finishing a monograph on the Villafranchian localities of megafauna from Bulgaria: Varshets-MNQ17 (18 macromammal species, including new mustelid species *Baranogale balcanica*) and Slivnitsa-MNQ18a (19 species). Parts of this work have already been published or are in press (Spassov, 1997*a,b,c*; 1998; Spassov, Cregut-Bonnoure, 1999; Spassov, in press). A conclusion is that the Asian elements had an impact on the faunas of southeastern Europe during the Villafranchian. A series of migration events started in the end of the Pliocene via southeastern Europe, including the dispersal of the rich bovid fauna of the Late Villafranchian in Europe; the first appearance of *Canis* s. str., of *Ovis*, and of *Panthera gombaszoegensis*. These faunal events are related to the beginning of the cold phase that started during the superclimateme SCT10. The boundaries of the Early Pleistocene and the Late

Villafranchian do not correspond completely and the Late Villafranchian starts even at the end of Pliocene with the MNQ18-a zone (C. S. Giacomo-unit), subdivided in the Preolduvaian time (Slivnitsa time-MNQ18-a1) and the Olduvaian time (V. Graunceanului time-MNQ18-a2).

A monograph (ed. H. Todorova) about the world's largest prehistoric necropolis--Durankulak (northeastern Bulgaria) is in preparation, with a chapter on the animal remains (by N. Spassov and N. Iliev). The remains of *Equus hydruntinus* dominate the burials. The later remains come from the burials from the Varna culture time (second part of fifth millennium BC). Up to now, these are the latest remains of this species in a Pleistocene relic.

Animal remains from the submerged settlements Sozopol (Aeneolithic) and Urdovisa (Early Bronze age) on the coast of the Black Sea are studied (N. Spassov, N. Iliev). The full antler of *Dama dama* from Sozopol (the Balkan neolithic-aeneolithic) is very peculiar and probably represents a separate extinct subspecies. About 1/30 of the 15,000 bones from Urdovisa (beginning of the third millennium BC) are horse remains. It is of special interest for the problem of the origin of horse domestication. A special investigation will address the question on whether these remains belong to wild or domesticated horses.

A taxonomic revision of the Late Pleistocene-Holocene *Equus* of eastern Europe is underway. A hypothesis is proposed for the polyphyletic origin of domestic horses (N. Spassov, N. Iliev, 1998). (Nikolai Spassov)

CANADA

Heritage Branch, Department of Tourism, Yukon Government

Fieldwork in 2000 will focus on dinosaur footprints near Ross River (with Roland Gangloff and Kevin May, University of Alaska-Fairbanks) and Early Pleistocene mammalian faunas at Fort Selkirk and Dawson City. I continue to write up the early Arikareean (latest Oligocene) Kealey Springs mammalian fauna from Saskatchewan. (John Storer)

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology

We had a productive year collecting new material from Barnum Brown's *Albertosaurus* bonebed, and another complete tyrannosaur skeleton from Dinosaur Provincial Park. Michael Ryan collected the remains of a new ceratopsian from a bonebed near Devil's Coulee, and Mike Getty recovered more of the new centrosaurine from Dinosaur Park. Fieldwork in Argentina with Rodolfo Coria's crew focused on the carcharodontosaurid bonebed, providing most of the bones of the skeleton for a description of a new theropod genus by Phil Currie and Rodolfo Coria. Phil and Eva were in Mongolia in September with Nomadic Expeditions, and recovered part of a juvenile *Tarbosaurus*, a virtually complete multituberculate, partial skeletons of *Gobipteryx, Gallimimus, Mononykus*, and *Velociraptor*. Specimens being prepared at this time include the new tyrannosaur skeleton, a beautiful *Centrosaurus* skull, and two ankylosaur skulls. In terms of research, Phil co-authored papers (now submitted) on *Acrocanthosaurus* (with Ken Carpenter), a new theropod from Japan (with Yoichi Azuma), the braincase of *Giganotosaurus* (with

Rodolfo Coria), and the tail of a new oviraptorosaur (with Rinchen Barsbold, Nathan Myhrvold, Halszka Osmolska, and others). Other papers on *Gorgosaurus, Caudipteryx, Shanshanosaurus, Sinornithoides, Sinosauropteryx*, and a new dromaeosaur from Drumheller are nearing completion. The theropod book with Fernando Novas continues to make progress on all fronts.

Wu Xiaochun was a co-author of the recent *Sinornithosaurus* feathered dromaeosaur paper. Our dino students, including Richard McCrae, Michael Ryan, Matt Vickaryous, and Darla Zelenitsky, have all submitted papers since our last report in the *News Bulletin*. We were sorry that Mike Getty moved to Utah, but look forward to continued collaboration with him and Scott Sampson.

Betsy Nicholls and Makoto Manabe (National Science Museum, Tokyo) spent most of the summer excavating a giant (23 m) ichthyosaur from the Late Triassic of northeastern British Columbia. The Fraser Fort George Museum helped in the excavation, as did Pat Druckenmiller from Bozeman. Field crews worked in two-week rotational shifts throughout the summer. With crews from Canada, Japan, and the United States, it was a multinational undertaking. A Sikorsky helicopter was brought in to airlift out the 5.8-m skull. Special thanks to Northern Mountain Helicopters and Westcoast Energy for support with this. It came out in three pieces, with the largest piece weighing in at 4.5 tons. We also managed to collect parts of the front limbs and cervical vertebrae, and are going back for the rest next year. The preparation may take a little while.

Tamaki Sato's work on Bearpaw plesiosaurs is coming along well, and she is studying hard for her candidacy exam this spring. Andy Neuman is beginning to work on a *Myledaphus* skeleton collected in Dinosaur Park in 1998. X rays show vertebral column, some possible skull material, and jaws containing teeth. Preparation will proceed in the new year. He is also working on a large ratfish jaw from Vancouver Island with Dirk Meckert and a Jurassic saurichthyid skull from western Alberta with Mark Wilson (University of Alberta) and Russell Hall (University of Calgary).

David Eberth is heavily involved in administration, having taken over the head of public programs function. However, he has managed to maintain an active involvement in several research projects. One study being undertaken with Karen Chin involves the description of a probable theropod coprolite from southeastern Alberta.

Don Brinkman spent the summer's fieldwork in Dinosaur Provincial Park, which yielded one of the best hauls of turtles so far, with six complete shells representing five genera. An additional prize was a marine turtle skull from the Bearpaw Formation of southern Alberta. This seems to be a primitive toxochelid type of turtle, possibly the skull of *Lophochelys*, the only turtle identified in this assemblage so far. Microvertebrate studies are continuing in conjunction with Julia Sanke's studies of the small theropod teeth from Alberta and Big Bend. (Don Brinkman)

Royal Ontario Museum
Hans Sues has been busy with administrative duties following his promotion to Vice

President, Collections and Research, last summer. Current work focuses on an exquisitely preserved skeleton of a sphenosuchian from the Upper Triassic of North Carolina (in collaboration with Paul Olsen and Joe Carter) and on skeletal material referable to a remarkable new archosaur from the Wolfville Formation of Nova Scotia, which was recently collected by our Field Associate, George Hrynewich. Hans' new MSc student, Sanja Hinic, will work on the cranial osteology of the prosauropod dinosaur *Massospondylus*. Axel Hungerbuhler continues with his phytosaur postdoc work, and Simone Klutzny has submitted her dissertation at Bristol.

Chris McGowan is making much progress in his writing of the Ichthyosauria volume of the *Handbuch für Paläoherpetologie* series. Ryosuke Motani returned from Berkeley as his postdoctoral fellow, to complete this monograph with him. Ryosuke is also investigating the scaling of vertebrate eyes.

Thomas Carr and Tom Williamson (New Mexico Museum) will visit the paleobiology collections of the Canadian Museum of Nature (Ottawa) early in the new year. The purpose is to collect data from the last remaining skulls for their specimen-based phylogenetic analysis of Tyrannosauridae. Thomas eagerly awaits the return of Ms. Farheen Rahman to Toronto from the medical illustration graduate program at Johns Hopkins University. In June she will begin the carbon dust plates that will illustrate a monograph describing a new species of *Daspletosaurus* from the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. In the meantime, Thomas continues his work on an extant phylogenetic bracket-based comparative study of theropod basicrania.

Kevin Seymour received honorable mention in the Romer Prize session for his talk at SVP in Denver. He is presently working on the small vertebrates from interglacial sites at Woodbridge, Ontario, and Fernbank, New York. (Kevin Seymour)

GERMANY

Institut für Paläontologie, Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt Universität, Berlin

Gloria Arratia published "Mesozoic Fishes 2--Systematics and Fossil Record" in August 1999. The book includes 31 papers dealing with both fossil and extant fishes and has 604 pages. In summer 1999, Gloria had a very nice and productive time in the Department of Geology of the Field Museum of Natural History examining specimens to complete a monograph on the development and homology of fossil and living dipnoans and other sarcopterygians. She participated in the Third International Congress on Lithographic Limestones in Bergamo, Italy, where she delivered a paper on the impact of new fossils on hypotheses of phylogenetic relationships of teleosts. In October, Gloria attended the 59th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Denver. Gloria and Lance Grande organized one of the symposia (Fish Heads: Evolutionary Patterns) that put together colleagues working with different fish groups. Now Gloria is involved in some big projects, notably, Teleostei for the Handbook of Paleoichthyology together with Mark V. H. Wilson, a book (in English and German) on Paleontology of Fishes together with Hans-Peter Schultze, and collaboration with Andrea Tintori in the preliminary organization of the next meeting on Mesozoic Fishes (Serpiano, 2001).

Gottfried Böhme retired at the end of July 1999 as Curator of Geology. However, he continues working on several research projects. At present, he is studying fish, amphibian, and reptile remains from the upper Pleistocene locality of Geissenklösterle cave near Blaubeuren (south Germany) together with colleagues at the Institute of Prehistory of the University of Tübingen, and from the cave ruin of Hunas near Nuremberg (Middle Pleistocene) with colleagues of the Prehistory Department of the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. Gottfried is also involved in other projects concerning the middle Pleistocene limnic successions of Schöningen near Helmstedt (north Germany; in cooperation with the Archaeological Survey of Hannover) and the travertine of the famous *Homo erectus*-locality of Bilzingsleben (collaboration with the University of Jena).

After having completed her doctoral dissertation on Early Permian actinopterygians at the University of Mainz, Katrin Dietze joined our group in July 1999. At present, a paper on this subject is in press in *Palaeontology*. Katrin is currently working on Late Cretaceous (Cenomanian) fishes from Sendenhorst (Westphalia, Germany) revising fossil myctophid, polymixid, and cheirotricid genera. Taxa dealt with in this study include *Tachynectes, Dactylopogon, Rhinellus, Sardinoides, Omosoma, Platycormus, Cheirotrix*, and *Telepholis*. These will be compared with material from the Cretaceous of Lebanon, the Tertiary of the Czech Republic, and to extant deep-sea species in order to determine their relationships.

Markus Dorka joined us in March 1998. He came from Tübingen to finish his Master's degree under the supervision of Hans-Peter. The subject of his Master's thesis is Late Carboniferous palaeoniscoids from Utah. He finished the thesis in December 1998, and a publication is planned. Additionally, he is studying Triassic microvertebrate remains which he excavated in a quarry near Braunschweig, northern Germany. At the moment he is completing a manuscript on shark teeth from one of the bonebeds of that quarry. Other papers dealing with tetrapod teeth and the vertebrate biostratigraphy of the quarry are planned.

Karlheinz Fischer, who retired in 1997, keeps busy with several projects. He is preparing the catalog of type and figured fossil mammals in our collections, and also the catalog of type and figured birds. In addition, he is working on two manuscripts, one on the "forest" elephants of Gröbern and Neumark-Nord in Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany, and the other on *Panthera pardus* from the lower Pleistocene of the Rixdorfer horizon of Berlin-Brandenburg and the distribution of leopards in the Pleistocene of Europe.

Thomas Gassner is a new doctoral student working under the supervision of Hans-Peter and Peter Bartsch. Since October 1999 he has been working on his thesis concerning the ontogenetic and phylogenetic development of Devonian and Recent lungfishes within the framework of the Graduiertenkolleg "Evolutive Transformationen und Faunenschnitte." Before joining the vertebrate paleontologists at the museum, Thomas studied turtles from the Upper Jurassic Guimarota coal mine (Leiria/Portugal). The ornamentation of the bony parts of the theka was used to identify the taxa. Furthermore, he was able to recognize differences in the cross sections of the thekal bones between the two taxa from Guimarota

(Plesiochelyidae and Pleurosternidae). He finished his Master's thesis in September 1999. At present he is attempting a comparison of cross sections of extant turtles with those of Guimarota turtles, linking them to ecological interpretations. A paper is in preparation.

Oliver Hampe has finished his revision of the xenacanthids of the Carboniferous deposits of the British Isles and will submit a manuscript in spring 2000. Although Oliver is busy with different exhibition projects in the museum, he plans to start a new research project on the late Miocene whale fauna of Gross Pampau in North Germany. Nevertheless, Oliver has not lost contact with Paleozoic sharks.

Wolf-Dieter Heinrich progresses with the study of the mammals from the Upper Jurassic of Tendaguru, Tanzania (East Africa). He recovered additional mammal remains from the Tendaguru Beds and reported on *Tendagurodon* (Triconodonta), *Tendagurutherium* ("Eupantotheria"), and *Staffia*, the first record of a haramiyid from Gondwana (in *Journal of Mammalian Evolution*, 5(4):271-290). The posterior portion of the mandible of *Tendagurutherium* reveals that the angular (tympanic) bone had not yet been completely separated from the dentary bone. Most likely, a mandibular eardrum was retained in *Tendagurutherium*. Wolf-Dieter also published a paper on the taphonomy of the Tendaguru dinosaurs based on hitherto unpublished field sketches of the German Tendaguru expedition (1909-1913). The data obtained suggest that the mass accumulation of dinosaur bones in the Tendaguru beds are the result of long-term bone accumulation rather than from short-term mass mortality events. The results of the Tendaguru projects supported by the DFG are published in our journal, *Mitteilungen aus dem Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, Geowissenschaftliche Reihe*, 2:25-205. The volume includes 14 papers (most of them in English), concerning the taphonomy, fauna, and flora of the sauropod locality. Together with Wighart von Koenigswald (Bonn), Wolf-Dieter also finished a manuscript on the middle Pleistocene mammal biochonology of central Europe.

The research on the dinosaurs from Tendaguru continues with 11 projects after successful completion of the first four projects. Oliver Hampe (logistics), Wolf-Dieter (microvertebrates), Martin Aberhan (molluscs), and Stephan Schultka (macroplants) are involved in the continuation of a research program in Tendaguru. They will lead, if funded, a Tendaguru expedition next summer.

In February 1999, Jürgen Kriwet spent two pleasant visits to the fossil fish collections of Brighton (England) and Lyon (France) collecting data for his doctoral thesis. He is now busy writing his thesis on the anatomy, functional morphology, and phylogeny of pycnodont fishes. First results of this work were presented at the meeting of the Paläontologische Gesellschaft in Zürich (Switzerland) and the 59th Annual Meeting of SVP in Denver, and have been published in Mesozoic Fishes 2, edited by Gloria and Hans-Peter. A redescription of *Coelodus subdiscus* from the Lower Cretaceous of eastern Spain is in preparation (with S. Wenz, Paris, and F. Poyato-Ariza, Madrid). In addition, Jürgen is describing with D. Delsate (Belgium) the first pycnodont remains from the German Triassic (Rhaetian). In spring 1999, Jürgen made a very successful field trip to

Karpathos, Greece, collecting many articulated fishes as well as hundreds of isolated otoliths, teeth, scales, and bones of fishes by screen-washing Miocene sediments.

Jürgen's work on Jurassic and Cretaceous fishes of the Iberian Peninsula is making slow progress. Papers on Late Jurassic fishes from Portugal and Spain (*Cuadernos de Geología Ibérica*, 1998, 24:241-260) and on elasmobranchs from the lower Barremian (*Palaeo Ichthyologica*, 1999, 9:113-142) and the upper Albian (*Profil*, 1999, 16:337-346) have been published so far. A description of some elasmobranch remains from the Maastrichtian of northern Spain, in colloboration with N. López-Martínez and Rodrigo Soler-Gijón, is in preparation. A manuscript on the fish fauna from central Portugal has been submitted to a special volume concerning the fauna and flora of the Guimarota coal mine (B. Krebs and Th. Martin, eds.) and an additional manuscript on some new or hitherto unknown elasmobranchs from the same locality is nearly completed.

In August 1999, Adriana Lopez-Arbarello defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) on the taxonomy of living Argentinean percichthyids (Perciformes: Percichthyidae). She joined the Institut as a DAAD fellow for half a year. At present, she is preparing the thesis for publication. She started two new projects: one on the actinopterygian fishes of the continental Middle-Upper Triassic Ischigualasto-Villa Unión and Cuyo basins (Argentina) and a second one on a systematic revision of the fossil fish fauna from the Jurassic Cerro Cóndor locality (Patagonia, Argentina) in collaboration with Gloria. Basal teleostean and nonteleostean neopterygians are represented in the Jurassic fauna. Both projects are of much interest for understanding evolutionary patterns in South American fish faunas.

