

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY NEWS BULLETIN

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2005 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

It has been a great honor and privilege to have served as President of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology over the past two years. We have enjoyed many successes and the strength of our Society has improved significantly in the face of these challenging times.

Through the exceptional leadership of the Executive Committee and the hard work and dedication of the Society's committees, we have made significant progress in ensuring that the science of vertebrate paleontology continues to flourish as a scientific discipline and to attract much public attention.

The Society's primary objectives can be summarized as follows:

- Publication of original scientific research in the Society's flagship publication, the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*;
- Presentation of preliminary results of research in vertebrate paleontology at the annual meeting;
- Communication to the Society's membership concerning ongoing developments in vertebrate paleontology and the business of the Society;
- Ensuring the protection and preservation of fossil vertebrate remains;
- Fostering understanding of and participation in our science on the part of the public, educators, and students.

The *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* continues to receive growing numbers of high-quality manuscripts from researchers worldwide. In order to keep up with the demands of an increasing number of manuscripts submitted, a Managing Editor for *JVP*, Laura Healy, has been hired. The *JVP* back-scanning project has been turned over to JSTOR and, in the meantime, *JVP* 1(1) has been posted to the Web site with more volumes to follow.

The 2005 Annual Meeting in Mesa, Arizona, was our second-largest meeting with more than 1,000 attendees representing 22 countries in addition to the U.S. The number of abstracts reached a new record in 2005 with a total of 610 abstracts submitted. Greg Buckley, our Program Chair, provided a well-organized meeting and kept three concurrent sessions running smoothly and on time.

The Society's Government Affairs Committee under the leadership of Ted Vlamis has continued to work to protect fossil on federal lands. Through the efforts of this committee and other SVP members, the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act S. 263 unanimously passed the Senate. A companion bill is planned for discussion in the House of Representatives.

Our membership remains strong with over 2,200 members for FY2005 with students continuing to make a significant portion of new members.

The Student Liaison Committee under the able direction of Andrew Farke hosted the third annual student roundtable forum and reprint exchange. This year's roundtable was generously sponsored by a bequest from the estate of long-time SVP member Barbara Stahl.

The Society remains in excellent financial condition with a positive investment return thanks to the diligence of our treasurer Lou Taylor. SVP was able to provide funds to sponsor two international meetings the Latin American Vertebrate Paleontology Congress in Brazil last summer and the upcoming Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems meeting in Bristol. In 2005, SVP received significant gifts from members and nonmembers. Of special note is the bequest of \$50,000 by SVP member Steven Cohen to foster excellence in vertebrate paleontology by making funds available to support student activities.

The Development Committee under the leadership of Richard Stucky and Interim Chair Bill Clemens are working to identify fund-raising objectives for the Society and initiate a fund-raising campaign. One of these objectives was announced at the Annual Meeting—student travel awards for students to attend and present their research at SVP. This year's auction proceeds will provide funds to support student travel grants for next year's meeting in Ottawa.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Lisa Babilonia and Mark Terry and the members of the Education and Outreach Committee, the Society's efforts in public science education continue to be very successful. At the Annual Meeting a third town-hall meeting on Evolution attracted a large audience as did a symposium on SVP, Evolution, and Society. The Society also organized a workshop for teachers at the Annual Meeting. PaleoPortal, a central, interactive entry point to vetted paleontology resources on the Internet, launched last year by the Education and Outreach Committee, continues to receive acclaim (Best Academic Web Site 2005, Geoscience Information Society). NSF funds have been sought to expand the collections database of the site.

I would like to thank members of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology for the privilege of serving as President of this great organization, and gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the Executive Committee and other committees of the Society (Annalisa Berta, SVP President 2004–2006).

MINUTES OF THE 65TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 20 OCTOBER 2005, MESA, ARIZONA

Welcome

At 5:00 P.M., Annalisa Berta introduced herself as the SVP President and welcomed all present. She encouraged members to share comments and ideas about SVP with her and the entire Executive Committee.

The President, Secretary, and Treasurer gave their reports (see updated the Secretary and Treasurer reports that follow this section with SVP Committee Reports). For President's Report, please refer to the 2005 President Address (above).

An invited speaker, Cliff Cunningham, Director of the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, made a presentation on the Evolutionary Center and opportunities for participation by SVP members.

Member Greg McDonald read a statement he wrote for the 65th Annual Meeting titled, "Whereas" to the group. This statement follows the minutes.

New Business

Annalisa Berta opened the floor to allow members to express their thoughts. Points of discussion brought forth were:

Catherine Badgley talked about the possibility of having a meeting in Bristol, England, and wanted to get feedback from the rest of the membership on it. Some features that were pointed out on this proposed annual meeting site included:

- Located on the southwestern coast of England;
- 2009 is the bicentennial of Darwin's birth;
- Direct flights from several U.S. airports and points in Europe;
- One hour and forty minute train ride from Paddington Station in central London;
- Hotel and dorm accommodations available;
- Events within walking distance on campus of Bristol University;
- Meeting should occur before 1 October to use university facilities.

Open Executive Committee Meeting

Annalisa Berta invited members to the Open Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, 22 October 2005 at 12:30 P.M. At that meeting Catherine Badgley will lead a discussion on the future research direction of paleontology.

Adjourn

Annalisa Berta thanked the members of the 2005 Host Committee and the Program Committee for their work on the annual meeting. The Business Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Whereas

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, also known as the Old Bone Hunters Association, has deemed it right and proper to convene its sixty-fifth annual meeting in Arizona, an area that is world renowned for its geology and paleontology, amongst which are included a minor geological feature known as the Grand Canyon, which clearly demonstrates “deep time” and, contrary to recent reinterpretation, was not carved by Noah’s flood, and a spectacular example of the Triassic in the form of the Petrified Forest.

And, despite the view of some that during these meetings we should be celebrating the earth’s 6009th birthday because, according to the calculations of James Ussher (1581–1656), Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland, the earth was created on Sunday, 23 October 4004 B.C., we have gathered to share our discoveries regarding the grand and glorious history of vertebrates on this planet, and affirm that not only life on this planet has evolved, but our science as well.

And, whereas during this time we have examined the role of our Society with regard to Evolution (known in some circles as Evilution) and Society in general and recognized that we, as a Society, must reach out to Society to Explore, Understand, and Enhance the public’s awareness and understanding of Evolution and its impact on Society, ours and theirs.

And whereas as it states in the Bible “There were giants in the earth in those days;” (Gen 6:4) we have held a symposium on The Evolution of Giants which has properly examined the sauropodomorph dinosaurs which in some faunas accounted for 95 percent of the standing biomass, probably produced 95 percent of the biomass, and most likely greatly contributed to greenhouse gasses in the Mesozoic.

And, whereas in the footsteps of our intellectual forebearers William D. Matthew and George G. Simpson we have examined the role of climate change on the evolutionary history of mammals, and have investigated new techniques such as tooth microwear, stable isotopes, and phytolith extraction to allow us to unravel the complex co-evolutionary dynamics between climate and mammals. For as it says in Hosea 4:6, “My people perish for lack of knowledge.”

And, whereas we have furthered our knowledge on the inherent links among morphological, phylogenetic, and biogeographic components of the global study of fossil fishes, and recognize that their evolution occurs at many scales, that this research is ongoing and never “fin”ished, that there are many “lateral lines” of evidence, and that a more-rigorous standard of testing hypotheses and detecting patterns and underlying causal relationships is required so that we are not so “gillable” in too quickly accepting new hypotheses.

And, whereas some of us have trekked through the Triassic of the Colorado Plateau, the Cretaceous of the Zuni Basin, and across the Kaiparowits Plateau and up the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (not to be confused with the Jacob’s Ladder-Escalante National Monument which is located elsewhere in the State of Zion), the Pliocene of Arizona, as well as the Hemphillian, Blancan, and Pleistocene of Mexico, all of which have affirmed that, as it says in Isaiah 2, “And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth,” for after all, that is where the fossils are.

And, whereas all of this has come to pass because the Mesa Southwest Museum has diligently, dutifully, and delightfully made it possible for us to describe, debunk, debate, defend, decide, decipher, deliberate, delimit, deliver, demonstrate, dialog, and differ in a decisive, decided, dedicated, deft, detailed, determined, devoted, dexterous, didactic, and diffident fashion.

Therefore, let it be resolved that on this day, the 20th of October 2005, the membership of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology acknowledge the efforts of the Mesa Southwest Museum and our host committee: Robert McCord, Brian Curtice, Richard White, Randall Nydam, Gavin McCullough, and Doug Wolfe, our symposium organizers and field-trip leaders by acclamation. Please stand and join me.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOTIONS PASSED SINCE THE 64TH MEETING

Motions passed via e-mail:

- Approve support for the Congresso Latino-Americano de Paleontologia de Vertebrados in Brazil;
- Approve travel support for the Romer-Simpson awardee;
- Approve the slate of awards, prizes, and grant winners as presented by the committees;
- Motion passed in 06/05 and amended 01/06: Approve a change in *JVP* page charges. Beginning 1 October 2005, *JVP* articles that have at least one author who is an SVP member in good standing (this author does not need to be the senior author) will not incur page charges for the first 15 (fifteen) pages of their article. The page-charge rate will apply to these articles (with at least one SVP member author) for all pages above 15. Nonmember authors will incur the page charge rate for each page of their article;
- Approve to support the June 2006 Ninth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems. Provide \$2,000 support for the June 2006 Ninth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial by applying \$500 from each of the following SVP accounts: President Fund, Royalties, Membership, Development Committee.

Motions Passed at the Executive Committee Meeting on 18 October 2005:

- Approve the 2005 mid-year Executive Committee agenda;
- Approve the November 2004 Executive Committee minutes with corrections provided;
- Approve budget as revised;
- Approve Cleveland as the 2008 Annual Meeting site;
- Approve the June 2005 Executive Committee minutes with corrections;
- Approve the financial support of a Managing Editor (estimated at \$30,000) for two issues, Vol. 26, issues 2–3, on a trial basis with continuation if the relationship is satisfactory.

2005 ELECTION RESULTS

New Executive Committee member: P. David Polly, Member-at-Large

Retiring Executive Committee member: Marisol Montellano, Member-at-Large

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary David Archibald requested a motion to approve the 2005 mid-year Executive Committee agenda. The motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and approved. The Secretary requested a motion to approve the November 2004 Executive Committee minutes with corrections provided. The motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and approved. The budget, as revised, was also approved. A motion approved in June of 2005, and then amended by e-mail in January 2006, states that at least one author of an article appearing in the *JVP* must be an SVP member in good standing to avoid the page charge rate for each page. Page charges

apply to SVP member articles for each page in excess of 15. Other motions passed via e-mail and since the mid-year Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Results of the election were announced: P. David Polly was added as a Member-at-Large, and Marisol Montellano retired as a Member-at-Large and was thanked for her service. Archibald reminded members that dues invoices have been mailed and he encouraged members to renew their memberships promptly.