Since our last report Markus Otto has started and finished the study of a vertebrate fauna from the Strathcona Formation (Middle Devonian, Ellesmere Island, Arctic Canada). This fauna was collected by Hans-Peter in 1975. It was erroneously dated as Late Devonian. The occurence of the arthrodire *Actinolepis magna* shows resemblance to east Baltic forms, thus we are dealing with a typical fauna of late Middle Devonian age. The material also includes a new antiarch genus, which will be described separately. Furthermore, Markus worked on the preservation and diagenesis of the Hunsrückschiefer fossils (Lower Devonian, west Germany).

Since the last report, Hans-Peter Schultze was at the Anderson River in summer 1997 (with Steve Cumbaa, Rick Day, Oliver Hampe, John Chorn, and Jessica Harrison), in summer 1998 in the southern Mackenzie Mountains (with Mark Wilson and his crew), and in 1999 in the north Yukon, always collecting Devonian fishes and agnathans.

Hans-Peter took part in the joint Systematics Association/Natural History Museum meeting on "Major Events in Early Vertebrate Evolution" in April 1999 in London where he spoke about the most primitive actinopterygian *Dialipina* (collected at Anderson River) and the distribution of characters in basal actinopterygians. Together with Zhu Min (Beijing), they reconfirmed their arrangement of sarcopterygians published in *Lethaia*, 30, 1997. Both manuscripts have been submitted to the symposium volume. In September he presented the lungfish *Melanognathus* from Anderson River at a meeting in

Riga, Latvia. In October he delivered a talk on the homology of skull-roof bones in the symposium, "Fish Heads" at the 59th meeting of SVP in Denver that resulted in an exciting discussion between homology (mammalian terms to be used in actinopterygians) and practicability (keeping old terms used for actinopterygian skull bones).

In summer 1999 Hans-Peter visited the northern Yukon together with Steve Cumbaa and R. Day, Museum of Nature, Ottawa, and John Storer, Tourism Department, Yukon, to relocate and collect the Devonian locality of the dipnoan *Stomiahykus*. The group flew from Mayo, Yukon, to a lake "near" the locality. The hike each day to the locality discovered at a tributary to the Snake River took 2½ hours and, in addition, a traverse through the ice-cold river had to be done each day. They discovered arthrodiran plates and one large *Machaeracanthus* spine in a crinoidal limestone. Hans-Peter would especially like to thank the strong effort put into the endeavor by John Storer, a specialist for Tertiary mammals.

Hans-Peter has taken over more administrative responsibilities because, in addition to being the director of the Institut of Paläontologie, he is now the director of the whole Museum für Naturkunde. Be patient if he cannot answer immediately to your e-mail.

Rodrigo Soler-Gijón continues his work on xenacanth sharks and dipnoans from several Permo-Carboniferous localities of Europe and America. A detailed study of the structure and growth of the dorsal spine of the xenacanth *Orthacanthus* was recently published (*Journal of Morphology*, 242:1-45). In this paper Rodrigo uses the skeletochronology to determine the growth pattern of the shark and the paleoenvironmental conditions in which the fish lived (tidal cyclicity and seasonality). Now he is studying the relationship between ontogeny and phylogeny in xenacanthiforms. He is describing juvenile and hatchling xenacanths from the Carboniferous of Bohemia (Czech Republic) and Linton (Ohio) (material provided by Jiri Zidek, Prague) in order to determine the growth rate and timing of development and, in consequence, the possible existence of heterochronic processes. He continues working together with Hans-Peter and John Chorn (Lawrence, Kansas) on the histology of the dipnoan *Sagenodus copeanus* from the Stephanian of Robinson (Kansas). They are comparing the growth cyclicity of *Sagenodus* with that in the xenacanth sharks from the same locality in order to determine the influence of paleoenvironmental factors in the growth of vertebrates.

On the other hand, Rodrigo continues his research on elasmobranchs (mainly rays) and actinopterygians (lepisosteiforms and catfishes) from the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary in the south-central Pyrenees (Lleida province, Spain). This is part of a large project supported by the Ministry of Science of Spain and directed by Prof. N. Lopez Martinez (Universidad Complutense, Madrid). Recently, Rodrigo (together with co-author I. Iglesias-Martin, Madrid) described (*Coloquios de Paleontología*, 50:129-151) a new method to study cyclicity in the growth of ganoid scales. He is also studying the histology of isolated ganoid scales of *Atractosteus* collected in several localities from the Maastrichtian and Danian of Pyrenees to determine paleoecological and paleogeographical information.

After eight years in the Department of Earth Sciences at Bristol University, in England, Dave Unwin finally succumbed to the lure of a permanent position and moved 1,000 miles eastwards to take up the position of Curator of Fossil Reptiles and Birds in the Museum für Naturkunde of the Humboldt University in fall 1998. Links with the UK remain strong, however, principally through continued supervision of PhD students G. Dyke, H. Bolton, and D. Wharton at Bristol, and M. Wilkinson at Cambridge. Ollie Rauhut, another of Dave's PhD students who was originally at Bristol, has returned to Berlin and is near completion of the thesis write up, closely supervised by Dave, who, quite fortuitously, now lives in the same block of flats as Ollie!

Pterosaurs continue to be the primary focus of Dave's research and, with the opportunity to organize his time more effectively, Dave has been able to make some progress with long-term projects on pterosaur anatomy, systematics, and phylogeny. In pole position is the project on pterosaur wings which includes work on wing-shape, wing-extent, and the construction of the wing membrane. Close behind on the grid are projects on the taxonomy of Cretaceous pterosaurs, notably the "*Ornithocheirus*" problem, and a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis of pterosaurs--now down to the last five unscored taxa, happily all of which are in Germany or nearby in Italy. This is still only the front row of the grid, however! In the next row Dave has projects on the terrestrial ability of pterosaurs, which includes computer-based modelling with Don Henderson (Johns Hopkins) and some further work on pterosaur tracks with colleagues in France and the US. In addition, Dave is also involved with a study of pterosaur bone histology being conducted by Martill and colleagues (Portsmouth, UK), and is trying to complete a description of a new pterosaur from the Lower Jurassic of Dorset and redescriptions of some old British pterosaur collections including those from the Stonesfield Slate. Obviously, no sensible person would take on further projects at this time, so, this year, Dave began work on Tendaguru pterosaurs, which has already led to one publication with Wolf-Dieter describing the first jaw material (*Mitt. Mus. Naturk. Berlin, Geo. Reihe*, 2:121-134) and also began a project (now supported by the National Geographic Society) with his Spanish colleagues (J. Company, J. I. Ruiz-Omeóaca, and X. Pereda-Suberbiola) on a giant azhdarchid pterosaur from the Late Cretaceous of Spain.

Dave has also been active in promoting science to the public, most notably through involvement with the BBC-TV series, "Walking with Dinosaurs," which, in the UK, has achieved record viewing figures for a science series. Dave acted as the consultant on pterosaurs, in particular for program four ("Giant of the Skies") which is based around *Ornithocheirus*, but points out that he was not responsible for the suggested wing span of 13 m. On the editorial front, Dave recently stepped down as vertebrate editor for *Palaeontology*, and fervently hopes to have seen the last set of proofs by the time that this news report sees the light of day.

Not suprisingly, Dave has had little time for foreign travel, but, nevertheless, managed to squeeze in visits to collections in Munich, Karlsruhe, and Denver, and four very hot days in Valencia, to examine the giant Spanish azhdarchid, during which a quick visit to the site yielded two more pterosaur bones to the eagle-eyed "Ome."

During 1999 Dave gave presentations at the Symposium of Vertebrate Paleontology and Comparative Anatomy meetings in Bournemouth (computer animations of walking pterosaurs with D. Henderson) and in Edinburgh (giant Spanish azhdarchid, with Spanish colleagues), the SVP meeting in Denver (more computer-animated pterosaurs with Henderson), at the annual German vertebrate paleontology meeting in Laimering, Bavaria (relationships of pterosaurs to other diapsids) and at the Third German-speaking paleoherpetologists meeting in Karlsruhe (pterosaur wing fibers). (Gloria Arratia and Hans-Peter Schultze)

THE NETHERLANDS

Natuurhistorisch Museum Maastricht The Natuurhistorisch Museum Maastricht has seen a lot of activity over the last several months. At SVP in Denver, the first results of last year's mosasaur excavation were presented. A few weeks later, back in Maastricht, we welcomed more than 70 colleagues at the celebratory conference on the Maastrichtian Stage, which was first described 50 years ago in 1849 by the geologist André Dumont. The abstracts of the conference are available at www.nhmmaastricht.nl/maastrichtian.

The proceedings volume of the Third European Workshop on Vertebrate Palaeontology at the Natuurhistorisch Museum Maastricht in 1998 is now in press as a special issue of the journal *Geologie en Mijnbouw*.

John Jagt finished his PhD thesis on Maastichtian echinoderms, and is now devoting more time to mosasaurs. Now that the mosasaur skeleton discovered in the type Maastrichtian has been recovered from the ENCI-quarry, Anne Schulp is coordinating the preparation and presentation of the find. Currently, preparations are being made for moving the Maastrichtian celebratory exhibition on the Maastrichtian Stage to the Muzeul Civilizatiei Dacice si Romane Deva, in Deva, Romania, where it will be on exhibit in the spring. The New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, will host the exhibition later this year.

The Web site on the celebratory exhibition and the Maastrichtian Stage has recently been awarded the prestigious "Limburg Wide Web Award," the provincial prize for outstanding Internet communication. The prize associated with the award will support the live Webcast of the mosasaur preparation scheduled for later this year.

Along with the exhibition, the crew of volunteers associated with the museum is considering coming over to Romania this summer to join the excavations in the Hateg area with the Muzeul Civilizatiei Dacice si Romane Deva.

With Marcin Machalski of the Polska Akademia Nauk, we are comparing the Polish mosasaur material with "our" own materials. Hubert Vonhof of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam is currently refining his strontium isotope work on the Type Maastrichtian. Anne Schulp is still working on the Omani dinosaur material, and Eric Mulder (Museum Natura Docet, Denekamp, but a regular visitor in Maastricht) is currently working on the *Allopleuron* skeleton from our collections, which has just been temporarily taken apart for casting. (Anne Schulp)

ROMANIA

University of Bucharest

Last summer our team from the University of Bucharest led by Dan Grigorescu continued to search for dinosaurs and other vertebrates in the Maastrichtian of the Hateg Basin. The search focused on the Densus-Ciula Formation, near the villages of Tustea (the site with eggs and baby remains of the hadrosaurid *Telmatosaurus transylvanicus*), Valioara, and Ciula. New discoveries include mostly isolated teeth, vertebrae, and limb and girdle bones of the ornithopod *Rhabdodon*, teeth of small theropods, dermal plates of turtles (*Kallokibotion*), and eggshell fragments that are different from the Megaloolithidae type found before. We also continue to screen wash for microvertebrates in the same deposits. New material includes fishes, frogs, lizards, and multituberculate mammals. The first paper on the microvertebrates from the uppermost Cretaceous of the Hateg Basin was presented by Dan Grigorescu, Marton Wenczel, Zoltan Csiki, and Romeo Limberea at the Third European Workshop on Vertebrate Paleontology from Maastricht (May 1998), and published in *Geologie en Mijnbouw* in 1999. The fieldwork of the last summer coincided with a total solar eclipse in Hateg (11 August). To this rare cosmic event we dedicated a series of lectures titled "Cosmic and Biological Eclipses in the Earth History," presented by our paleontologists, biologists, ecologists, and astronomers from the University of Bucharest. This gave us an opportunity to talk about the biological crisis and extinctions to a local community that is very interested in "their" dinosaurs.

Last spring Zoli Csiki went to Warszaw for a week to study the multituberculate teeth in the collection of Dr. Kielan-Jaworowska, who kindly gave him assistance. Subsequently a paper, "Teeth of multituberculate mammals from the Late Cretaceous of Romania," was presented by Csiki and Grigorescu at the Fourth European Workshop on Vertebrate Paleontology in Albaracin, Spain (June 1999) and is in press in *Acta Paleontologica Polonica*. Dan Grigorescu presented a poster on dinosaur eggs and babies from the uppermost Cretaceous of the Hateg Basin, at the First International Symposium on Dinosaur Eggs and Babies at Isona, Spain (September 1999).

Vlad Codrea, now a Reader in the University of Cluj-Napoca, worked during the summer on different outcrops with Tertiary deposits from Transylvania. He discovered some mammalian fossils including multituberculates, bats, rodents, and condylarths in the Upper Paleocene-Lower Eocene from Jibou and Rona in northwestern Transylvania. He also found insectivores and cricetids in the Upper Eocene of Tresnea, and anthracotheres and insectivores in the Middle Oligocene near Cluj. All new materials are now under preparation and study. Emanuel Dica, an MSc student, is working on fossil fishes from the Paleogene and Miocene of Transylvania. So far he described 55 taxa of sharks and actinopterygians, out of which 25 are recorded for the first time in Romania. Matei Vremir, another MSc student in the University of Cluj, is studying the fossil turtles and sirenians from the Paleogene and Miocene of Transylvania. He is preparing a catalog of the marine turtles from the Paleogene of Romania as well as of the sirenians from the Eocene, Oligocene, and Miocene of Transylvania (he inventoried more than 400 sirenian bones from 35 localities).

Erika Posmosanu and Elisabeta Popa from the Museum of Natural History in Oradea continue to search the Lower Cretaceous bauxite deposits at Cornet, in the western Carpathians. Last summer they collected more than a hundred bone fragments, mostly ornithopods, that are now removed from the hard matrix for systematic study. Erika struggled to get sponsorships for the conservation of the site for the rich assemblage of dinosaurs and pterosaurs found in 1977. This site is now endangered by the collapsing walls in recent years after the end of the mining activities. Erika and Elizabeth Cook (Bristol, UK) finished a manuscript on "Vertebrate taphonomy and dinosaur palaeopathology from the Lower Cretaceous bauxite-filled fissure in the north-west of Romania."

In January, Paul Constantin from the Institute of Geology in Bucharest defended his PhD thesis on the Oligocene teleost fishes from the eastern Carpathians. Dr. Costin Radulescu, Director of the Institute of Spaeology and his VP team are working on several projects: the Pliocene-Pleistocene biostratigraphy of the Dacian Basin based on micromammals assemblages; the origin and evolution of the genus *Dolomys* (Arvicolidae, Rodentia); the dentition of some rodents (*Allactaga, Visternomys*) from the Middle Pleistocene cave deposits in central Dobrogea; and the skull of *Kogaionon ungureanui* (Multituberculata) from the Maastrichtian of Hateg. (Dan Grigorescu)

RUSSIA

Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg

Alexander Averianov, Pavel Skutchas, and Alexei Abramov, together with Alexei Starkov from Ulan-Ude, spent a month (July-August) in Buryatia, Siberia, collecting terrestrial vertebrates of Early Cretaceous (Barremian-Aptian) age. Two more molars of *Prokennalestes abramovi*, n. sp., the oldest known eutherian mammal, were found. In September, Alexander, Pavel, and Alexei Abramov, together with Igor Danilov and Anton Rezvyi, participated in an international expedition (URBAC-1999) in the central Kyzylkum Desert, Uzbekistan, where 75 mammal remains, including a partial skull, were found among numerous other vertebrates during screen washing of 20 tons of Late Cretaceous (Coniacian) rock at Dzharakuduk. In October the Russian team of URBAC-1999 worked at the Cenomanian site of Sheikdzheili in the southwestern Kyzylkum Desert (Karakalpakistan). About eight tons of matrix were screen washed and six mammal specimens, as well as other vertebrates, were recovered. This number will definitely increase, as the majority of the concentrate has yet to be sorted.

Igor Danilov is preparing his PhD work on early testudinoid turtles from the Late Cretaceous of Asia (*Mongolemys, Lindholmemys*, etc.). Igor also participated during 1997-1999 in fieldwork in the Kyzylkum Desert (URBAC expedition, headed by Professor David Archibald, San Diego State University), where, in addition to much else, new turtle material was collected. Alexei Tikhonov was a member of the Scientific Committee of the Second International Mammoth Conference held in Rotterdam, 16-20 May 1999. Together with L. Agenbroad and S. Vartanyan, he presented a paper on comparative analysis of mammoth populations from Wrangel (Siberia, Russia) and the Channel Islands (California). In August and September he was a member of the team that excavated and recovered a frozen block of permafrost in the western Taimyr, containing

the preserved remains of the Zharkoff mammoth. In all, research on remains of mammoths from eight localities from the Taimyr Peninsula were conducted. Alexei has finished a PhD thesis on the systematics of the subfamily Caprinae in which one chapter was devoted to the history of this group. A new systematic position for snow goats, close to ovibovines, was proposed on the basis of an analysis of the Pleistocene history of these animals.