TREASURER'S REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2004–2005

This budget summary was presented at the Annual Meeting in Mesa, Arizona, and represents preliminary results of the closing figures for Fiscal Year 2004–2005.

Review of Endowment and Investment Funds as of 30 September 2005

The SVP general investment fund, managed by Merrill Lynch, increased in value from \$1,714,583 to \$1,905,884, for a gain of 11.16% for the year ending 30 September 2005. The separately held Estes Fund increased from \$38,252 to \$40,975, for a gain of 7.12%. The conservative SVP investments fared better than the S&P 500's gain of 10.25% for the same time period.

Minor changes were made in investment allocations during FY 2004–2005. At the end of the fiscal year, our asset allocation was 34% in fixed-income securities, 64% in equities, and 2% in cash pending reinvestment. The changes consisted of moving cash from CDs to mutual funds, to avoid locking in low interest rates for CDs, and minor movement within the mutual fund category. Our plan continues to be conservative, however, and we will continue to re-invest in CDs as others mature.

Review of Fiscal Year 2004–2005

Membership/Administration. Administration income derives mainly from member dues, the income from which increased more than 6.5%. This additional income offset the increased management fees and bank fees budgeted for this year.

Investment and Endowment Fund. Endowment funds increased significantly more than budgeted. The minor changes in investment allocations and the overall increase in the U.S. economy benefited our Society. For the fourth consecutive year it was not necessary to use all of the endowment funds budgeted to support the Society's programs.

Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology. Journal publication by Sheridan Press included changes to incorporate a greater amount of electronic editing and formatting. Again this year, the diligent *JVP* editors kept publishing costs in line, so that we were able to produce the journal this year within budget. Also, sale of the journal through BioOne subscriptions was greater than budgeted.

Annual Meeting. The Denver meeting earned a slight profit and added to the operating budget. The increased cost of holding the annual meeting was offset by an 11% increase in attendance and by the efforts of the host committee and the business office to keep costs at a minimum.

Summary. The largest single program expense continues to be the *JVP*. Greater use of electronic publishing possibilities should result in decreased publishing expenses. Increased membership and attendance at the annual meeting, conservative investing of endowment funds, and diligence on the part of all committees insured that SVP remains financially sound.

Summary of Proposed Fiscal Year 2005–2006 Budget

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

Administration. Management fees will remain constant this year, and stable or increased income from dues should meet administrative expenses.

Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology. The proposed budget is based upon maintaining current page production and a 2% increase in publication costs.

Investment and Endowment Fund. The SVP endowment was enhanced by the addition of a \$50,000 bequest from member Steven Cohen. Mr. Cohen's generous gift was announced at a special Executive Committee Meeting held during the 2005 Annual Meeting. The Steven Cohen Fund for Student Development will foster development of excellence in the study of vertebrate paleontology by making funds available to exemplary students. Ultimately, funds awarded will be used by students in support of field research, museum research, or other approved academic developmental activities.

Annual Meeting. Final figures for the 2005 Annual Meeting remain incomplete at this time, but are expected to show a profit this year due to high attendance and continued host committee efforts to keep costs at a minimum. Registration revenue is expected to offset hosting costs.

Summary. We anticipate significant revenue from the annual meeting, memoir sales, and continued increased royalties from BioOne subscriptions will offset increased expenses for 2005–2006. Also, constant review of expenditures and attempts to increase revenue will be utilized to maintain a favorable financial position for the Society.

Summary of the Fiscal Year 2004–2005 Budget

| | 2004–2005 Budget | 2004–2005 Year Actual | Budget–Actual Variance |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| MEMBERSHIP/ADMINISTRATION | | | |
| Income | \$276,135.00 | \$293,414.00 | \$ 17,279.00 |
| Expense | \$163,159.00 | \$296,532.00 | \$ (133,373.00) |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$112,976.00 | \$ (3,118.00) | \$ (116,094.00) |
| LEADERSHIP & AWARDS | | | |
| Income | \$ 12,400.00 | \$ 11,815.00 | \$ (585.00) |
| Expense | \$ 50,616.00 | \$ 61,767.00 | \$ (11,151.00) |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (38,216.00) | \$ (49,952.00) | \$ (11,736.00) |
| JOURNAL | | | |
| Income | \$ 93,910.00 | \$ 93,680.00 | \$ (230.00) |
| Expense | \$149,001.00 | \$100,064.00 | \$ 48,937.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (55,091.00) | \$ (6,384.00) | \$ 48,707.00 |
| COMMUNICATIONS | | | |
| Income | \$ 11,725.00 | \$ 10,538.00 | \$ (1,187.00) |
| Expense | \$ 21,634.00 | \$ 23,234.00 | \$ (1,600.00) |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (9,909.00) | \$ (12,696.00) | \$ (2,787.00) |
| MERCHANDISE SALES | | | |
| Income | \$ 3,370.00 | \$ 6,495.00 | \$ 3,125.00 |
| Expense | \$ 113.00 | \$ 2,719.00 | \$ (2,606.00) |

| | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ 3,257.00 | \$ 3,776.00 | \$ 519.00 |
| ANNUAL MEETING | | | |
| Income | \$245,309.00 | \$237,239.00 | \$ (8,070.00) |
| Expense | \$257,042.00 | \$234,975.00 | \$ 22,067.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (11,733.00) | \$ 2,264.00 | \$ 13,997.00 |
| GENERAL ENDOWMENT | | | |
| Income | \$ 58,350.00 | \$167,506.00 | \$ 109,156.00 |
| Expense | \$ 74,767.00 | \$ 400.00 | \$ 74,367.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (16,417.00) | \$167,106.00 | \$ 183,523.00 |
| PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS | | | |
| Income | \$ 2,300.00 | \$ 9,264.00 | \$ 6,964.00 |
| Expense | | | |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ 2,300.00 | \$ 9,264.00 | \$ 6,964.00 |
| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS | | | |
| Income | \$ 13,697.00 | \$ 63,878.00 | \$ 50,181.00 |
| Expense | \$ 12,400.00 | \$ 11,415.00 | \$ 985.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ 1,297.00 | \$ 52,463.00 | \$ 51,166.00 |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS LESS ENDOWMENT | \$ 1,283.00 | \$ (66,110.00) | \$ 67,393.00 |
| ENDOWMENT INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS | \$ (12,820.00) | \$228,833.00 | \$ 235,243.00 |
| ENDOWMENT INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS | \$ (11,536.00) | \$162,723.00 | \$ 168,491.00 |

Summary of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2005–2006 Budget

2005–2006
Budget

MEMBERSHIP/ADMINISTRATION

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Income | \$294,220.00 |
| Expense | \$149,422.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$144,798.00 |

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| Income | \$ 21,078.00 |
| Expense | \$ 51,929.00 |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (30,851.00) |
| JOURNAL | |
| Income | \$100,880.00 |
| Expense | \$150,522.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (49,642.00) |
| COMMUNICATIONS | |
| Income | \$ 1,550.00 |
| Expense | \$ 27,872.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (26,322.00) |
| MERCHANDISE SALES | |
| Income | \$ 7,650.00 |
| Expense | \$ 2,487.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ 5,163.00 |
| ANNUAL MEETING | |
| Income | \$239,330.00 |
| Expense | \$282,460.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (43,130.00) |
| GENERAL ENDOWMENT | |
| Income | \$ 66,000.00 |
| Expense | \$ 80,471.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ (14,471.00) |
| PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS | |
| Income | \$ 4,535.00 |
| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS | |
| Income | \$ 18,545.00 |
| Expense | \$ 12,278.00 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) | \$ 6,267.00 |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS LESS ENDOWMENT | \$ 15.00 |
| ENDOWMENT INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS | \$ (3,669.00) |

ENDOWMENT INCREASE (DECREASE) \$ (3,654.00)
 IN NET ASSETS

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Review of Net Assets

| Net Assets | 9/30/2005 Value | 9/30/2004 Value | 9/30/2003 Value | 9/30/2002 Value |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED | | | | |
| Axelrod | \$156,022 | 156,022 | 156,022 | 156,022 |
| Chance Award | \$1,466 | 1,466 | 1,220 | 1,598 |
| Estes Award | \$46,266 | 42,503 | 41,083 | 50,678 |
| Lazendorf Award | \$7,500 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 0 |
| Patterson Award | \$56,957 | 56,957 | 56,957 | 41,780 |
| TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | | | | |
| Estes Award | \$8,951 | 5,187 | 3,234 | 0 |
| Axelrod | \$60,158 | 41,512 | 0 | 15,458 |
| Chance Award | \$63,573 | 63,548 | 69,801 | 69,256 |
| Patterson Award | \$13,910 | 8,266 | 3,087 | 1,354 |
| Romer Prize | \$18,874 | 16,672 | 13,966 | 14,472 |
| Skinner Award | \$48,716 | 44,176 | 40,738 | 42,536 |
| Lazendorf Award | \$2,311 | 1,479 | 1,850 | 1,335 |
| Wood Fund | \$16,810 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unrestricted | 1,780,143 | 1,449,072 | \$1,474,719 | \$1,314,834 |
| Total Net Assets | 2,154,572 | 1,892,860 | \$1,869,167 | \$1,695,968 |

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Review of Investments

| Major Type of Investment | 9/30/2005 Value | 9/30/2004 Value | 9/30/2003 Value | 9/30/2002 Value |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| MoneyMarket/Cash Management Account | 20,948 | 38,515 | 34,154 | 2,904 |
| Mutual Funds | 1,533,346 | 1,029,327 | 1,016,744 | 788,157 |
| Corporate Bonds | 0 | 167,177 | 156,713 | 159,999 |
| Certificates of Deposit | 544,996 | 660,301 | 647,102 | 751,932 |
| Estimated Accrued Interest | 5645 | 10,564 | - | - |
| Total Investments | 2,104,935 | 1,905,884 | 1,854,713 | \$1,714,583 |

Steven Cohen Fund for Student Development Announced

The funding of the Steven Cohen Fund for Student Development was announced at a special meeting of the Executive Committee held during the 2005 Annual Meeting in Mesa, Arizona. Mr. Cohen's generous gift to SVP will be used to foster development of excellence in the study of vertebrate paleontology by making funds available to exemplary students. Ultimately, an award committee, initially composed of SVP members Louis L. Jacobs and Louis H. Taylor, will disperse funds to be used by students in support of field research, museum research, or other approved academic developmental activities. Award recipients will be announced at the annual SVP awards banquet.

Use of the initial gift of \$50,000 will be restricted, with a proportion of the annual interest used for the awards. Other SVP members are invited to contribute to this award through bequest or direct donation, but the name and purpose of the award will not change. Awards will be made to students after the bequest is fulfilled.

— ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT —

The Accountants' Report will appear in the fall issue of the *News Bulletin*.

— COMMITTEE REPORTS —

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee focused on generating suggestions for implementation of the travel grant program for the 2006 meeting.

The proposed SVP student travel grant program is an excellent opportunity for the Society to encourage participation of our student members in the 2006 and subsequent annual meetings. Administration of the program offers several challenges. Decisions will be made by the Executive Committee and implemented on: 1) announcement of the availability of the program, 2) method of making application, 3) criteria for selection of the awardees, and 4) delegation of the responsibility of making the selections.

The Development Committee recommends that the Student Travel Award program for the 2006 meeting be considered a trial run. Its successes and problems should be closely monitored and considered in refining the award program for the 2007 meeting.

In the coming spring it is the Committee's intention to turn its attention to programs for development of endowments for the travel grant program as well as SVP-sponsored field and topical conferences. (William Clemens, Chair)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

As the new co-chairs got their feet on the ground, the Education and Outreach Committee managed to increase its activities during 2005 on several fronts.

The Teacher Workshop held at the Mesa meetings was one of the largest yet and drew teachers from all grade levels from throughout Arizona. It was content-rich, exploring not only the science of paleontology, but successful classroom strategies and an update on the current attack on the teaching of evolution in public schools. Special thanks to Committee members Roland Gangloff and Judy Scotchmoor, Theresa DeCarli (SVP Business Office), and Kristen Pumo and company of the Mesa Southwest Museum for their hard work and support. Detailed responses were received from participants. Planning is underway for a similar workshop at the Ottawa meetings, with a focus on extinction to coincide with the theme of the major new exhibit opening at the Canadian National Museum of Nature.

The Evolution Symposium at the Mesa meetings was well received, and a proposal has been submitted for a symposium along similar lines for the Ottawa meetings. More emphasis would be

placed on best practice examples from successful evolution education programs. The Symposium was followed by the third annual Evolution Town Hall, during which many members shared their experiences with the current attack on evolution education. A fourth Evolution Town Hall is planned for Ottawa.

Development of new Paleoprofiles stalled somewhat in 2005, but there is renewed activity as of this January. The profiles have been frequently visited components of the SVP Web site. Likewise, the book "Dinosaurs: The Science behind the Stories" has been very well received but not well promoted. New efforts will be undertaken to promote the book in the coming year.

The PaleoPortal Web site has proved very popular and attracted an award from the GSA. Efforts are underway to enhance features of the Web site, expand the database, and increase the roles of SVP and the Paleontological Society in managing the site.

As efforts to enhance the SVP Web site take shape, the Education and Outreach Committee has begun to propose new features and content of interest to teachers, the museum community, and the general public.

The Committee has actively sought more participation from students, particularly graduate students, and can already report new graduate student members. One hope is that they may help the Committee reach others at their respective universities who could use help in developing and maintaining high-quality evolution education programs. An attempt will be made to interest professors of science education in the programs we offer at the Ottawa meetings.

The Committee also plans to coordinate with those responsible for media relations to gain greater visibility for SVP's support for high-quality science education in general, and evolution education in particular.

ETHICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Ethics Education Committee was formed by the President in January 2005 for the purpose of responding to allegations of violations of the SVP Code of Ethics, a code that became part of the Bylaws in 1995. The Committee consists of three members of the SVP Executive Committee and two other SVP members.

The Committee developed a procedure for receiving and evaluating allegations of infractions by members. The procedures agreed upon are summarized below. In addition, President Berta posted a statement on the SVP Web site and on the vrtpaleo listserv to notify members that they agree to abide by the code of ethics when they join the Society and that this Committee has been established to handle incidents that may violate the code of ethics.

Two incidents involving the sale of fossils by members of SVP were discussed by the Committee in 2005. Discussions were held with members of other scientific organizations about ethics guidelines and the handling of ethical violations.

Procedure for handling an allegation are:

1. The report of an ethics violation should be sent to the President. The President will convey the information to this Committee.
2. The Committee will communicate with the accuser if additional information is needed about the particular case. The Committee may need to do independent research to verify the details of the case.

3. The Committee should write to the accused to present the accusation, identify the accuser, and request an explanation in response.

4. Once the accused has responded to the Committee, the Committee can make a recommendation to the Executive Committee and note possible courses of action.

5. The final responsibility for deciding upon a course of action rests with the Executive Committee. Its decision is conveyed to this Committee and to the accused. (Catherine Badgley, Chair)

GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Government Affairs Committee has continued to work to protect fossils on federal lands through passage of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act. S. 263 was introduced by the Honorable Senator Daniel Akaka and as a result of the efforts of GAC members and other SVP members a bipartisan group of eight senators co-sponsored the bill. I'm pleased to be able to report that S. 263 passed the Senate unanimously on 26 July 2005.