Gennady Baryshnikov finished field studies of Mousterian sites in the Altai Mountains, central Asia (Denisova Cave and the Ust-Karakol 1 open-air site) in 1998, and in 1999 participated in the excavation of Akhstyrskaya Cave in the western Caucasus. The cave is situated in the forest belt at an elevation of 300 m a.s.l.; fauna from the Upper Paleolithic level contains *Prometheomys schaposchnikovi*, typical of Alpine meadows, which indicates a strong depression of altitude belts in the Caucasus during the Last Glacial Maximum. He has also recently investigated *Ursus deningeri* from the Caucasus, *Mammuthus primigenius* from the Caucasus and Crimea, and bone assemblages accumulated by *Crocuta spelaea* in Denisova Cave in the Altai Mountains. He also investigated *Panthera spelaea* from Yakutia, Siberia (with Gennady Boeskorov), *Ursus rossicus* from the Ural Mountains (with Nikolai Vereshchagin), and *Paralutra* sp. from Moldova Republic (with Alexander Averianov). In September 1998, Gennady participated in the Fourth International Cave Bear Meeting in Velenie, Slovenia, and in May 1999 in the Second International Mammoth Conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where he was also a member of the Scientific Committee. Gennady Baryshnikov thanks Dr. Vida Pohar (Ljubljana), Prof. Gernot Rabeder (Wien), and Dick Mol and Prof. Jelle Reumer (Rotterdam). (Gennady Baryshnikov)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region

American Museum of Natural History, New York

Chairman Mark Norell and the rest of the AMNH/Mongolian Academy of Sciences team continue to analyze the vast trove recovered from the Cretaceous of Mongolia. Curators Malcolm McKenna and Meng Jin have completed their paper with Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska on the skull of *Daulestes*, a primitive eutherian mammal from the Coniacian of Uzbekistan. Malcolm has continued his work on the fauna of the Shanda Gol Formation of Mongolia and has screen-washed Paleocene sites in the eastern Washakie Basin in Wyoming and the Goler Formation in California. The Goler is producing some new taxa distinctive to the western continental margin of North America in the Paleocene. Malcolm will be off to China for a month in January. Meng Jin has pursued further field studies in China and has settled down as the newest curator in our recently reorganized Division of Paleobiology. Gene Gaffney continues his work on pleurodire turtles and John Maisey will be enjoying the Antarctic summer doing fieldwork in the remote Falkland Islands in February. Graduate student Jonathan Geisler is beginning his dissertation research on the systematics of Cetacea with respect to out groups and resolving the relationships between Mysticetes and Odontocetes.

A second printing of Malcolm and Susan Bell's "Mammal Classification" will be forthcoming in the spring of 2000. Hard- and soft-cover editions will be advertised in the

forthcoming *JVP*. Programming has been completed for use in viewing the "Classification" at the AMNH Web site, www.amnh.org. Richard Tedford, Xioming Wang, and Beryl Taylor are pleased at the final completion and publication of "Phylogenetic Systematics of the Borphaginae" (*AMNH Bulletin* 243). This 391-page work is the culmination of many decades of work.

At Grizzly Buttes, Wyoming, John (Alex) Alexander found the articulated skeletons of a galliform bird (a rarity) and the creodont *Thinocyon vorax* with a skull, including the entire hyoid apparatus. Michael Morlo of the Senckenberg Museum visited us for several weeks this fall and concluded that this was the best specimen of the genus yet found. A second complete skull (of *Hyopsodus minisculus*) was found associated with the *Thinocyon*. Another bonus was the discovery that a specimen of *Oodectes herpestoides* collected in 1998 may be the best-preserved skeleton of any Bridgerian carnivore ever seen. (Jin Meng and John Alexander)

Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland

The Sturgeon Mini-Symposium, to mark the opening of our 900 sq ft exhibit on the Atlantic Sturgeon, went off without a hitch with lectures given by Willy Bemis (sturgeon paleontology), Dave Secor (the natural history of living sturgeon), and Stephen Godfrey (sturgeon cranial ontogeny). Michael Gottfried was here for the filming of a BBC Shark Week episode on *Carcharodon megalodon*. Later in the summer, Bretton Kent was interviewed by a Brazilian TV crew, also interested in this large predator. Bretton returned to the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) in November to deliver a public lecture on the functional morphology of shark teeth. The CMM Exhibits and Paleontology Departments are pulling together several original and locally quarried Miocene whale skulls for a display on cetacean evolution. One of the specimens may be the largest cetothere cranium yet quarried from the Maryland Miocene (Stephen Godfrey).

George Washington University

Jim Clark spent his ninth(!) summer with the American Museum's expeditions to the Gobi Desert, and is still studying the theropod dinosaur material with Mark Norell and others. He continues his work on oviraptorids and the occasional therizinosaur, after publishing a description last year of the "nesting oviraptorid" concentrating on its beautifully preserved sternal region, in *American Museum Novitates*. Having finished off a manuscript on sphenosuchians, he and Hans-Dieter Sues are moving on to the thalattosaurs they collected at Buffalo Mountain, Nevada. He is also working with Victor Hugo Reynoso of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico on a goniopholid from the famous limestone quarry at Tepexi de Rodrigues, and might even finish off some of his old manuscripts on crocodyliforms some day. Further information about Jim's work can be found on the Web pages of the GWU-National Museum of Natural History graduate program in systematics, www.gwu.edu/~clade.

Regina Munter finished her Master's thesis in June, on theropod dinosaur specimens from the Jurassic La Boca Formation of Huizachal Canyon, Mexico. This new material includes a partial braincase and a pelvis, one or both of which are from a new taxon related to coelophysoids. Maureen Kearney continues her work on fossil and living

amphisbaenians, and hopes to finish by the end of this academic year. Her phylogenetic study of the relationships within the group is completed, and she is putting the finishing touches on a manuscript concerning problems associated with taxa and characters with many question marks (i.e., the "missing data" problem). She will also be submitting a manuscript soon on *Sineoamphisbaena*, the enigmatic fossil from the Cretaceous of Asia, in which she suggests it is a teiid lizard rather than an amphisbaenian. Jon Powell successfully defended his dissertation on sexual dimorphism in archosaurs in December. This work, begun under the guidance of Hans Sues, included meticulous dissections of the cloacal region and a morphometric study of the pelvis of birds and crocodylians, and of a lizard for comparison. This study provides several osteological clues to the sex of dinosaur specimens, while highlighting the uncertainties. Jon is moving to Durango, Colorado, after an extended skiing vacation to decompress. (Jim Clark)

NYCEP (The New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology)
The NYCEP Graduate Program has seen lots of research activity in VP-related areas since our last report two years ago.

At CUNY, Tim Bromage and Fred Szalay have been busy administering Hunter College laboratories for student training and research in both hard-tissue biology and the imaging sciences: Hard Tissue Research Unit and the Analytical Microscopy and Imaging Center in Anthropology (http://urban.hunter.cuny.edu/~ccbss/amica/contact.html). We have been building a major research interest, both locally and nationally, concerned with the bridge between the functional morphology of skeletons and bone microstructure. We now supervise about six CUNY graduate students and as many Hunter undergraduates pursuing this research direction in a variety of model mammalian taxa, both extant and extinct (this interest extending to our field interests as well).

Together with Friedemann Schrenk (University of Frankfurt), Hominid Corridor Research Project (HCRP) fieldwork continues on southeastern and eastern African Late Pliocene deposits. These results and more motivated us to convene an international conference in Malawi, supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, titled "African Biogeography, Climate Change, and Human Evolution." The book of the same name was published late in 1999. Chase it up on Amazon.com and peruse the table of contents. The HCRP has also a larger mission to give back to communities vital to paleoanthropology and its scientific progress. With cooperation from the European Development Fund, the Germany-based Uraha Foundation (Malawi place name from which the hominid jaw attributable to *Homo rudolfensis*, UR 501, was recovered), the Malawi government and local friends (Karonga Development Trust), the HCRP has raised $500,000 for the construction of the "Karonga Cultural and Museum Centre" in northern Malawi. The museum will include major exhibit areas, equipped research facilities, and indoor/outdoor theaters for educational initiatives and cultural performances. Picnic areas, seminar facilities, visitor residences, and storage rooms add to this welcome addition to the Karonga infrastructure. All recovered fossil specimens from Malawi, including the Dinosaur Beds and Chiwondo Beds (Late Pliocene) will be curated and displayed. In addition, a permanent camp near to the heart of Malawi's paleontological resources, and a Lake Malawi lakeside facility, are being constructed to

provide for various natural and physical science research teams in northern Malawi. Construction is expected to be complete by November 2000.

Eric Delson continues to direct NYCEP and coordinate the Physical Anthropology section of the CUNY PhD Program in Anthropology, which finally moved to the new Graduate Center (in the old B. Altman Building) on Fifth Avenue and 34th Street. Eric was also persuaded to serve as Chairman of the Anthropology Department at Lehman, with his main task being the replacement of at least some of the five faculty members in physical and cultural anthropology who have retired in the past few years. Eric and co-editors Ian Tattersall, John Van Couvering (both AMNH and NYCEP), and Alison Brooks (George Washington University) are pleased to report that the second edition of their "Encyclopedia of Human Evolution and Prehistory" finally appeared at the end of 1999, with a 2000 date. This work is heavily expanded and updated, with many SVP members in the list of contributors. Another long-term project of Eric's, the monograph on body mass in Old World monkeys, covering both estimation in fossils and scaling in modern taxa, is scheduled to be returned to the AMNH Publication Office after revision about the time this *News Bulletin* appears. The manuscript of nearly 300 pages (including a table with over 2,100 entries of individual body masses for extant specimens and estimates of mass for almost every known fossil population) is authored by Eric, Carl Terranova, Bill Jungers, Eric Sargis, Nina Jablonski, and Paul Dechow; it should appear in the *Anthropological Papers of the AMNH* later this year.

Eric was very pleased to have been invited to participate in a September conference in Greece in each of the last two years, and at each time he had the opportunity to visit colleagues and study fossil primate material. In 1998, he spent several days in Thessaloniki with George Koufos and colleagues examining specimens from the Axios region and a day in Athens with Constantin Doukas studying fossils from Pikermi and Maramena. The conference on human evolution in the Mani Peninsula was the subject of a report by Eric and grad student Katerina Harvati in *Journal of Human Evolution* (May 1999). The 1999 meeting on Lesvos focused on the recently discovered late Pliocene Vetera localities, which yielded important specimens of the large cercopithecine *Paradolichopithecus*. After the meeting, Eric accompanied Nikolai Spassov back to Sofia, Bulgaria, and then to the satellite museum of the National Museum of Natural History in Asenovgrad. Nikolai is due to be writing more about this institution in his first report from Bulgaria, but Eric was astounded by the wealth of *Mesopithecus* material housed here, including three partial associated skeletons and numerous crania. Eric takes this opportunity to again thank George, Constantin, Nikolai, their colleagues, and the organizers of the two meetings for all their help and hospitality.

Eric has been working on several other parallel projects, as usual. The most exciting of these, as reported in the *New York Times* and elsewhere, was the recognition by Henry Galiano of the Maxilla and Mandible shop that the mudcovered bone he purchased from a collector's estate was the skullcap of an *erectus*-grade hominid! It turned out that this specimen had been collected on the shore of the Solo River near Sambungmachan, Java, in late 1997 and was briefly reported in a local anthropology journal before it was spirited out of the country. Henry graciously returned it to the Indonesian government, but casts

are now available from the shop. A gaggle of NYCEP students and faculty are involved in the study of this specimen. Katerina, Eric, Les Marcus, and others undertook a three-dimensional morphometric analysis of the sagittal curve of the vault which is being completed as this is written. Eric, Les, and colleagues at AMNH received a grant of nearly $840,000 from the NSF "scientific visualization" competition to extend their 3D research over three years. The first manuscript on 3D baboon cranial morphology, by Les, Steve Frost, Fred Bookstein, Dave Reddy, and Eric is posted on the AMNH Web site's NYCEP section and should be ready for submission to a journal soon.

Last year, Eric worked with several students on aspects of several long-delayed analyses. With support from the AMNH REU summer program, Bernie Chavez of Rutgers worked on the dentition of Asian colobines with reference to the fragmentary fossils of ?*Semnopithecus sivalensis* from the Dhok Pathan levels at Hasnot. Caitlin Schrein studied the cranium of *Paradolichopithecus* for her Columbia senior thesis and continued this project with AMNH REU support. Cortney Wands of Lehman studied some of the postcranial remains in the autumn. Eric hopes to complete the *Paradolichopithecus* study this year. Other fossils under analysis include those from the Yushe region of China (with Dick Tedford breathing down his neck) and the Aramis cercopithecids collected by Tim White which Eric examined in 1997 with Steve Frost.

Steve is now in Washington, D.C., for a second four-month stint at the Smithsonian with Kay Behrensmeyer and Rick Potts, working on ETE database matters. He spent February through September in Africa and briefly in Europe studying fossil (and modern) cercopithecids (Old World monkeys--OWM) for his dissertation project, with support from the Leakey and Wenner-Gren Foundations. In order to test Vrba's "habitat theory" concept using a single taxonomic group, Steve is concentrating on the systematics and distribution of OWM in the Pliocene and Pleistocene of northern Ethiopia (Hadar and Middle Awash field areas). These distributions will be compared to those farther south, in the greater Turkana Basin, to look for synchronicity of turnovers. Steve is also using geometric morphometric analysis of OWM, especially "baboon," crania as an aid to systematic decision-making.

Katerina Harvati returned to New York in November after nearly a year collecting dissertation data in European and Israeli institutions. Her project involves developing models of variation within and between species to be applied to a comparison among Neanderthals, earlier hominids, and modern humans from western Eurasia with the purpose of clarifying the alpha taxonomy of the hominid groups, using geometric morphometrics and focusing on basicranial anatomy. This research was funded by NSF, the AMNH, and the CARE Foundation for Archaeological Research in Israel. Katerina thanks all curators of the various collections she studied for their help during her research. She also had a paper on dental eruption sequences in colobine primates recently accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and is now working on the preliminary comparative analysis of Sambungmachan 3, the new *Homo erectus* cranium from Java discovered last summer in New York.

Kieran McNulty has just successfully "defended" his dissertation proposal on hominoid facial morphology. The goal of his project is to quantify some of the structures that are typically treated nonmetrically in phylogenetic analyses. Using a geometric morphometric approach, he will examine the faces of extant hominoids to compare morphological variability both among taxa and through ontogeny. In addition, separate analyses of different subsets of the dataset will be undertaken in order to quantify particular structures of the face and to look at the variation they exhibit. This subsetting approach will enable direct morphometric comparisons between extant hominoid morphology and the fragmentary morphology of fossil apes. Kieran is also including a cross-sectional ontogenetic analysis in order to test for morphological integration among landmarks. The end result will combine a quantified, three-dimensional approach to character coding with information about character integration in order to reconstruct hominoid phylogeny. He'll be submitting grant applications to fund this research come the millennium and hopes to be visiting some of you over the coming year.

At last year's AAPA meeting, Kieran presented a poster about a tooth from the late Middle Miocene of Taut (Romania), along with the discoverers Costin Radulesco and Petre Samson, and Eric Delson. The specimen was originally thought to be a pliopithecid lower molar, but Kieran has suggested that it might instead be a deciduous premolar of a small hominoid. He plans to complete the paper describing this specimen and presenting his analysis later this spring, in between teaching and collecting data for his dissertation project.

Eric Sargis continues to work on his dissertation on the postcranial morphology of tupaiids and other archontan mammals. Most recently, he visited Marc Godinot in Paris and Chris Beard in Pittsburgh to examine the plesiadapiform postcranials in their care. He plans to defend and deposit his dissertation in spring 2000. He presented a poster on his methods and preliminary results at the 1999 meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists in Seattle. He has submitted two chapters of his dissertation for publication: one is on the locomotion, substrate use, and grasping of tupaiids; and the other is on the axial skeletal morphology of tupaiids and other archontans. In May 1999, he joined Jay O'Sullivan of the University of Florida at the early Miocene Thomas Farm site in Florida, where Eric found a nearly complete skull of the amphicyonid carnivoran *Cynelos caroniavorus*. Finally, he and Fred Szalay have nearly completed their monograph of Paleocene marsupial postcranials from Itaborai, Brazil, and they will be submitting it to *Geodiversitas* in the coming weeks. They recently presented the results of their analyses at the SVP meetings in Denver.

At New York University last July, Wendy Dirks enjoyed taking a break from her dissertation research on dental development in catarrhine primates to join Bob Anemone's (Western Michigan University) field crew in the Eocene deposits of the Great Divide Basin of Wyoming. She continues her collaboration with Tim Bromage in the Hard Tissue Research Unit of Hunter College, CUNY, working on the enamel microstructure of Plio-Pleistocene elephantids from Africa and Eurasia.

Of the AMNH contigent, Ian Tattersall and Jeffrey Schwartz (University of Pittsburgh) are hard at work on a multi-volume series to be titled "The Human Fossil Record." Much of the literature on hominid fossils is less useful than it might be for comparative purposes, largely because standards of description vary enormously. In these volumes, to be published by Wiley, Jeff and Ian plan to describe and illustrate as many as possible of the fossils documenting human evolution, using a single descriptive protocol and photographic format that will allow readers to make their own comparisons as needed. They hope to complete the first volume (genus *Homo* in Europe) by the end of this year. (Eric Delson)

Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, Connecticut

Bingham Lab has now been razed, just in time for Christmas. Disconnecting all of the steam, water, and power lines that ran through Bingham to the museum and the geology building caused some not-so-humorous interruptions in various services. Construction of the new ESF building will begin in the new year.

Jesse Anderson Maisano successfully defended her dissertation on postnatal skeletal development in squamates. She and husband John will be moving to Austin to begin her postdoc. In Elisabeth Vrba's lab the volume "Deer, Antelopes, Giraffes, and Relatives: Past, Present and Future" (E. S. Vrba and G. B. Schaller, eds.) with chapters from 22 international contributors, was completed and will appear on the spring 2000 booklist of Yale University Press. It was sponsored by the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies and the Wildlife Conservation Society, New York, of which Elisabeth is a Research Fellow. The volume includes chapters on the fossil record of ruminant artiodactyls, on their origins, evolution, diversification, systematics; paleobiogeography, including major migrations; past tectonic and paleoclimatic changes associated with ruminant evolution; causes of major speciation and extinction episodes; ecology and behavior in the past; systematics of living species based on gene sequences, hard and soft anatomy and behavior; ecology, behavior, and evolution; present biogeography; what the past and present information indicates for conservation: population conservation genetics; which taxonomic level and which taxa and ecosystems merit conservation priority; implications of greenhouse warming; management and role of zoos, national parks, etc.; "sustainable use" on game ranches and by local peoples; reintroductions.

New systematic analyses of living and extinct antelopes (Bovidae) culminated in a monograph on the fossil Alcelaphini and Caprinae of the Middle Awash strata in Ethiopia, and a phylogenetic analysis of all bovids coauthored with George Schaller that combines behavior and ecology with soft and hard anatomy. A study of brain growth and evolution in chimpanzees and humans appeared in the *Journal of Theoretical Biology* during the past year. Collaboration with other members of the Middle Awash Research Program on new fossil finds from Late Neogene Ethiopian fossil strata resulted in a recent publication in *Science* on the environment and behavior of the new hominid species *Australopithecus garhi*. Current research includes analyses of a comprehensive new database on the African mammalian fossil record of the Neogene that was completed during the past year. (Gerry Parisi)

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg
The big news here is that Geb (George) Bennett (formerly from the Dallas Museum of Natural History) has joined our staff as curator. He will assist Bob Sullivan, and the yet-to-be hired senior curator of zoology/botany, in collections management, specimen preparation, and fieldwork. Geb brings to the Section of Paleontology and Geology much-needed preparation and field experience, and we are most pleased that he has joined our institution. We also welcome our new volunteer, Paul Majors, who recently relocated to the Harrisburg area from (of all places) San Diego. Paul has extensive experience in fossil preparation and has begun prepping some of the backlog of San Juan Basin specimens.

Later next year, our museum will be moving the paleontology and geology collections (as well as the zoology, botany, and archaeology collections) into a new, state-of-the-art facility, which is currently being built across the plaza from the State Museum. We anticipate only minor interruptions in daily operations (perhaps for a couple of months).

Bob and volunteer Fred Widmann continued fieldwork this past summer, scouting the upper Kirtland Formation in the San Juan Basin. Despite yet another wet field season, we were successful in finding new and interesting specimens. Among this year's discoveries include a left frontal of *Saurornitholestes*, the first report of this taxon in the Late Cretaceous of New Mexico. Bob and Spencer Lucas (New Mexico Museum of Natural History) have a short paper (in press) describing this specimen. Prior to the field season Bob traveled to the Canadian Museum of Nature's collections facility in Québec to study the type and referred material of the enigmatic pachycephalosaur *Stegoceras*. As part of this project Bob will soon submit his manuscript titled "*Prenocephale edmontonensis* (Brown and Schlaikjer) new comb. and *P. brevis* (Lambe) new comb. (Dinosauria: Ornithischia: Pachycephalosauria) from the Upper Cretaceous of North America" for publication; it is the first of two papers revising the genus *Stegoceras*. He hopes to travel to Drumheller this spring to re-examine the specimens at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in order to complete this two-part project. Other projects include the description of an impact fracture in a metatarsal theropod dinosaur with Bruce Rothschild (Arthritis Center of Northeast Ohio) and Darren Tanke (Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology), and the "Stratigraphy and vertebrate biostratigraphy across the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary, Betonnie Tsosie Wash, San Juan Basin, New Mexico" with Spencer Lucas.

Recent publications include "Pennsylvania's dinosaurs and other Triassic reptiles" (with Spencer Lucas), published in *Natural History Notes of The State Museum of Pennsylvania* (No. 3) and the long-awaited "Middle Eocene (Geiseltalian) anguid lizards from the Geiseltal and Messel, Germany. 1. *Ophisauriscus quadrupes* Kuhn 1940" (with Thomas Keller and Jörg Habersetzer) in *Courier Forschunginstitut Senckenberg*, 216:85 96. (Bob Sullivan)

<b?*SUNY Stony Brook It's been another great year here at the Brook. We've added a new VP faculty position and are extremely happy to welcome Maureen O'Leary as our newly minted Assistant Professor. Maureen began her eventful new year by leading a successful*

expedition to the Cretaceous and Tertiary of Mali in the spring of 1999 (accompanied by Eric Roberts and Jason Head). She is now beginning work on her NSF grant, which is collaborative with John Gatesy, on cetacean systematics and conflicting phylogenetic signals from molecular and morphological data.

The crew turned in another successful field season in Madagascar this summer--Matt Carrano, Pat O'Connor, Kristi Curry, Dave Krause, and Karen Samonds led the crusade. The Stony Brook crew was joined by colleagues Greg Buckley (Roosevelt University), Mike Gottfried (Michigan State), Scott Sampson (University of Utah), Ray Rogers and Rebecca Terry (Macalester College), Joe Hartman (North Dakota), and the Malagasy paleo crew, Laurent Randriamiarimanana, Augustin Rabarison, Lydia Rahantsoa, and Claudine (Université d'Antananarivo). Matt's contribution in the field was to turn ordinarily boring and repetitive field lunches into delectable gourmet delights. Dave did some extremely successful prospecting near camp with shovel in one hand and a roll of toilet paper in the other, resulting in a second complete skull of Majungatholus. Also discovered this summer were several skulls of crocodilians and a partial skull and skeleton of a (possibly) new large theropod. Watch for the field crew and some of our new fossils in National Geographic this coming year.

Grad student Rob Hill joined the Flynn-Wyss crew in exploring sites in Late Triassic and Early Jurassic rocks in northwestern and southwestern Madagascar. Rob has also entered into the sticky world of ankylosaurid systematics, presenting a poster on his preliminary work at the SVP meeting. Nancy Stevens recently returned from Egypt where she joined Elwyn Simons and his crew for the second year. Karen Samonds is working on a paper on inferring life history strategies from the fossil record, looking at dental development in living and extinct primates. Pat O'Connor is continuing his dissertation research on the avian air-sac system, as well as working on the description of the postcranial axial skeleton of Majungtholus atopus.

Cathy Forster taught anatomy this summer, so to work off the frustration of missing the Madagascar field season, she tore her kitchen out down to the studs. She and Jim are still putting it back together. Cathy got a 1999 field season in just under the wire in late December with a short exploratory trip to the El Gallo and Boca Roja formations in Baja Mexico with Jim and Luis Chiappe. She is working on a number of projects including finishing long papers on ceratopsid phylogeny (with Scott Sampson) and hadrosaurid phylogeny, and describing the rest of the Maevarano bird materials.

Callum Ross spent the early part of the summer in South Africa, where he and Roger Smith (South African Museum) successfully excavated a Cretaceous sinkhole site at Stompoor. Among their vertebrate discoveries were at least 200 complete frog skeletons, including excellent ontogenetic series.

Matt Carrano continues to enjoy his time at Stony Brook, where he teaches human gross anatomy with Dave Krause (aka Dadabe). Even as you read this, he is working with Cathy Forster and Scott Sampson (University of Utah) on a description of a new, bizarre small Malagasy theropod, both short and long versions of which should be ready early in

the new year. In addition, Matt will help describe some of the new large theropod material from Madagascar, including the appendicular skeleton of Majungatholus and an additional specimen that may (or may not) represent a distinct taxon. Matt and Scott recently received an NSF grant to re-examine the phylogenetic relationships of basal theropods (i.e., noncoelurosaurs), and over the next three years they will be visiting museum collections around the world in an attempt to include as many taxa as possible in their analysis. Finally, Matt is an adjunct researcher at the Field Museum (Chicago), where he has been investigating tyrannosaurid locomotion and working with Chris Brochu, Phil Fraley, and others on the new "Sue" exhibit.

The real news is that Kristi Curry and Ray Rogers were married on October 16 at a friend's lakeside cabin in northern Minnesota. A number of their friends joined them for the all-day-and-into-the-next-morning wedding party. They honeymooned at the SVP meeting. We'll do anything to keep a good geologist. Additionally, friends from Berivotra, Madagascar, recently welcomed a new baby boy into their family and honored the newlyweds by naming him after them: Kristandray. Really!

Kristy, Ray, and Rebecca Terry also put in a successful field season this summer in the Limpopo Valley, Zimbabwe, with colleague Darlington Munyikwa (National Museum of Natural History), where they worked in Late Triassic rocks recovering prosauropod and some theropod material. Since our last news report, we have established the Ankizy Fund, a fund to help build and run schools and clinics in our field area in Madagascar. This spring we organized a very successful temporary museum exhibit at Stony Brook (The Dinosaurs of Treasure Island) that raised funds sufficient to build the first school in our field area and have a temporary clinic (staffed with SUNY Stony Brook personnel) this past summer to provide the first medical and dental care for the Berivotra villagers. Just got photos of the newly completed two-room brick schoolhouse in Berivotra. Thanks to all of you who bought tee shirts, hats, and posters at SVP to support the fund, and thanks to Mike Holland, Mike Skrepnik, and Bill Parsons for their help with the exhibit. The school is now permanently endowed and we are continuing to raise money for an endowment to supply a seasonal medical facility (staffed by Stony Brook Medical Center volunteers), as well as additional educational programs. If anyone wishes to donate, please send tax-deductable donations to: The Ankizy Fund, Stony Brook Foundation, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11794.

University of Bridgeport

Chris Bennett recently moved from Kansas to join the Chiropractic College at UB. He was busy during the fall semester, preparing lectures for his courses on Physiology and Embryology I and II, but says that the pterosaurs should be up and flying again in the spring. Peter continues to teach anatomy in the Naturopathic College and to work on various dinosaurs and the postcrania of the Mesozoic bird Enaliornis (detailed study with Larry Martin of Lawrence, Kansas). He presented an invited lecture (one of seven) on "Prosauropod Dinosaurs of Germany" at the "I Jornadas Internacion Ales Sobre Paleontologia de Dinosaurios y su Entorno" in Salas de los Infantes, Spain, in September (paper for symposium volume sent in just before Christmas). The area around Salas is rich in dinosaurs and dinosaur footprints and the Colectivo Arqueologico y

Paleontologico de Salas has begun work on a new museum that is scheduled to open in 2000. Peter and Carol had a very enjoyable time, thanks to Fidel Torcida and the rest of the Colectivo, being taken to the Benedictine Monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos (monks of "Gregorian chants" fame), plus several other picturesque villages, and several sites of geologic and paleontologic importance in the beautiful Sierra de la Demanda; the movie "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" starring Clint Eastwood was filmed in this region. (Peter M. Galton)

Southeast Region
Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida
The Vertebrate Paleontology class, guided by Dave Webb, had two very successful excursions during the fall semester. First they reopened the Haile 7C site, a late Blancan pond site, loaded with semi-articulated giant ground sloths, soon to be named as a new species of Eremotherium. Having heard that more complete hind feet were needed to complete an excellent skeleton for the exhibit program, the class promptly exposed three hind quarters of the sloth. Turtles and alligators also abounded. The most delicate prize was the tibiotarsus of a grebe. Later, during Homecoming Weekend, the dozen VP stalwarts drove south to the Bone Valley District where, thanks to the IMC-Agrico Company, they visited four different mines in two days and sampled a great diversity of marine and nonmarine fossils from the Clarendonian and the Hemphillian. The rigors of the work were broken by a pleasant night during which the group removed their phosphatic exoskeletons in, and camped on, the Alafia River.

In early December Dave Webb and Andy Hemmings gave a paper on "Paleontology and archaeology of the late Pleistocene in the Aucilla River, north-central Florida" at the International Wetlands Archaeology Conference, held in Gainesville. They discussed the unique series of bone and ivory artifacts of extinct animals that the Aucilla River Prehistory Project has recovered. Most recently Dave, Andy, and Matt Mihlbachler are describing a new kind of bone tool made from an Equus metatarsal. Pointed at the denser proximal end, with a hole (or eye) near the distal end, these objects (we have two, and know of a third) look like ceremonial daggers, but may be shuttles for netmaking or other large-scale weaving. We would like to hear from anyone familiar with any evidence (especially unpublished evidence) of Paleoindian/Equus interactions or tool technology.

Bruce MacFadden went to the AMNH in November to work with Gary Morgan (New Mexico Museum) on a very interesting Arikareean oreodont sample from northern Florida. Bruce received word that a grant was funded by NSF to study late Pleistocene latitudinal gradients using stable isotopes. Otherwise, Bruce has been progressing slowly but surely on various isotopic studies, including Florida sirenians and late Cenozoic land-mammal communities. Several new graduate students have now undertaken research projects. Helen Evans will review the current status--based on mostly unpublished specimens--of late Cenozoic petauristine flying squirrels. Joann Labs is investigating a new paleomustelid skull from Thomas Farm. And Dan Snyder is closely scrutinizing a nice array of Alligator skulls that march from Thomas Farm (Hemingfordian A. olseni) through Moss Acres (Hemphillian) to Haile 7C (Blancan) and upward. Brian Beatty is completing his work on the succession of Late Cenozoic

vertebrates from the Gainesville Creeks, his research project for the Undergraduate Scholar Program. Matt Mihlbachler is learning that applying to doctoral programs can be a full-time job. He is finishing his Master's thesis on rhinos, and his numerous side projects, this spring. He also plans to get married after the spring semester (sorry, girls, he's taken!). Matt likes to keep a full schedule.

Having turned in his NSF proposal and the first chapter of his dissertation in the fall, Jay O'Sullivan is preparing for publication the study of the population dynamics of Thomas Farm Archaeohippus. This study, as I'm sure you'll all remember, was the subject of a fabulous poster presentation at the Salt Lake City SVP meetings. (David Webb, Jay O'Sullivan, and Bruce MacFadden)

Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville

Bill Wall and students had another successful field season in Badlands and Yellowstone national parks last summer. His fossil work in the national parks is now being supported by a cooperative agreement between the Geological Resources Division of the National Park Service and GC&SU. Our institution is now recognized as an official repository for fossils collected in national parks. Bill and Kris Heinbaugh have a paper in press (National Park Service, Paleontology Research Papers, 99) on the locomotor adaptations of amynodontid rhinos. When he can get away from the administrative demands of running the Biology Department, Bill works on a variety of projects including Eocene mammals from Yellowstone and Fossil Butte National Monument, limb biomechanics of "terror birds" with Bob Chandler, and locomotor mechanics of early dinosaurs with Adrian Hunt and Vince Santucci. Kris Heinbaugh successfully defended her Master's thesis on eomyid rodents from Badlands National Park, and Kris Stowe is making steady progress on her biomechanical analysis of feeding adaptations in anthracotheres.

Dennis Parmley and Don Walker (former graduate student) are putting the final blows to their manuscript on the Taunton (Blancan) snake fauna. Their paper on Elaphe vulpina from this Washington site came out in Herpetological Natural History last year. Dennis stays busy these days collecting Eocene fossils from some of our local kaolin pits and looking at Blancan herp fossils from Kansas. As for the Eocene material, so far he and Jim Knight of the South Carolina Museum have come up with the usual sharks and bony fish, but a few terrestrial mammal teeth have showed up as well. Dennis would like to exchange herp skeletons (no endangered stuff please) with any other institution that might be interested. Please contact him at dparmley@mail.gcsu.edu.

Al Mead successfully defended his dissertation on Miocene rhinos at the University of Nebraska in November and is presently a temporary professor in the department (although actively looking for permanent employment). One aspect of Al's dissertation, dimorphism in Miocene rhinos, should appear in Paleobiology in 2000. A review of the Nebraska Barstovian rhinos should follow shortly thereafter. Al is searching Eocene/Oligocene/Miocene deposits of Georgia looking for that "next project," and plans to continue working with Bill Wall and Dennis Terry (Temple University) in Badlands National Park.