We're working hard to secure passage in the House of Representatives. Thanks to all who took the time to write or contact their senators. We'll let you know when we need your help on the House side. (Ted Vlamis, Chair)

MEDIA LIAISON COMMITTEE

Goals/Activities

Information Item. Three members of the Media Liaisons Committee retired (Ken Carpenter, Tony Fiorillo, and Jack Horner), and three new members (Jonathan Bloch, Mike Gottfried, and Jason Head) joined the Committee. The Media Liaison Committee held the press conference at the Annual Meeting in Mesa. Speakers included:

- Anusuya Chinsamy—"Living and growing in the shadows of dinosaurs"
- Ross MacPhee—"Significance of asynchronous sloth extinction on continents and islands during the Late Quaternary"
- Adam Rountrey—"Raising a mammoth: Tusk study suggests prolonged maternal investment"
- Alan Shabel—"The robust australopithicines (*Paranthropus*) as consumers of hard-shelled invertebrates in wetlands: A test of the durophage model with carbone isotope analysis"
- François Therrien—"Olfactory bulb size as an indicator of olfactory acuity in non-avian theropods"

Discussions with members of the media at the meeting prompted us to suggest that the press conference be held over lunch, rather than at 10:30 A.M. A lunch press conference will allow media to attend the Romer Session, as well as other conflicting talks, and might result in a better turnout at the press conference. We continue to discuss the administration of a press contact database with the Business Office. Does this Item have budget implications?: currently, no. Does this Item require headquarters support?: Yes, in terms of housing a database of press contacts.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Activities

Since November, we have approved 165 new membership applications, which break down as follows. Please note that these numbers include applications received with the annual meeting registration but which were approved after the meeting.

| Membership Type | | Where | |
|-----------------|----|---------------|-----|
| Sustaining | 2 | Asia | 8 |
| Regular | 79 | Australia | 4 |
| Student | 75 | Europe | 24 |
| Associate | 9 | North America | 125 |
| | | South America | 3 |
| | | Africa | 1 |

Total membership currently numbers: 2,270, up 83 from last year's September total of 2,187. Overall membership breaks down into the following categories:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Partners Club Member | 2 |
| Associate Member | 178 |
| Honorary Member | 42 |
| Regular Member | 1,385 |
| Patron Member | 6 |
| Sustaining Member | 59 |
| Second Member | 64 |
| Student Member | 534 |
| Members | 2,270 |

Thanks to the efforts of the staff of the Sherwood Group, the new secure online membership application for nonstudent members went live this spring, and now most new applicants are using this form successfully. Student member applicants are still using the mail-in form, as we require an advisor's signature and copy of student ID or registration to confirm student status. (Pat Holroyd, Chair)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I am pleased to inform you that the SVP Nominating Committee, composed of John Flynn, Farish Jenkins, and me, has selected a slate of candidates to be voted on for the 2006–2007 Executive Committee. The candidates are as follows:

Vice President: Mark V. H. Wilson and Blaire Van Valkenburgh
 Secretary: Lawrence Flynn and Christopher Brochu
 Member-at Large: Michael Gottfried and Laura MacLatchy

We find this to be a slate that is balanced in all important ways and that selection from among these candidates will result in continuing to have a Society in very good hands! These candidates have all agreed to stand in nomination. (Mary Dawson, Chair)

PREPARATORS COMMITTEE

The primary goal of the Preparators Committee is to promote the advancement and dissemination of field and laboratory techniques and technology in vertebrate paleontology preparation.

Spearheaded by Pete Reser, Carrie Herbel, and Gavin McCullough, the 2005 Preparators Symposium was a great success. Thirty-two submissions were received, covering a broad range of field, preparation, and collection management topics. The symposium included 17 platform presentations and 13 posters. This represents a significant increase over 2004's record number

of submissions (22), and reflects the growing interest in, and respect for, this important aspect of vertebrate paleontology. Nearly 200 people attended the 2005 Preparators Symposium. We wish to thank all presenters for an outstanding program.

In addition to the Preparators Symposium, a special pre-meeting workshop, "Conservation of Fossil, Mineral, and Rock Collections," was held in conjunction with the 2005 SVP Annual Meeting in Mesa. Led by Rob Waller, Chris Collins, and Gerald Fitzgerald, this workshop provided 45 participants with the abilities to document the condition of earth science specimens, recognize active deterioration and vulnerable objects and situations, and understand the implications of preparation methods on the long-term stability of specimens. Mesa Southwest Museum staffer Paula Liken was instrumental in bringing us this outstanding opportunity. Co-hosted by the Mesa Southwest Museum, the workshop received additional support from the Canadian Museum of Nature, The Natural History Museum, and the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation.

Marilyn Fox has turned over management of the Materials and Methods section of the SVP Web site (<http://www.vertpaleo.org/methods/index.html>) to Akiko Shinya. We anticipate several new additions to the Web page this year. William Amaral has turned over the FAQ project to Mason Jane Milam. Marilyn and Bill will continue helping with these two important projects. Other ongoing projects include the compilations of an online bibliography of preparation-related publications and a resource list for preparators.

The vertebrate paleontology preparation discussion list (prelist), administered by Bill Amaral, continues to be an extremely effective communications medium for preparators. Those wishing to participate in this list may join by sending an e-mail to: majordomo@oeb.harvard.edu with the command "subscribe prelist" as the only text in the body of the message. The list has grown in the past year from 37 to over 100 subscribers.

In accordance with SVP guidelines, we have submitted a proposed charter for the Preparators Committee.

We would especially like to thank Marilyn Fox for her outstanding leadership as Chair of the Preparators Committee over the past several years. Although involving the concerted effort of several Committee members, it was Marilyn's unwavering drive that ultimately resulted in SVP officially establishing the Preparators Committee in 2002. (Gregory W. Brown, Chair)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

In December the Program Committee reviewed six submitted symposia proposals for the 2006 SVP Annual Meeting in Ottawa. Four were approved. The symposia that will be held this year include: 1) A Global Perspective on Marine Reptiles and their Evolution: An Elizabeth Nicholls Memorial Symposium, convened by F. Robin O'Keefe and Tamaki Sato; 2) The Start of the Radiation of Neoceti, convened by Ewan Fordyce and Mark Uhen; 3) Vertebrate Paleontology, Development, and Evolution, convened by Hans Larsson and Karen Sears; and 4) 3-D Imaging: New Techniques and Applications, convened by Suzanne G. Strait and Alistair Evans. In addition, the Preparator Session will be held as usual.

Michael Gottfried has chosen to step down from the Program Committee, and has been replaced by Ted Daeschler. We express our gratitude to Mike for his many years of service and to Ted for his willingness to serve on this Committee.

Finally, the deadline for abstract submissions has been set for 17 April 2006. (Gregory Buckley)

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

JVP Statistics

During the period 1 September 2004 to 31 August 2005, 172 manuscripts were submitted. It is worth pointing out that 84 manuscripts were returned to authors without review because of inappropriate formatting, this is almost 50%.

By subject area the break down for submissions is as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 Dinosaurs | 54 Mammals | 46 Lower | 12 Other |
| 21 Fish | 1 Birds | tetrapods | 7 Book Reviews |

Over the same period 92 manuscripts were accepted for publication and 35 were rejected. The time between acceptance and publication currently averages between nine and ten months.

Reflecting that *JVP* is becoming increasingly more international, submissions were received from 28 different countries (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, U.K., U.S.).

Memoir Series

There is currently one Memoir in progress. It is in the revision stage and the projected publication date is issue 2 of volume 26 (2006), although it might be as late as issue 4.

JVP Managing Editor

Since 1980, when the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* was founded by Jiri Zidek, *JVP* has become the flagship publication of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology and is an internationally recognized paleontological journal. The Society can be proud of the success of the journal, and we can expect it to continue to flourish in the years ahead. However, along with the increased prestige of *JVP* has come a parallel increase in the numbers of manuscripts submitted to the journal for publication. As a consequence the workload in handling these manuscripts has grown significantly, and continues to grow.

Volume 1 published in 1981 consisted of 422 pages, while Volume 24 (2004) consisted of 993 pages. For the first six volumes of *JVP* one volunteer editor (with a small editorial board) was able to handle all the manuscripts, albeit with an incredible commitment of time and effort. Nevertheless, by 1987 (Volume 7) the workload had grown to such an extent that it became necessary to move to two editors: one for mammals and one for all other vertebrate fossils. The task of compiling and copy-editing each issue alternated between the two editors. To assist, each editor appointed associate editors to help in soliciting reviews and making initial evaluations of submitted manuscripts. By 2000 the journal had increased in size so that not only did each volume comprise more pages (just over 800 in 1999) but the margins and font size had been decreased so that there were many more words to each page. At this stage a third editor was added and we operated with this system for three years. While we were able to keep to the production schedule, the burden on editors was such that each was handling over 50 manuscripts a year. Compilation of each issue also became more cumbersome with the additional number of principal editors and no single person overseeing production.

In 2003 we made the significant move to a more centralized editorial operation with a Senior Editor. This was only made possible by adopting a system (Manuscript Central) whereby all manuscripts were submitted and tracked through review and production electronically. Manuscript Central has revolutionized the editorial process and production of *JVP*. It has been a very successful endeavor that has kept *JVP* up to date with changing publication practices.

With the current electronic submission and tracking of manuscripts through Manuscript Central—which has been in place now for almost two years—together with an expanded editorial board (currently 18 members, although the figure fluctuates) we have managed to make the individual

workload of these volunteer editors much more manageable. However the copy-editing duties certainly have not decreased with time, and in fact they have grown as the journal has increased in size. Moreover, as the editorial board has grown there is more work involved in the coordination of the production of the journal and in preparing accepted manuscripts for publication.

Recognizing that we have reached a stage where the workload of the Senior Editor and Production Editor cannot be handled by two people on an individual volunteer basis, the Executive Committee approved the appointment of a part-time Managing Editor, and we are delighted to welcome Laura Healy to this position. We are sure that Laura's appointment will allow us to achieve a much greater level of consistency in the journal and publish an even higher quality publication.

Senior Editor

Mark Wilson's term as Senior Editor expired at the end of 2005. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous debt the Society owes to Mark for his incredible commitment to the journal. We are fortunate in having someone as experienced and capable as Robert Reisz to step into Mark's shoes. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the editors for their hard work over the past year. (Nick Fraser, Chair)

STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The 2005 student forum and reprint exchange at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix served approximately 200 students. The members of SVP deserve a big thank you for their generous donation of a number of recent reprints for the reprint exchange. Thanks are also due to the individuals who helped with forum tables, and to all of the students and staff from Society headquarters for their assistance in setup. Topics ranged from NSF grants and fellowships to graduate school applications to preparing a paper for *JVP*, among others. Finally, thank you to Bob Feranec for organizing the unofficial (i.e., not for award or official recognition) oral presentation evaluation service.

Steve Brusatte and Cory Redman were added to the student committee, and have been assisting in organization of the Society's student activities. A number of other students and recent graduates (too numerous to name) have helped, too. Additionally, we have been working to encourage more student participation in SVP committees. Thank you to everyone who is helping to make this a reality!