Bob Chandler is continuing his study of phorusrhacoids and constructing a phylogeny for the group. Time and teaching permitting, he still SCUBA dives for fossils in the Santa Fe River in north-central Florida at the type locality of Titanis walleri. This year he and GC&SU students have started to dive the Flint River in southwestern Georgia looking for new Blancan localities that may have fossils of Titanis. To support his phylogenetic hypothesis for terror birds and seriemas he is working with graduate student Matt Williams (Ornithology Division, FLMNH) trying to get some DNA sequence data. Mike Gleason, GC&SU geneticist, is also helping with this project. Bob's graduate student Greg Tomlinson is finishing up his Master's thesis on a description of the stapes of Palaeociconia found while they were on a trip to the Museum of Natural History, London, two years ago. Also of note from fossils that Bob, students, and volunteers have dredged up from the Santa Fe River over the last few years are specimens of the first walnut fruits for the southeast. Steve Manchester (FLMNH) and Melanie DeVore (GC&SU) identified these fossils and with Bob will be writing up these findings soon. Bob also is interested in Eocene birds and this summer visited Lance Grande, the Field Museum, in Chicago to start looking at Green River birds. In press, Bob has a description of a new cuckoo from Florissant, Colorado (National Park Service, Paleontology Research Papers, 99), and he contributed the section on fossil birds for a multi-authored paper on the flora and fauna from the Omomys Quarry with Paul Murray, University of Colorado, Boulder, and others. (Bob Chandler)

Georgia Southern University

A paper by Richard Hulbert and Dick Harington (Canadian Museum of Nature) on a Pliocene hipparionine horse from Ellesmere Island, Canada, was published in the December 1999 issue of Palaeontology. In it they claim the specimen is the northernmost record of a fossil equid (78° 33´ N), but welcome challenges to that title. In January, Richard submitted to the University Press of Florida the final draft of the manuscript of his book, "The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida." It is due to be published in late 2000. After working on it off and on for ten(!) years, it is almost like losing a family member.

At the SVP meeting in Denver, Nick Czaplewski (University of Oklahoma Museum of Natural History) showed Richard the cast of a dentary of a small equid from the late Hemphillian Buis Ranch site. Richard's suspicions that it was a new record of Pseudhipparion simpsoni Webb and Hulbert were confirmed when he got his hands on the real specimen, opened up the jaw, and saw that the well-worn molars had not initiated root formation. The specimen is the most complete dentary of the species known to date, and the first to directly connect its cheek teeth with its apparently ever-growing incisors. Richard, Nick, and David Webb will describe it and other specimens which have shown up since the species was named in 1986. As Richard's research with Tapirus (as reported at Denver) enters the end-game stage, other projects resurface, including faunal studies of Bone Valley mammals (with Dave Webb and Gary Morgan) and systematic work on Nannippus. (Richard Hulbert)

LSU Museum of Natural Science

Judith Schiebout and Suyin Ting continue work on the Fort Polk Miocene. Dr. Schiebout is working on description of new finds and biostratigraphic problems. Dr. Ting visited

the Hengyang Basin in China for fieldwork on the Paleocene/Eocene boundary. On the way, she visited the National Museum of Natural Science in Tokyo, Japan, and presented a lecture entitled "Mammalian faunal turnover across the Paleocene/Eocene boundary interval in Asia."

Ray Wilhite is focusing on alligator dissection, working primarily on the forelimb and joint structure. Brian Wilcox of GE Medical Systems is scanning various alligator specimens, which Ray will soon be able to articulate in the computer. Arthur Andersen of Virtual Surfaces is finishing the editing of the first round of sauropod data for Ray's project. Ray is working on a paper for his Master's research on sauropod ontogeny. Paul White has decided on a dissertation topic. He will be heading out to Big Bend National Park. Paul hopes to increase the resolution of faunal and climate changes from the earliest Paleocene to the earliest Eocene. Efforts will be focused on the LPTM. Work will include more fossil collecting, paleomagnetism, and carbon and oxygen isotope analyses.

Undergraduate Mike Williams is contemplating screening and a microfaunal study on an east Texas Miocene site as a Master's project in geology. He is particularly interested in lower vertebrates. Joshua Smith is considering pursuing a BS in the LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics starting this spring.

Ting, Wilhite, and Williams and staff from the Louisana Geological Survey worked with David Lambert of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts to excavate an Eocene fossil log discovered by Lambert and his students near Natchitoches, Louisiana (see Web site http://www.lsmsa.edu/dlambert/). Jenn Chidsey, the Museum's science education curator, participated in the dig and videotaped it. The log will be used in display and outreach at the Museum. Dr. Ting has recovered some vertebrate bone fragments from the site, and the possibility of more will be explored.

Julia Sankey, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, visited with Dr. Schiebout on Big Bend work in December after fieldwork in the Late Cretaceous of Big Bend, and borrowed more theropod teeth for her research. Alton (Butch) Dooley, Virginia Museum of Natural Science, visits in January with a truck to pick up and return whale material borrowed for his dissertation. (Judith Schiebout)

Midwest RegionCincinnati Museum Center
Cincinnati had a great year collecting fossils in a variety of locations. Our third season in Kansas produced some wonderful specimens from the Niobrara Chalk and the Pierre Shale. Our greatest effort was put into the excavation of a Pierre elasmosaur from a spot within sight of Cope's Elasmosaurus locality. The new fossil was discovered by our local colleague, Pete Bussen. We thank Dave Parris for allowing us to collect the specimen, following his preliminary work. Pete also donated two Toxochelys skulls, while "Oceans of Kansas Paleontology" Webmaster Mike Everhart gave Cincinnati a fine Pteranodon and several nice fish. Mike and his wife, Pam, aided us at the elasmosaur site, while Pete provided "moral support"! Thanks to the kindness of our friend, Wally Gross, we also were able to obtain a nice, partial Clidastes discovered the previous summer by UC professor and CMC Adjunct Curator, Dave Meyer.

>From Kansas we moved on to the Bighorn Basin where we aided the BLM in salvaging sauropod material near Crooked Creek, Montana. We thank Laurie Bryant for alerting us to this opportunity, and to Gary Smith and Michael Kyte out of the Billings office for their invaluable assistance. We also discovered a partial Torvosaurus. This summer we will return to the region to collect the latter fossil and to reopen Jack Horner's Mother's Day site as an ongoing field school. This Morrison site contains hundreds of bones of juvenile sauropods from which we hope to create a composite skeleton for our planned Mesozoic Gallery. The dig will be funded as an Earthwatch/Elderhostel-style program, so if you know of folks interested in this kind of field opportunity, send them to us! Thanks to Jack, Laurie, and the gang, and to Kristi Curry Rogers for their help.

William Garcia, late of Fort Hays, has joined us at UC to work on the phylogeny of anthracosaurian tetrapods, using a complete skeleton and numerous isolated specimens collected this fall from a Mississippian locality in Kentucky. Jack Bellan, a student at Eastern Kentucky, will examine the taphonomic features of the site. We are getting some great material out of there, including much of an undescribed rhizodont. There's a good project for an aspiring student in and of itself.

In the exhibit world, plans are underway to develop a 9,000 sq ft space as a "dinosaur hall," although this will encompass much of the flora and fauna of the Devonian to Cretaceous, in the manner of Denver's "Prehistoric Journey." Hence the ambitious field program. We are also showing some of our recent finds in the Museum's "Prized Possessions" exhibit. Many of the fossils in this temporary exhibit will make their way into the permanent displays and include a beautiful Xiphactinus and a fine Platecarpus skull--both gifts of Pete Bussen. The fish has been prepared by Charlotte Cox, Fred Moore, and their team of 30+ volunteers in our Exhibit Lab. As usual, Glenn Storrs beavers away with his research, when exhibit and fieldwork allow.

I know that many of you fly through Cincinnati if you travel on Delta. Try to stop in next time you have a layover. You will be pleased with what we've done and by where paleontology is headed at CMC. (Glenn Storrs)

Fort Hays State University
We are nearing the first anniversary in our new faciities at the Sternberg Museum. Unpacking and reorganizing continues, with additional materials yet to be moved from our campus storage areas.

Mike Everhart continues his work on Cretaceous marine reptiles. A paper on plesiosaur gastroliths has been submitted to the Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science. Greg Liggett is working on some mammoth projects. The first involves the removal of a partial skeleton found near the Pratt Airport during a construction project. The second deals with Sternberg's "elephant quarry." Work continues on the Cimarron and Comanche grasslands projects, as well.

Since our last report Joe Beamon, Bill Garcia, and Rob Richards defended their theses. Joe has moved onto Montana State, Bill to the University of Cincinnati, and Rob is

looking at various options. Gabe Bever is helping Greg with his elephant work and Rick Zakrzewski with a Pleistocene site in Smith County, as well as working on some projects involving carnivores from the Hamburg (Miocene of Kansas) and Porcupine Cave (Pleistocene of Colorado). Michelle Darnell, Trisha VonLintel, and Cinda Timperley continue with their respective thesis projects. Takehito Ikejiri joined us this fall and is working on projects involving a mosasaur skeleton from Colorado and a dinosaur from Wyoming.

In addition to working on the Pleistocene site with Gabe Bever and Bob Levin, Rick Zakrzewski is looking at wood rats from Meade County and some Miocene material from Phillips County. (Rick Zakrzewski)

Michigan State University Museum

Curator Emeritus Al Holman reports that he has made three recent research trips, collecting Eocene snakes on the Isle of Wight in the UK with David Harrison and David Ward, visiting Miocene localities in north-central Nebraska with Mike Voorhies, where they found that their old sites were still yielding fossil herps, and working with Thijs van Kolfschoton at the University of Leiden on Pleistocene herpetofaunas from the Netherlands, Germany, and Greece. Al's book "Pleistocene Snakes of North America" is scheduled to appear in May 2000. Retirement, indeed!

Mike Gottfried spent his second field season in the Late Cretaceous of northwestern Madagascar, with the Stony Brook team. Among all the spectacular crocodile and dinosaur discoveries were some significant fossil fish finds, most notably a beautiful elopomorph lower jaw collected by Kristi Curry. Following the fieldwork in Madagascar, Mike spent a very productive few weeks at the South African Museum in Cape Town, working with Len Compagno on wrapping up a lengthy description of white shark skeletal anatomy--thanks go, as always, to Len, Michelle van der Merwe, and many others at SAM for their help and hospitality. Mike is also getting into a new research area, looking at the kinds of information--both systematic and functional--that can be obtained from fossil shark centra.

Mike's grad students are making good progress on their respective projects. Andery Calkins is busy gathering data in Peggy Ostrom's lab for her isotopic analysis of fossil geese from Hawaii, in collaboration with Helen James (Smithsonian). Andery presented a paper (her first!) at SVP in Denver, on artificial diagenesis experiments done in Peggy's lab. Erica Shipman is identifying fish and other faunal remains from archaeological sites in Michigan; and Lisa Whitenack, who just started in fall 1999, will be looking into the use of morphometric techniques to study fossil shark teeth. Rachel Walker, who recently finished her PhD on Eocene herps under Al Holman, has remained at MSU, teaching mammalogy and continuing with her research. (Mike Gottfried)

Northern Illinois University

It's been a busy year for VP at NIU. Ginny Naples and Larry Martin have several papers on saber-toothed cats coming out in Naturwissenshaften, Historical Biology, and Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. Naples and Martin are also spread across the

phylogenetic map, with projects in the works on the early Permian amphibian Platyopsis, more cat work, and various problems involving bird origins. Naples just had a large paper published in Journal of Zoology on jaw musculature in the giant anteater Myrmecophaga, and is deeply involved in several dissection projects at the US National Museum involving black-footed ferrets, pandas, and dolphins.

Scott Foss is finishing up his dissertation on entelodont systematics and paleobiology while working out at John Day Fossil Beds. Chris Schierup spent much of the summer in southern Utah, prospecting for dinosaurs in the Paunsagunt Plateau. He has prepared most of the material he collected, principally postcrania of hadrosaurs and ceratopsians, and is at work on his Master's project involving Cretaceous theropod teeth from Utah. Phil Senter entered the doctoral program in our lab this fall, and is in the process of defining a project involving the evolution of the vomeronasal organ and snout structure in diapsids.

Matt Bonnan is in the final year of his dissertation work involving the biomechanics of sauropod limbs. Thanks to a dissertation completion grant from NIU, he is able to focus on writing and research this year. He received the outstanding graduate student paper at the North Central GSA meeting in Urbana last spring, and was one of two recipients of the Romer Prize at the Denver SVP with his talk on forelimb orientation in sauropods. Matt just had a paper accepted in JVP on the calcaneum of Diplodocus, and is about to head off to southern China with Keith Rigby's group from Notre Dame to look at (no surprise) more sauropods.

Michael Parrish became department chair in July, which is taking some time away from research. However, he is continuing to work with John Flynn, Andy Wyss, and Bill Simpson on the Triassic and Jurassic faunas from Madagascar, which are slowly but surely emerging from their jackets. The early Mesozoic Madagascar mafia had a paper on an early tribosphenidan accepted in Nature and another on an ?early Carnian fauna came out in Science in the fall. Parrish and Kent Stevens are continuing their work on computer modelling of sauropod necks, focusing on Camarasaurus right now and hopefully the Chinese sauropods in the near future. (Michael Parrish)

Southwest Region

Dallas Museum of Natural History

Things continue to move in a forward direction at the Dallas Museum of Natural History as we get ready for our Texas Dinosaurs exhibit coming this summer. We at the Museum are sad to report the loss of our preparator Geb Bennett to the State Museum of Pennsylvania but we wish him the best of luck in his new surroundings. He was an outstanding member of our staff here and we're sure he will be the same in Harrisburg. (Tony Fiorillo)

Lamar University, Department of Geology

Jeff Pittman, Jim Westgate, Dana Cope (College of Charleston), and Ben Brown (Mexican Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia) are gearing up for the excavation of a new dinosaur locality in Chihuahua State, Mexico. An initial site survey

last summer indicated that both macro- and microvertebrate remains from a diverse community are preserved in a late Cretaceous estuarine facies. The team will be visitng Mexico City and Chihuahua in January to obtain federal collecting permits. The initial excavation funded by Lamar University and the College of Charleston will begin in May. Jeff and Jim are also wrapping up a study of Late Permian ?therapsid and amphibian trackways near and in San Angelo, Texas.

In September, Jim got to give a tour of the Lake Casa Blanca Eocene estuarine locality to Martin Sander's group of 20 German paleontologists as they toured vertebrate localities across Texas. Before withering in the near 100°F heat after having left the cool German fall a few days earlier, several students made discoveries proving the site was hot in more ways than one. Jim's book on the site, "After the Dinosaurs," was published by Texas Parks and Wildlife Press in October. (Jim Westgate)

Mesa Southwest Museum, Mesa, Arizona
Work continues on preparations for the museum expansion grand opening in May of 2000, leaving little time for the paleo staff to do research. Doug Wolfe continues research on the Turonian Zuni fauna. A manuscript is being submitted to the Dinosaurs of New Mexico symposium volume, and another is being prepared on the taphonomy of the Zuniceratops bone bed.

Brian Curtice muses on all matters of sauropod, including a recent contribution on the axial skeleton of Sonorasaurus. Heidimarie Johnson is still assaulting the Devonian fishes of Arizona's Martin Formation, and Larry Marshall is curating an exhibit on the history of the Santa Cruz River. Bob McCord finds himself more an administrator than a paleontologist, but recently had an opportunity to excavate a Glyptotherium near Safford, Arizona. Progress continues on our "Symposium on Southwest Paleontology" to be held February 26, 2000. Contact Bob McCord if you are interested in attending, or in past or present symposia volumes. (Bob McCord)

Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff
In November, Dave Gillette attended the Workshop on the Pranhita-Godavari Valley held at the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta, and followed with a detailed study of the mounted skeleton of Barapasaurus, a primitive sauropod from the Lower Jurassic Kota Formation. This remarkable three-day conference brought together a wide diversity of geological interests that should stimulate considerable research, including India's Lower Jurassic vertebrate fauna. With Barry Albright and students from the Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy, a charter school on the MNA campus, Dave began the excavation of a Late Pleistocene mammoth in southern Utah as a cooperative project with the Kanab office of the Bureau of Land Management. That project will resume in the spring when conditions are more favorable.

Barry Albright spent a few days at Berkeley Geochronology Center in early November where he is continuing his paleomagnetic work on the John Day Formation. While there, he also began analysis of samples collected in the Paleocene Goler Formation, Mojave Desert, in hopes of helping Don Lofgren, Malcolm McKenna, and other members of the

"Goler Club" refine the age of the very few productive mammal sites they've so far discovered.

The MNA's prep lab endured a major overhaul and is now fully operational. Northern Arizona University graduate students Eben Rose and Bill Parker continue their work on Grand Canyon stratigraphy and Desmatosuchus, respectively, and a third NAU graduate student, Dan Woody, has been helping out around the lab, as well.

Ned Colbert fractured his hip in a fall in November, but is recovering nicely. After being slowed down for only a couple of weeks, he is about to resume his research agenda, which will take at least five years to complete. He celebrated his 94th birthday with a surprise party in the MNA prep lab in September. He and Margaret send their holiday best to all their friends. (Dave Gillette and Barry Albright)

Southern Methodist University
Louis Jacobs, Mike Polcyn, and Kent Newman spent December in Israel, studying the early Late Cretaceous 'Ein Yabrud faunas with Eitan Tchernov, as well as opening the quarries for further discoveries. Bonnie Jacobs is gearing up for paleobotanical fieldwork in the Eocene of Tanzania, starting in July. Alisa Winkler continues her research on rodents and lagomorphs from Lothagam, Kenya, as well as Irvingtonian mammals from Fyllan Cave, Texas, and has several manuscripts submitted. Elizabeth Gomani is now Dr. Gomani! She is spending several months in Malawi before returning for a postdoctoral position at SMU in February.

Our graduate students had a big semester. Yoshi Kobayashi's research on gastroliths in ornithomimid theropods was recently published in Nature, and he is continuing his research on Asian ornithomimids. Jason Head passed his Ph.D. oral qualifying exams, and is splitting his time between iguanodontian dinosaurs and Miocene reptiles from Asia. Yoshi and Jason attended the VII Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems Conference in Argentina, where they presented a paper on iguanodontian biogeography.

M.S. students Dana Biasatti, Carolina Aguillon, and Jack Rogers are moving along in their coursework. Dana is focusing on geochemical correlations to life histories and ecology in marine vertebrates. Carolina is spending part of the holiday season in the field, gathering data for her thesis on Late Cretaceous faunas from Mexico. Jack is busily preparing specimens for his thesis on Early Cretaceous faunas of the Glen Rose Formation, Texas. (Jason Head)

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Geological Sciences, Department of Anthropology, and Texas Memorial Museum Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory
Ernest Lundelius is working on a history of the Edwards Plateau and its Quaternary deposits and faunas. There are now enough known faunas to provide an idea of the reasons for their geographic and age distributions. He is also working on some fissure-fill material from Barrow Island off the northwestern coast of Australia. He and Bill Turnbull just finished a short paper on Leporillus from Madura Cave on the Nullarbor Plain of Western Australia.

Wann Langston, Jack Wilson, and Ted Macrini spent part of November in Big Bend National Park, Texas. They brought back parts of a large Deinosuchus. Ted is still working on his M.S. thesis and intends to graduate in May. At the same time, he is preparing manuscripts for publication from his thesis.

Pamela Owen is furiously writing her dissertation on the evolution of American badgers and is looking forward to defending in April. She and Coco Kishi (UT Austin Center for Instructional Technologies) were quite busy last fall mounting several new CT projects (including Pamela's scanned Taxidea skull) on the Digital Morphology Group Web site (http://www.ctlab.geo.utexas.edu/dmg/index.html). Ron Tykoski, Jonathan Franzosa, Lyn Murray, and Dennis Ruez, Jr., passed their comprehensive written Ph.D. exams this past fall. The next hurdle for them is the oral examination, for which they are now frantically preparing. Jonathan recently changed his Ph.D. topic from the evolution of the pneumatic system to the evolution of the brain in dinosaurs. Dennis Ruez completed his M.S. thesis on an Irvingtonian mammalian fauna from Citrus County, Florida; papers describing the fauna are now in preparation for publication. Lyn Murray and Ken Cole recently published the results of their analysis of Holocene woodrat middens from Capitol Reef National Park in a USGS Conference report of research on the Colorado Plateau. Chris Bell and Matt Colbert completed a preliminary test version of a CD-ROM entitled "Basic Vertebrate Cranial Osteology." Bell tested it in his Morphology of the Vertebrate Skeleton course with some success; an expanded version is now under construction. (Dennis Ruez)

Rocky Mountain Region
Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center
Although the Stout Research Center was officially completed last spring, work stations in the paleontology laboratory now have been outfitted with compressed air, and the last of the built-in shelves have been installed in the paleontology collections hall. Construction of a new archaeology/history hall addition to the Research Center is planned for the year 2001.

Curatorial volunteers and staff spent much of the month of November learning how to use our new Argus database. Most of the collections related information has been transferred to the new program. These data reside in a Unix system in Sacramento, along with all of the other statewide collections data. The new computer here is linked to Sacramento via the Net. We have yet to use the Argus imaging capabilities. Our GIS locality data, although fully assessable, are not yet linked direct to the Argus system.

This season's field surveys will cover a full section in the western Borrego Badlands that was recently acquired as Park land. The area includes extensive exposures of the ca. 0.74 Ma Bautista Formation, and to date has produces remains of Clemmys, a very large bird, Mammuthus, and Equus. Phil Gensler, of Northern Arizona University, continued his fieldwork in Ash Wash, Bautista Formation. We hope the matrix recovered this trip will yield a useful microfossil assemblage. Don Jolly, also of NAU, has all but finished his work on the collections, looking at our turtles and tortoises. Other visiting researchers included Becky Dorsey of the University of Oregon who spent another several weeks

trying to unravel the history and related stratigraphy along the San Jacinto fault system. This major southern California structure slices through all of the fossiliferous badlands in the northern part of the park. Jon Nourse and students from California Polytechnic University, Pomona, continued their geologic mapping in the eastern Borrego Badlands.

Just prior to SVP and after visiting with John White in Tucson, Greg McDonald and Jim Soiset, and volunteers filled Jim's new pickup with boxes of books and reprints. These, comprised largely of duplicate materials from the John White, George Miller, and Jefferson collections (now combined), are headed for Hagerman. Greg also had a chance to examine an exceptional 1 sq m section of Paramylodon dermal ossicles and associated ilium. Apparently the animal came to rest on its back. The specimen, collected in 1960 by Harley Garbani and Ted Downs, is presently the focus of work in the paleontology laboratory. (G. Jefferson)

Denver Museum of Natural History

Russ Graham has been down dropped about 35 million years into the latest Eocene. Russ and volunteers from DMNH are working on Bones Galore, a Chadronian site in northeastern Colorado. Russ has been working with the US Forest Service at this site since 1997. It is producing an interesting fauna but more significantly controlled excavations are providing evidence that the bone accumulations are primarily around a water holes on a large flood plain. Russ plans to continue excavations at the site in September 2000.

Emmett Evanoff, Dick Tedford, and Russ led a successful field trip to northeastern Colorado during the SVP meetings to look at Bones Galore and several other Tertiary sites. Russ, Emmett, and DMNH volunteers have relocated the Trigonias Quarry which was excavated by DMNH in the 1920s. There are still plenty of bones exposed and Russ plans to conduct test excavations at the site this summer. Stratigraphically, this site appears to be equivalent to a lower bone level, known as Kate's site, at Bones Galore.

The Western Interior Paleontological Society, DMNH volunteers, and Russ continue work at Porcupine Cave, a Plio-Pleistocene fauna in the Rocky Mountains. Over the last few years, Blancan mammals have been recovered from the cave. Russ and the Porcupine Cave team have started new excavations in order to attempt to better define microstratigraphic changes. Work will continue in July of 2000.

Russ, the DESS staff, and volunteers have recovered from the SVP meetings here in October. Actually, things went very well thanks to the outstanding help of Liz, Deb, and Sean in the SVP business office. We enjoyed having everyone in Denver.

Tom Stafford, Holmes Semken, Russ, Walter Klippel, Anastasia Markova, Nikolai Smirnov, and John Southon published a paper in the October issue of Geology on dating nonanalog faunas. The results of this project clearly demonstrate that taxa that are allopatric today were sympatric and contemporaneous at some sites in the Pleistocene. However, time averaging and mixing are problems which will require extensive 14C-dating to unravel. Russ and Ernie Lundelius also had an article in Scientific American's

Discovering Archaeology on Pleistocene extinctions. Richard Stucky and Lisa Torick are working on a database of species diversity information for the Paleogene to be integrated into the FAUNMAP program headed up by Russ. (Alan A. Keimig)

Garden Park Paleontology Society dba Dinosaur Depot, Cañon City, Colorado

Though it has been a while since the last report it has not been for lack of activity here among staff and volunteers. While the author has been off cooking and working in the field all summer, others back home have been holding down the paleontological fort with much work on the Cañon City Basin Project this summer. Under the guidance of Dr. Emmett Evanoff of the University of Colorado, curator Donna Engard and her team of field and lab volunteers have utilized a grant in the initiation of a database of work on fossil areas in the basin as far back as we can trace it. This involves not only research into theses, articles, papers, and books, but also the collection on fossils representative of this work from localities worked on. These fossils also begin a collection base of all the areas that have yielded specimens in the past, as well as representative samples from new and current sites that can be tied into this past work. We are concentrating on all types of fossils from stromatolites to tracks, to lacustrine localities, as well as plants and other invertebrates. Since there are so many time periods represented, it continues to amaze us what is in our geologic backyard. The field trips have yielded some truly wonderful representative specimens as well as the location of such unusual things as sharks teeth on Cretaceous anthills and places where new Ordovician localities outcrop along with the location of many not yet documented historic localities of other than dinosaur interest. Dinosaurs are truly the tip of our paleontological iceberg--come see our efforts in our new collections lab as well as in the Depot. We are also now on line with a Web site, www.dinosaurdepot.com, thanks to volunteer webmaster Laura Foreman--hope you'll check out our offerings. (Pat Monaco)

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

We had a very productive summer at Hagerman. Our two main summer projects included the continued preparation of specimens from the Smithsonian Horse Quarry that we collected in 1997 and 1998 and the ongoing survey of known fossil sites. One of our more important projects last summer was the beginning of a renovation of a farm house that will serve as our collections storage area and preparation area. The first phase was successfully completed so that the building is now structurally sound and the collections have been moved. This means that for the first time in a few years our collections are no longer scattered amongst various buildings and are under one roof. We still have more work to do inside the building to get the prep lab up and running but we are making progress.

While our field crew made many fine discoveries of specimens this last summer, we do have one that stands out. An almost complete skeleton of Paenemarmota, including skull, jaws, and most of the postcranial skeleton was found about a week before the end of the field season. The specimen had partially weathered out and many of the ribs and vertebrae were broken but with a little time and effort and a fair amount of glue the specimen is going back together nicely. Greg McDonald has managed to complete a few

sloth papers which have been submitted and in April was able to attend the Congreso Internacional "Evolucion Neotropical del Cenozoico" in La Paz. (Greg McDonald)

Tate Museum

After 100 years the final resting spot of the giant pliosaur Megalneusaurus rex was rediscovered in Fremont County, Wyoming. Parts of this animal, most notably two large, complete forelimbs, were collected by Wilbur Knight in the late 1890s and has been on display in the Tate Museum. No complete skeletal elements have turned up just yet, but he has found some really huge chunks of bone which match the color and texture of the bones in the collected flipper exactly. Hopefully further fieldwork will tell us if a complete skeleton awaits us, and shed some more light on this awesome and enigmatic creature. We are hoping that a good portion of the animal is still in the ground, as some large congealed "balls" containing thousands of cephalopod hooklets were found at the site. These are believed to be the pliosaur's stomach contents.

Dr. Kent Sundell's research is centered around fossils from the White River Formation near the town of Douglas, Wyoming. He and his current team of preparators are working on some of the most complete specimens of glyptosaur ever found. These specimens have almost every scale in place. As described in the SVP poster session for this year's meeting, another of Dr. Sundell's projects involves a huge mass of Poebrotherium bones. This mass seems to represent at least six separate animals mixed together with the majority of specimens missing their posterior quarters, yet retaining articulated forelimbs, necks, and skulls. Dr. Sundell thinks that this represents a kill site or a meat cache from which a predator may have removed the meatier portions of their haunches and leaving the rest intact. The predator is thought to have been an Archaeotherium as the bite marks found on the specimen match the size and spacing of the teeth of the large entelodont. In addition, work on Archaeotherium skull mechanics progresses, as more juvenile specimens are being prepared. Dr. Sundell's continuing forays into the White River Formation badlands have turned up an impressive variety of fossil reptiles, ranging in size from the giant tortoise Stylemys, which can have a shell 120 cm in diameter, to the tiny burrowing amphisbaenian Oligorhsineura, which has a skull literally the size of a sunflower seed.

Bill Wahl is currently working on multiple specimens of marine reptiles from the little-studied Sundance Formation. One of these was originally assigned to the genus Tricleidus, however further investigation has shown that this specimen differs in several important ways, including a larger head with a longer premaxilla and proportionately larger flippers. Eventually this animal may be redescribed as a new genus, for which the name "Tatenektes" in honor of the Tate family, has been proposed. Bill and Mike Ross also made some discoveries in their exploration of the Sundance Formation last summer. Two more specimens of "Tatenektes" were found, as well as two new specimens of the ichthyosaur. The larger of these is one of the most complete examples of this species ever found, with an articulated string of at least 55 vertebrae, including the atlas and axis. Bill is also analyzing the mechanics of the animal's skull, and working on a full cranial reconstruction. Bill continues his excavation of the Glenrock, Wyoming, nodosaur site that was described in his presentation at Tate 1998. Besides the nodular plates, he has

found a wide variety of microfossils, including fish scales and teeth, fin spines from freshwater hybodont sharks, and bits of turtle shell. Although tiny, the remains of these "untermenschen" help us to flesh out the Lance Formation ecosystem and build up a more complete picture of the Late Cretaceous world.

Meanwhile, in our casting and molding lab, Dave Lovelace is pioneering some ground-breaking techniques in the production of fossil replicas. His "foam-plastic" casts faithfully reproduce all of the detail of conventional casts, but at a fraction of the weight.

Finally, pterosaur trackways collected near Alcova, Wyoming, are being studied to test several different theories about the flying reptiles lifestyle. Most interesting is Terry Logue's hypothesis, reported at the Tate 1999 conference, that these animals walked on their knuckles. (Russell J. Hawley)

University of Colorado Museum, Boulder
After successful fund-raising efforts over the last several years, construction will finally begin this spring on our new building which we hope to occupy sometime in the spring of 2001. The "new" building, actually a newly renovated existing building on the Boulder campus, will house most of the museum's natural science collections (Paleontology and Osteology, Zoology, Entomology and Arachnology, some of Botany), its research facilities, and its Museum and Field Studies Graduate Program. We are pleased that the architects involved us fully in the design and development phase of the project, and we think the project will be very beneficial to our museum.

Our paleontology collection is now in the third and final year of a three-year NSF Collections Improvement Project, and signs of our efforts are now clearly visible. So far, approximately 25,000 specimens of mostly backlogged Eocene vertebrates of the Rocky Mountain Region have been identified, cataloged, and housed. By the end of the third year, we hope to have curated all backlog, upgraded the entire paleontology and osteology collections, housed everything in archival cabinets, and be ready to move into our new collections and research facility.

During 1999, Collection Manager Paul Murphey and assistants Jennifer Haessig and Heidi Schutz invested a lot of time in a major recall of all of our outstanding loans as part of our collections improvement project, some of which date back to the early 1960s. While this effort was largely successful, we regret to report that there were a number of individuals who did not respond to letters, phone calls, or e-mails. We further regret that it is our new policy not to loan any additional material to individuals who have not responded to our loan recall requests.

In addition to moving preparations and collections improvements, we are beginning to design a new paleontology exhibit for our main exhibit hall, which will be installed on a phased basis beginning in the summer of 2000. The exhibit, named "Fossils in Your Backyard," will focus on the paleontology of the Boulder, Colorado, area.

Curator Peter Robinson spent most of the 1999 field season in the field collecting for his own research projects in Colorado and Wyoming. Paul Murphey and he had great success in the Bridger Formation, where, while working with CU grad students, two university students from Dublin, and a group of incoming CU freshmen, some very productive localities were found. A new Bridger E locality was also found, although just how productive it really is remains to be seen. An excavation will hopefully be conducted next summer. Bert Covert had a comparatively productive second trip to Viet Nam, collecting a variety of Miocene mammals. Paul Murphey, Emmett Evanoff, and Leonard Brand are continuing their Bridger Formation mapping project, and Paul and Jennifer Haessig are now working on the digitized maps in our GIS lab. We hope to have the first maps ready for publication in the summer of 2000. In conjunction with the Bridger project, we have recently dated several Bridger tuffs (reported at GSA), and Paul took a trip to the Washakie Basin to sample more tuffs last September. We are currently working on a proposal to fund the dating of additional tuffs.

Emmett Evanoff is teaching a variety of classes at the University of Colorado and the Denver Museum of Natural History, while continuing research projects in Badlands National Park, the Bridger basin, and northeast Colorado in conjunction with the Denver Museum of Natural History. Judith Harris is preparing to fully retire in May, and is busy writing a book on paleoecology that she is very excited about. Master's degree students Jon Bennett, David Daitch, and Melissa Burke are continuing with work on their thesis projects. We welcome Alicia Genth and Heidi Schutz, who have just completed their first semester in the Museum and Field Studies Master's Program in Paleontology (Paul Murphey).

University of Colorado at Denver

Dinosaur Trackers Research Group: A 20-year Retrospective After nearly 20 years in the business of research, teaching, exhibits, and public education, we are celebrating the millennium with several new projects. The first is our upgraded Web site, http://carbon.cudenver.edu/public/trackers/ or http://WebSpinners.com/trackers/. We are also opening a small permanent exhibit on campus and have initiated a fundraising campaign to upgrade both the collections and the exhibit. Also we hope to publish a history of the research group in the University of Colorado Historical Studies Journal. Below we have summarized our activities in two categories.

1) Research Group History and Update:

The Dinosaur Trackers Research Group was formed in the early 1980s as an informal research group of ichnological researchers (faculty and students) at the "University of Colorado at Denver." We produced our first scientific publication in 1983, and since then have published more than 150 papers on dinosaur tracks and other fossil footprints (in addition to about 150 abstracts and various other unpublished reports). In addition to student members of the group, professionals who have been closely linked to the group include Adrian Hunt (New Mexico), Christian Meyer (Switzerland), Masaki Matsukawa (Japan), Vanda Santos (Portugal), and S.-Y. Yang and S.-K. Lim (South Korea). We have published five books including "Tracking Dinosaurs" (Lockley, Cambridge, 1991) which has been translated into four languages, "Dinosaur Tracks and Other Fossil Footprints

of the Western United States" (Lockley and Hunt, Columbia, 1995), "Dinosaur Tracks and Other Fossil Footprints of Europe" (Lockley and Meyer, Columbia, 1999), and "The Eternal Trail" (Lockley, Perseus, 1999), which was featured on National Public Radio (see Amazon.com for details). A full list of publications (excluding abstracts) can be accessed through our Web site.

2) Exhibits and Public Education Activity:
In 1991 the Trackers group constructed an international Tracking Dinosaurs Exhibit that was exported to Japan, where it subsequently showed four times. Beginning in 1993 it showed four times in Colorado before retiring, as a permanent exhibit, to the Dinosaur Museum in Blanding, Utah. It was also reincarnated for a tour of Switzerland in 1995-1996, and moved on to the National Museum of Wales in 1997. It is now on tour of the British Isles until 2001. At the end of this tour it will have been on the road for ten years in several iterations. It has been seen by close to one million people. Finally, the exhibit has come home, and a small permanent version is under construction on the University of Colorado at Denver campus, where we also keep our research collections. This collection, we believe, is now the largest, or one of the largest in the world, with more than 1,000 specimens (mixture of originals and replicas). The collections include more than a dozen holotypes, and many paratypes and topotypes.

The Trackers research group has strong links with Dinosaur Ridge (http://www.dinoridge.org), which is a frequently used field-trip destination. Our group also provides the visitors center with tracks and guidebooks for sale. These revenues all go back into research and public education. If you are interested in track replicas you may also contact Gaston Design (Gastondesign@compuserve.com) or Paleoimages (adturner@paleoimages.com). (Martin Lockley)

University of Wyoming
Mike Cassiliano has put his Tiffanian(?) rodent paper and Anza-Borrego paleoecology papers on hold for a time. Mike, Jay Lillegraven, and Bill Clemens are co-editing a textbook on the paleontology of Cenozoic placental mammals. In addition, Mike will be writing the chapter on the Artiodactyla.

The collection improvement grant goes well. Other than specimens that are out on loan, all the fossils from the Paleozoic through the Duchesenean have been curated. Work proceeds apace on the Chadronian specimens. Jay and I hope to have the specimen catalog on line sometime next year; once that is done watch the SVP News Bulletin and the SVP Listserver for information to log on to the catalog.

Before setting the Tiffanian(?) rodent project aside, Mike discovered that there is the possibility that the Shotgun local fauna is a composite of specimens from two stratigraphic levels separated by several hundred feet of intervening strata. The original locality occurs low in the Shotgun Member of the Fort Union Formation, as described by Keefer (1961). The other specimens included with the Shotgun local fauna come from a level originally collected by Paul McGrew and Bryan Patterson (UW localities V-60014 to V-60017). The McGrew-Patterson locality is about one mile south of Keefer's site.

Examination of Keefer's geologic maps show that there is no possibility of the two sites being at the same stratigraphic level. This may account for the Shotgun local fauna showing Torrejonian and Tiffanian affinities.

Kelli Trujillo is continuing her research on the Morrison and Cloverly formations in south-central Wyoming. John Foster and John Burris continue to work under the NSF collections improvement grant in the vertebrate fossil collections at UW.

Penny Higgins is finishing her research on the Torrejonian and Tiffanian in the Hanna Basin. Brent Breithaupt (UW Geological Museum) continues to work with other members of the the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite Vertebrate Ichnology Research Team (VIRT) and Spatial Support Team (SST) analyzing data collected over the past two fields seasons. Mapping, surveying, and photographing efforts by VIRT and SST over the past two years have documented hundreds of tracks and dozens of trackways in the Sundance Formation at this 40-acre site in northern Wyoming. Exhibit plans in 2000 will revolve around the Allosaurus "Big Al" (the first major dinosaur mount in the Geological Museum in over three decades). Displays in the museum will illustrate some of this fascinating research associated with this specimen, including: (1) information on Allosaurus injuries,)2) growth in Allosaurus, (3) the unique story of "Big Al's" preservation, (4) the history of Allosaurus discoveries, (5) Wyoming in the Late Jurassic, and (6) the discovery of this fascinating fossil, which was almost lost to science. (Brent Breithaupt)

West Coast Region

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

The "John Day Associates" are alive and well, if not reported in here that frequently. We have been working on a variety of new localities in "basin margin" sediments, which include remarkable new assemblages. Placing these faunas and floras, as well as the more classic "John Day" collections, into a detailed framework of biostrat, paleomag, tephrochron, pedofacies, and radiometric "shelves" (that don't line up with the rest of the continent) is a fascinatingly complex correlation and paleoenvironmental puzzle. The bemusement grows as new material from trusty volunteers comes to light and we go further afield. There seems to be no vestige of an end. The current amalgamation of pilgrims working on manuscripts in one stage of completion or another includes Mike Woodburne, Carl Swisher, Bob Hunt, Jim Martin, Barry Albright, Greg Retallack, Xiaoming Wang, Harold Bryant, Matt Kohn, Dale Hanson, and many others. We bid farewell to Erick Bestland, off to Flinders, but he still plans to collaborate on the Mascall Formation synthesis. We won't mention the (shudder) paleobotanists.

Ted Fremd reports that the "Eocene and Oligocene paleosols of central Oregon," GSA Special Paper 344 (with Greg Retallack and Erick Bestland) is due for release in 2000. Additionally, he is adding the finishing and/or foundational touches on multiple papers, a monograph, and a book that all should see released in the upcoming millennium. In addition to overseeing a large staff of five summer seasonals and multiple volunteers, Ted spent the month of August up north where he surveyed several localities in British Columbia, the Yukon, and Alaska. There is an overwhelming need for professional

paleontological advisors in the Alaskan Units. Ted's staff this year included two field paleontologists, Scott Foss and Al Pajak, who have recently concluded a three-year prospecting survey of the Turtle Cove Member. They also supervised volunteers and other summer seasonals while working at multiple NPS and BLM fossil localities across eastern Oregon. Scott continues to unravel entelodont mysteries. Al has begun screen washing from a site yielding a microvertebrate bonanza.

Matt Smith reports, "I have been suffering a secret and perverse thrill from trying to catch up on the huge backlog of partially prepared specimens accumulated over the years during many successful field seasons, casting hundreds (literally) of rodent teeth at a time, digitizing the prep logs, revealing hidden secrets from beneath layers of shellac on old Weatherford Collection specimens; all while preparing dozens of Hypertragulus specimens for a statistical study, a parade of spooky carnivore crania, unmasking the true identity of a mysterious set of postcrania, and largely ignoring this years new material from the field." Nice sentence, eh?

The close interaction of Matt, Scott, and Al has resulted in a continued improvement in both collecting and preparation techniques and hence the successful excavation and preparation of some very complex vertebrate skeletons. Delda Findeisen joined the crew this summer as a GIS technician and coordinated much of the geographical data entry, and database management. Lia Vella took over a bulk of the collections management duties this summer, including the maintenance of new accessions and the completion of the transfer of the entire ANCS (Automated National Catalog System) database into the new Re:discovery format.

Our continuing collaboration and Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM is resulting in a wealth of shared data on paleontological resources in eastern Oregon. Shared funding for projects, planning, and overhead has allowed us to not only document and monitor fossil sites, but to also prospect, collect, and conduct original research on paleontological sites that span thousands of square miles of NPS, USFS, USF&W, private, and BLM land. (Scott Foss, Ted Fremd, and Matt Smith)

University of Oregon, Eugene
Jonathan Wynn sent two papers off this year, one on late Miocene-Pliocene paleosols and paleoenvironments of Lothagam, Kenya, and another on the habitats of Australopithecus anamensis at nearby Kanapoi. Jonathan's poster on the latter subject gained an honorable mention in the competition for student posters at the recent SVP meeting in Denver. Grasslands are a part of the story, as these early (4 Ma) australopithecines are preferentially preserved in paleosols with the mollic structure, high chemical fertility, and heavy carbon isotopes of grasslands.

Erick Bestland, a former PhD student, has snagged a faculty position at Flinders University in South Australia. He is still publishing on the Kenyan Miocene, with a paper out this year on Rusinga Island Proconsul sites. He recently obtained another grant from the National Geographic Society to return in 2001. Plans are also afoot to re-examine classic Pleistocene vertebrate sites in South Australia.

With postdoc Satoshi Tanaka, from the University of Kyoto, Greg Retallack completed a paleosol study of the late Miocene (7 Ma or Hemphillian) Rattlesnake Formation in its type area in central Oregon. Work was funded by the National Parks Service and publication is in progress. Dale Hanson plans to finish his Master's thesis on the Oligocene (Arikareean) faunas of Logan Butte by winter 2000. It is surprising how much material, including type specimens, has been collected at this out-of-the-way site over the past century.

Bill Orr continues his work curating the Condon Collection, and also is accumulating new goodies, including limbs of a very large bird and probable sloth teeth from a Pleistocene site near Woodburn. Bill will have retired from teaching with a final offering of oceanography this winter, but he and Liz will continue with curatorial work on the collections.

Greg Retallack has several papers in the works giving a worm's-eye view of the Neogene evolution of grassland soils in the African Neogene. He and Jonathan Wynn are also working on some detailed site reports on the Kenyan primate sites of Maboko Island and Kaimagool, both middle Miocene (15-16 Ma). Soon to be released is Geological Society of America Special Paper 344: Eocene and Oligocene paleosols of central Oregon by Greg Retallack, Erick Bestland, and Ted Fremd. This is a detailed paleoenvironmental narrative from 45-30 Ma, including much information on fossil plants and animals of the John Day Formation. Central Oregon turns out to have a complete paleoclimatic record in paleosols from middle Eocene to the present, and the special paper is a start in an ongoing project to document this long history. (Greg Retallack)

Bulletin Board

BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR STATE PARK ASSISTANCE

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park has begun several projects and requests any assistance that may be provided.

1. The park is attempting to better-document its development history. We are interested in collecting any personal recollections, photographs, or other information concerning the early years (1950s and 1960s) of the ichthyosaur excavations by Dr. Charles Camp. Any potential sources of information would also be appreciated.

2. The park does not have an original copy of Dr. Camp's monograph on Shonisa urus. If anyone has a copy of the following paper that they would be willing to donate to the park, it would be greatly appreciated: Camp, Charles L. 1980. Large ichthyosaurs from the Upper Triassic of Nevada. Palaeontographica, 170:139 200.

3. The park is developing a library related to ichthyosaurs and the regional geology. Although we have collected copies of most related papers, any available reprints would be appreciated.

4. Berlin-Ichthyosaur will soon be developing a resource plan related to the fossil management of the in-situ ichthyosaur quarry display. We would be interested in any information available or suggestions and advice on the management and protection of in-situ fossil displays. Contacts for the above information can be made through: Brad Kosch, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, P. O. Box 8867, Incline Village NV 89452; telephone: (775) 831-0494; fax: (775) 831-2514; e-mail: kschbrad@aol.com.

ARCHAEOPTERYX BAVARICA--NOW THE MUNICH SPECIMEN

We are very pleased to announce that the seventh specimen of Archaeopteryx that had been offered the Bavarian State Collection of Paleontology and Historical Geology in Munich and described by Wellnhofer (1993) as Archaeopteryx bavarica, was purchased at a price of 2,033,000 DM.

In addition to donations from more than 300 private persons, companies, foundations, the Association of the Friends of the Bavarian State Collection, and the Bavarian Natural History Collections, the Bavarian Ministery of Finance filled the remaining gap of about 1.4 million DM. The official transfer of this important specimen and its pubic presentation by the Bavarian Minister of Cultural Affaires, Hans Zehetmair, was celebrated in a festive ceremony in the main hall of the Paleontological Museum in Munich on Monday, 6 December 1999. Also on that occasion Professor Emeritus Dr. John Ostrom, representing the international scientific community, spoke on the importance of this acquisition.

Many of our VP colleagues have provided intellectual support, and financial donations were given by others, contributing essentially in order to help us secure this scientifically highly significant fossil. For this we thank you very much.

For the first time since 1861, one of the most famous fossils in the world from Bavarian soil has become Bavarian State property. Finally, this specimen, introduced as the "Specimen of the Solenhofer Aktien-Verein" (Wellnhofer, 1993), will be housed in the collections of the Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und Historische Geologie in Munich. Here, it will be available to the international scientific community for future research, and, at least temporarily, to the public in the exhibitions of the Munich Paleontological Museum. Accordingly, it can now be called "The Munich specimen" of Archaeopteryx. Again, many thanks for your help.

Reference: Wellnhofer, P. 1993. Das siebte Exemplar von Archaeopteryx aus den Solnhofener Schichten. Archaeopteryx, 11:1 48. (Peter Wellnhofer)

Calendar of Events

SVPCA 2000--PORTSMOUTH, UK

The 48th Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy with Eighth Symposium of Palaeontological Preparation and Conservation will be held August 28-September 1.

SVPCA 2000 is to be held at the University of Portsmouth and is cosponsored with the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology. The meeting is being held somewhat earlier than in previous years due to the early start of the teaching semester and the availability of accommodations prior to the start of the academic year.

As usual there will be three days of lectures and posters and a postmeeting field excursion. SPPC will take place before SVPCA.

Organizers are: Dr. David M. Martill (Portsmouth) SVPCA david.martill@port.ac.uk, Dr. Mike Barker (Portsmouth) SVPCA mike.barker@port.ac.uk, Mr. Steve Hutt (Isle of Wight) SPPC steve@miwg.freeserve.co.uk. Mailing addreesses are: Dave Martill and Mike Barker, School of Earth, Environmental and Physical Sciences, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth PO1 3QL, UK; Steve Hutt, Museum of Isle of Wight Geology, High Street, Sandown, Isle of Wight PO36 8AF, UK.

Invitation for Papers and Posters

We are expecting an increase in the number of requests for oral presentations, and so we would remind presenters to seriously consider the rather more relaxed atmosphere of the poster display. You do not have to decide now, but after the second circular we will be offering oral presentations on a first-come, first-served basis. This year for the first time we intend to produce a booklet of abstracts. Further details will be sent in the second circular.

If you would like further information, or would like to receive the second circular, please write or e-mail david.martill@port.ac.uk by February 10. The second circular will include a booking form for accommodation in the University halls of residence.

Schedule of Events, August 28-September 1

Monday 28th Evening -- SPPC and SVPCA registration begins
Tuesday 29th -- SPPC papers and demonstrations and SVPCA registration in lecture theater
Wednesday 30th -- SVPCA papers. Evening reception
Thursday 31st -- SVPCA papers. Symposium dinner
Friday 1st -- SVPCA papers
Saturday 2nd -- Field excursion. Cretaceous VP of the Isle of Wight
Sunday 3rd -- Additional field excursion. Paleogene VP of the Isle of Wight

The Jones-Fenleigh Memorial Fund

Established in 1989 in the memory of Ted Jones-Fenleigh of Invicta Plastics of Leicester (makers of excellent model dinosaurs), the fund will pay a bursary to cover some of the costs of accommodation, meals, and field excursion (travel costs will not be paid) of two (perhaps three) people attending the conference. People with no other source of funding, whether amateur, professional, or student, are encouraged to apply. Special consideration will be given to those presenting a paper for the first time. Deadline for applications for the JFMF is April 1. Please send applications to Dr. Dave Martill at the above address.

Positions Available

DIRECTOR, MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T), located at the foot of the Black Hills in western South Dakota, is seeking applicants for a Director of the Museum of Geology. The successful candidate will hold faculty rank. The position will be available beginning 1 July 2000.

Responsibilities for this position will include: administering the Museum facility and its collections; advancing the Museum's role in the educational and outreach missions of the university though interaction with external groups and pursuit of external funding opportunities; and management of the Master's degree program in paleontology, including participation in guidance of students and delivery of the curriculum.

This position requires an earned doctorate in paleontology, geology, or a related field. Candidates should have significant leadership experience in a natural history museum or other business, nonprofit, or academic organization, including demonstrated success in managing programs, personnel, and finances. Teaching and research experience are desirable.

Submit curriculum vitae and the names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three references to: Dr. Sangchul Bang, Dean, College of Earth Systems, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, 501 East St. Joseph Street, Rapid City SD 57701.

Review of applications will begin on March 1, 2000, and will continue until the position is filled. SDSM&T is an EEO/AA/ADA employer and provider.

SAM NOBLE OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

The Museum has a position for a Curatorial Specialist in Vertebrate Paleontology. Minimum requirements include: Bachelor's Degree in Zoology, Geology, or other related museum discipline, and 48 months experience with systematic collections or other museum-related work to include computer analysis of data and specimen preparation; or Master's degree in one of these disciplines, and 24 months of similar experience. The person selected will assist the curators with technical supervision, management, and maintenance of the vertebrate paleontology collection. May include fieldwork in US and abroad. Position starts 1 July 2000, salary is $25,000 (plus full fringe benefits), and applications will be considered until position is filled. Hiring contingent upon background check.

Applicants should submit a resume, cover letter, and three reference letters to Personnel Services, 905 Asp Avenue, Norman, OK 73019. Please refer to job #01-016N. Materials submitted in application for position(s) become the property of OU. For other information on employment at the University of Oklahoma, call (405) 325-1826 or TDD at (405) 325-5529. AA/EOE.

Obituaries

RAYMOND ALF, 1905-1999

Raymond Manfred Alf, retired teacher at the Webb Schools and founder of the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, passed away on September 27 in Claremont, California. He was 93 years old. Raymond Alf became a member of SVP in 1949 and was elected to honorary membership in 1974. In 1996 he received the Morris Skinner Award.

Raymond Alf was born in Canton, China, in 1905, and lived there until 1917. After relocation in the United States, Alf attended Doane College where he distinguished himself as a world-class sprinter. In 1974, he was named to the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

In 1929, Alf joined the faculty of Webb School of California, a private high school near Los Angeles. Alf arrived with an interest in paleontology and took students on trips to collect fossils. In 1937 a student found the skull of a Miocene peccary, which was described by Chester Stock at Cal-Tech as a new taxon, Dyseohyus fricki. The discovery of the new peccary inspired Alf to travel to Nebraska and South Dakota to search for fossils and while on this trip Alf met John Clark. From this meeting, Alf decided to be a paleontologist and studied with Clark at the University of Colorado. He completed his Master's degree in one year and returned to Webb to resume his teaching duties. Thereafter, Alf incorporated paleontology into the curriculum of his science classes and led numerous fossil collecting trips, now known as Peccary Trips. Over the next three decades, Alf led hundreds of Peccary Trips where thousands of fossils were collected. Eventually, the number of fossils outgrew available space and the current museum facility was constructed and dedicated to him in 1968. To this day, the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology remains the only paleontology museum on a high-school campus in North America. The museum houses over 60,000 fossils, the majority of which were collected by students. Raymond Alf's lifetime dedication to teaching and the study of paleontology was a great influence on students and his extraordinary energy and inspirational teaching won him numerous teaching awards. Some of Alf's students went on to become distinguished vertebrate paleontologists--Daniel Fisher, University of Michigan; Malcolm McKenna, American Museum of Natural History; and S. David Webb, University of Florida.

Alf published a series of articles on vertebrate tracks and mammals from Permian-Tertiary-aged rocks in the western United States. In the 1970s, he received honorary doctorate degrees from Lewis and Clark College, Claremont Graduate School, and Doane College. Alf retired from teaching in 1974, but continued to conduct tours of the museum well into the 1990s. Raymond Alf never officially retired from museum work.

CHARLES DEVILLERS, 1914-1999

Charles Devillers, Professor Emeritus at the Université Paris 7/Denis-Diderot, and one of the cofounders of this university in 1970, passed away on May 27, 1999.

Charles Devillers had been a practitioner of vertebrate paleontology, in the field and in the laboratory during all of his long career, as evidenced by his publications on subjects such as mosasaurs, fossil horses or early synapsids, as well as a gifted and enthusiastic teacher in paleontology and comparative anatomy. However, he will be perhaps best remembered as an evolutionist of great insight, for whom paleontology was an integral part of evolutionary biology, on par with fields such as developmental biology and genetics.

For the French--or at least Parisian--community of paleontologists and comparative morphologists, Charles Devillers had been a very important mentor. From the mid-50s to the early 80s he had the opportunity to put his imprint on generations of students in Paris at one time or another during their university curriculum. Fluent in English and German, he made acquaintance with major paleontologists of his era and roughly his generation, such as D. M. S. Watson in England, A. S. Romer and Bobb Schaeffer in the USA, or Eric Stension in Sweden. From those various influences, he brought back to his students a wholesome feeling for international openmindedness, against some local tendencies towards parochial science. Devillers' important contributions in the great French "Traités" (Zoologie by Grass, and Paléolontologie by Piveteau) still remain basic sources for factual and historical references--and thoughts--on classical issues such as development and evolution of the limbs or the origin of mammals. Devillers was a great proponent of the synthetic theory in France since its inception in the country (1947). However, his simultaneous expertise and practice in developmental biology and paleontology allowed him to emphasize early how the "orthodox" aspect of the theory (say from the 50s to the late 70s) missed a sense of the developing organism and lacked what we call now a molecular genetics of development. Thus, it is not surprising that during his latest years of life, he had followed with great enthusiasm the various scientific breakthroughs which now allow much closer and satisfactory intellectual relationships among evolutionary biologists, whether they play with molecules, embryos, or fossils.

A strong personality and loudly opinionated politically, Devillers has played an active role in the various restructurings of the French university organizations and curriculum, following the 1968 "revolution." With retrospect, it can be conceded without much reservation that this has been the most debatable part of his activities in the scientific community, but all he did was done with good intentions.

Among my generation of French paleontologists and evolutionary biologists, he will be remembered with affection by some, gratitude by many, admiration and respect ay by all. (Armand de Ricqlès)

HILDEGARDE HOWARD, 1901-1998

On 28 February 1998 the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology lost one of its Charter Members (Honorary Member since 1973) with the passing of Hildegarde Howard, one month before her 97th birthday, at her home in Laguna Hills, California. Hildegarde was the world's first woman paleornitholgist and the first scientist whose research was devoted solely to the study of fossil birds.

Hildegarde Howard was born 3 April 1901 in Washington, D.C., and in 1906 moved to Los Angeles with her parents. Hildegarde published the first of her 150 papers on avian paleontology, general science, curation, and other matters in an international high-school natural history bulletin in 1923, shortly after she began her affiliation with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM) as a student worker from UCLA.

She met her husband, Henry Anson Wylde (who later became Chief of Exhibits at the Museum), in 1924 when she began working part-time at the Museum and the two of them were assigned to sorting fossil bones from Rancho La Brea in the basement of the original Museum building. They were married on 6 February 1930 and enjoyed 54 years together before a heart attack took his life in October 1984 (SVP News Bulletin, 133:66 67). They had no children.

In addition to her affiliation with the SVP, Hildegarde was a long-time member of the American Ornithologists' Union (Fellow), the Cooper Ornithological Society (Honorary Life Member), American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow), Geological Society of America (Fellow), California and Southern California Academies of Sciences (Fellow), Phi Sigma, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi. She was awarded the AOU's distinguished Brewster Memorial Award in 1953 for her outstanding contributions to avian paleontology. In 1973, the California Academy of Sciences honored Hildegarde as a distinguished California Scientist and featured a special public exhibition of her works. In 1977, the LACM dedicated the Hildegarde Howard Hall of Cenozoic Life, honoring her as the Museum's most eminent paleontologist. In 1980, a festschrift of avian paleontology was published that honored her and her works (Contributions in Science, 330), and that volume may be consulted for greater biographic and bibliographic details.

Hildegarde began attending the Southern Branch of the University of California (now known as the University of California at Los Angeles, or UCLA) in 1920, when Dr. Loye Miller was the chairman of the Biology Department. Dr. Miller was already publishing on the fossil birds from Rancho La Brea and took Hildegarde under his wing, so to speak. Hildegarde began working part time for Dr. Chester Stock, a well-known mammalian paleontologist, in 1921, sorting bones from Rancho La Brea. In 1922, Hildegarde went to Berkeley to finish her undergraduate degree (UCLA was a two-year school at the time). She completed her BA degree in 1924, and remained at Berkeley to obtain her MS degree in 1926 and her PhD degree in 1928. At this time she was greatly influenced by Dr. Joseph Grinnell, her major professor, and Dr. William Diller Matthew, who was on her doctoral committee. Her dissertation, entitled "The Avifauna of Emeryville Shellmound," was a landmark achievement for her and when published it became a classic. One of the reasons for its impact was a series of drawings illustrating the bones of a bird skeleton, with clearly labeled osteological features. For the first time avian osteologists and paleontologists had a standard terminology, a clear point of reference for the works of different authors. This paper remained the principle reference of its kind for 50 years.

Hildegarde began working full time at the LACM in 1928, obtaining a permanent position with the Museum in 1929; her title was Junior Clerk. Although she was, in fact, a curator from that point on, she did not receive the official title until 1938. In 1951 she was appointed Chief Curator of Science. Although she officially "retired" in 1961, she energetically continued her research on fossil birds, publishing her last paper in 1992.

It was the tremendous collection of bird fossils from the asphalt deposits of Rancho La Brea, a collection now numbering over 300,000 specimens, that formed Hildegarde's training ground and the primary focus of her research. Indeed, the names Hildegarde Howard and Rancho La Brea are readily recognized and connected by paleontologists of all specialities the world over. It was this large collection that taught Hildegarde the caution, restraint, and thoroughness in methodology that came to characterize her works.

The Tertiary marine birds of southern California were the second focus of Hildegarde's research. Highlights from these works include the evolutionary history of the flightless diving auks of the subfamily Mancalline (Charadriiformes: Alcae), and the description of the pseudodontorns ("false-toothed birds") of the genus Osteodontornis, the flightless diving geese of the genus Chendytes, and the flightless pelecaniform plotopterids. And, of course, there were many other important papers, such as those concerning the paleoavifaunas of Fossil Lake, Oregon, the Anza-Borrego Desert of southern California, and the Pleistocene pluvial lakes of the southwestern US; as well as her reviews of the status of our knowledge of fossil birds. She also contributed numerous articles of a nontechnical nature to the Museum's publications. In her 69-year publishing career, Hildegarde described three families, 13 genera, 57 species, and two subspecies of birds. Remarkably, of these, she described one family, seven genera, 34 species, and one subspecies after she "retired" from the LACM in 1961.

A distinctive feature of all of Hildegarde's studies was the caution she used in describing new taxa. If a specimen did not possess good, solid diagnostic characters, it was not given a name, even if she herself was convinced it represented a new form. However, once Hildegarde was convinced that her conclusions were sound she proceeded to publish them. This confidence was exemplified by her action in naming a new, extinct family of seabirds, the Plotopteridae (Pelecaniformes: Sulae), on the basis of a humeral end of a coracoid. That her diagnosis was correct was confirmed a decade later when Storrs Olson and Yoshikagu Hasegawa began reporting on many more specimens of that enigmatic family that were then being collected from Washington state and Japan. Olson has commented that her action in diagnosing the "fragment" that is the basis for this extinct family constitutes one of the most perceptive insights in the history of vertebrate paleontology.

Although she never discussed any details, as a woman scientist in a man's world Hildegarde undoubtedly faced many obstacles in her scientific career, beginning with being banned, as were all female students at that time, from class field trips in her early years at UCLA. However, as she became the leader in her field and an internationally recognized and respected scientist she became a prominent role model and inspiration for women students seeking to enter the scientific professions. The fact that she rose to

serve for a decade as the chief scientist at the LACM is testimony to her outstanding abilities. In the words of Jean Delacour, ornithologist and Director of the Museum for nine of the ten years when Hildegarde served as Chief Curator for all sciences at the Museum, "I sincerely believe that no one could have done it better--her experience, her authority, and her understanding of people and problems were perfect." (Kenneth E. Campbell)

HANS LUDOLPH JESSEN, 1935-1999

Hans Ludolph Jessen was born in Bredebro, South Jutland, Denmark. His father being German and his mother Danish, he grew up between two nationalities. The family belonged to the German minority in south Denmark. In the first year after the second World War, he was considered German and thus prohibited from going to school. Thereafter he continued school in South Jutland and graduated from the Danish high school in Tondern in 1955. Growing up bilingually, he was fluent in both Danish and German, and later also in Swedish, French, and English. After obligatory military service he attended in 1957 the University of Cologne, Germany, receiving his undergraduate degree in geology in 1960. There he met his wife Margret in Bergisch Gladbach (a town east of Cologne) where he resided in the house of one of his half-sisters. During summer 1959 he made the acquaintance of Dr. Tor Orvig and joined the excavation in the Upper Devonian fish sites in Bergisch Gladbach. This stimulated his interest in fossil fish, which remained the main focus of all his future research.

After graduation from the University of Cologne in 1960, he moved to Munich to continue his studies on fossil fish with Prof. Dehm. However he did not find the resonance he expected and decided to turn north. After a short stop in Copenhagen (Prof. E. Nielsen), he joined the Paleozoologiska afdelningen in the Riksmuseet Stockholm to work together on the crossopterygians from the Upper Devonian of Bergisch Gladbach with T. Orvig, and became a student of E. Jarvik. Here two souls found each other: Both originated from the countryside and both required little communication to acquire complete understanding of the other. He finished his Licenciate in Stockholm (corresponding to the PhD at that time in the Swedish system) in 1965, on the crossopterygians from Bergisch Gladbach including North American Onychodus material.

Hans and his family moved out of the city in 1965 when I arrived in Stockholm. As it was very difficult to find housing at that time in Stockholm, Hans allowed me to move into his flat without notifying the owner of the apartment of the change. So one can imagine the surprise of the owner upon finding me there, and consequently would not talk to Hans anymore but only to the head of the department, Prof. E. Jarvik (who was also well-known for his hesitation in communicating). These were the two sides of Hans' personality. He was the entertainer in a group of people, pleasant, nice, and would help where he could. On the other hand, he was both quiet and reserved at home and in particular with the owner.

Hans stayed in Stockholm until 1972 where he received the Swedish doctorate, which corresponds to the German Habilitation (equivalent to tenure evaluation in the States).

He returned to Cologne in 1972, after he was offered an assistantship in the geology department of the university. There he finally became curator of the paleontological collections and earned in 1980 an "ausserplanmaessige" professorship (title and teaching duties, but not position as professor).

I hoped to find in him support for fish paleontology in Germany, being at that time in Göttingen.We went together to the Canadian Arctic in 1975 to collect Early Devonian fishes and agnathans. I tried to encourage him to restart excavations in Bergisch Gladbach and to collect in Odenspiel, two Devonian fish localities in the Rhenish Massiv. Nevertheless it did not work out. Hans must have known of his illness but chose to abstain from speaking about it, even to his closest friend, E. Jarvik, who did not become aware of it until 1985.

Hans replaced Prof. Hölder at the university in Münster for one semester in 1980, and Prof. D. Schumann at the university in Darmstadt for one year, 1984-1985. Physical difficulties in giving lectures and supervising students increased in the following years. His former students would later remember his lively and interesting lectures. During his tenure in Cologne, he had three graduate students--L. Friman, who became later an engineering geologist; Ms. P. Kuester, who married the paleontologist Prof. Oekentorp in Münster; and M. Otto, who did his postdoc time with me in Berlin. In addition, Hans supervised mappings of a few Master's students. He had a strong influence on P. Bartsch, who spent afterwards one year in Stockholm. Hans is survived by his wife and two children, Anne and Peter Jessen.

Hans suffered over many years and never achieved his full potential due to his pernicious illness. His future began promisingly in the 1960s (parts of his PhD thesis were included immediately in a paleontological standard work, the Traité de Paléontologie) and early 1970s, but was soon hindered by his health. His publications on the Struniiformes (Onychodontida) and on the primitive rhipidistian Powichthys, however, are and will always be important contributions to paleoichthyology. (Hans-Peter Schultze)

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology By-Law on Ethics

"Article 9. Statement of Ethics.

Several goals for the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology follow from its mission statement (Constitution Article 1): to discover, conserve, and protect vertebrate fossils and to foster the scientific, educational, and personal appreciation and understanding of them by amateur, student and professional paleontologists, as well as the general public. Fossil vertebrates are usually unique or rare, nonrenewable scientific and educational resources that, along with their accompanying contextual data, constitute part of our natural heritage. They provide data by which the history of vertebrate life on earth may be reconstructed and are one of the primary means of studying evolutionary patterns and processes as well as environmental change.

It is the responsibility of vertebrate paleontologists to strive to ensure that vertebrate fossils are collected in a professional manner, which includes the detailed recording of pertinent contextual data (e.g., geographic, stratigraphic, sedimentologic, taphonomic).

It is the responsibility of vertebrate paleontologists to assist government agencies in the development of management policies and regulations pertinent to the collection of vertebrate fossils, and to comply with those policies and regulations during and after collection. Necessary permits on all lands administered by federal, state, and local governments, whether domestic or foreign, must be obtained from the appropriate agency(ies) before fossil vertebrates are collected. Collecting fossils on private lands must only be done with the landowner's consent.

Fossil vertebrate specimens should be prepared by, or under the supervision of, trained personnel.

Scientifically significant fossil vertebrate specimens, along with ancillary data, should be curated and accessioned in the collections of repositories charged in perpetuity with conserving fossil vertebrates for scientific study and education (e.g., accredited museums, universities, colleges, and other educational institutions).

Information about vertebrate fossils and their accompanying data should be disseminated expeditiously to both scientific community and interested general public.

The barter, sale, or purchase of scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is not condoned unless it brings them into, or keeps them within, a public trust. Any other trade or commerce in scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is inconsistent with the foregoing, in that it deprives both the public and professionals of important specimens, which are part of our natural heritage."

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