Goals for the coming year include: 1) continue to encourage more student involvement in the Society, 2) augment the student sections of the SVP Web page (add additional pages, update existing pages), 3) continue to improve and expand services at the Annual Meeting (student forum, reprint exchange, and presentation evaluations), and 4) improve advertisement of the oral presentation evaluation service by including it in the meeting circulars. (Andrew Farke, Chair)

STUDENT POSTER PRIZE COMMITTEE

The winner of the 2005 SVP Student Poster Prize is Laura K. Saila (University of Bristol), for her presentation "A new species of sphenodontian reptile *Clevosaurus* from the Lower Jurassic of South Wales, and the tetrapod diversity of St. Bride's Island." The Committee was unanimous in its decision. A photo of Laura with her poster at the Annual Meeting appears in the Estes Grant announcement in the Award Winners section of this *News Bulletin*.

Twenty-three posters were submitted to the competition and 21 posters were presented at the Annual Meeting in Mesa. The number of submissions was down by one from the 24 submissions

in 2004, but the number of actual presentations was the same (21) as in 2004. There is no clear indication why the number of submissions is down from two years ago (28 submissions and 24 presentations); however, the Committee has discussed raising the profile of the Student Poster Prize. One obvious method of creating a higher profile is to assign a personal name to the Prize, or advertising it on the Web in the spring before the abstract submission deadline.

The scientific quality of posters was good this year, with five finalists presenting on a broad group of topics that engaged the Committee's range of expertise. The overall quality of presentation style, adherence to stylistic rules and guidelines was consistent and high, indicating that the students are paying attention to the rules and regulations supplied on the SVP Web pages.

The Committee members who judged this year's Student Poster Prize were Judd Case (acting chair), Greg Erickson, Alison Murray, Tamaki Sato, François Therrien, and Joanna Wright. (David A. Eberth, Chair)

PREPARATORS GRANT COMMITTEE

The Preparators Grant Committee is comprised of myself (Bill Sanders, University of Michigan), Dr. Joseph Chance, who is our very generous benefactor (University of Virginia), Marilyn Fox (Yale University), Joseph Groenke (Stony Brook University), Carrie Herbel (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Museum of Geology), Gregory Brown (University of Nebraska), and William Simpson (Field Museum of Natural History).

The Committee was pleased to award the Preparators Grant this past year in the amount of \$5,747 to Dr. Steven Wallace, East Tennessee State University, for support of training of his preparator, Jeff Supplee, for preparation and conservation of Mio-Pliocene vertebrate fossils from the Gray Fossil Site.

We are now seeking applications for this year's award: the application can be found on the SVP Web site, and is fairly easy to complete. The deadline for this year's application is 17 April 2006; any questions about the application or process can be addressed to Bill Sanders at wsanders@umich.edu. The goal of the Preparators Grant is to enhance the profession of vertebrate fossil preparation by providing funding for training of preparators, testing and development of media and methods associated with preparation and conservation of fossils, support of seminars on fossil preparation, development of fossil preparation guides, and advisement on and development of strategies for field and laboratory treatment of fossils that ensure their long-term stability, safety, and utility. We feel that this provides an important service to the greater vertebrate paleontology community in that it helps to disseminate proper protocols for the collection and management of the original "data" for our science, that is, fossils. We urge colleagues to consider applying for the award: it is an easy proposal to complete, and historically there have not been a large number of competitors for the award in any given year. (William Sanders, Chair)

A. S. ROMER–G. G. SIMPSON MEDAL COMMITTEE

The 2005 Romer–Simpson Medal was presented to Donald E. Russell of the *Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle* in Paris. Previous medalist Mary Dawson made the presentation at the annual Awards Banquet in Mesa. Don's research has followed broad themes leading to major publications: from the late 1950s through early 1970s he focused on Paleocene–Eocene mammals of Europe, publishing *Les Mammifères Paléocènes d'Europe* (1964) from his doctoral dissertation, and then a series of monographs with Pierre Louis and Donald Savage on early Eocene mammals of Europe (1967–1975). Don led a team of colleagues that published "Mammals and Stratigraphy: The Paleogene of Europe" (1982). Donald Savage and Donald

Russell collaborated to publish *Mammalian Paleofaunas of the World* (1983). Then in the late 1970s Don's focus shifted from Europe to Asia, culminating in a basic reference coauthored with Zhai Renjie on *The Paleogene of Asia: Mammals and Stratigraphy* (1987). Don retired officially in 1992, but remains as interested as ever in these broad themes.

There were many other themes in Don's career. These included inventing the epoxy resin casting techniques that we now take for granted, which revolutionized comparison of small mammal dentitions. Field work with wife Denise Signogneau-Russell in North Africa and elsewhere was spent tracking down elusive Mesozoic mammals. Don and Denise together have always been gracious hosts and facilitators making Paris a hub of international cooperation, and their influence extends far beyond their own research interests. Don's best-known student, Marc Godinot, succeeded him at the MNHN in Paris, but Don encouraged and mentored many amateurs and students-turned-professional-paleontologists in Europe and elsewhere. Paleontology itself has always been global, and Don has done as much as anyone to globalize us as paleontologists. We in SVP are honored to see the Romer–Simpson Medal bestowed on such a leader!

Readers are encouraged to visit <http://www.geotimes.org/nov05/profiles.html> to see a *Geotimes* profile of Don published in connection the Romer–Simpson Medal presentation. (Philip Gingerich, Chair)

MORRIS SKINNER AWARD COMMITTEE

The 2005 Skinner Prize competition had five nominees. The Committee consisted of Xiaoming Wang (Chair), Maureen O'Leary, Rodolfo Coria, Kristi Curry-Rogers, Daniel Goujet, Patricia Monaco, and John Harris. Submissions are primarily accepted through e-mail correspondence with the Chair. The Committee continues the existing policy of seeking wide representations and recognizing individuals from all lines of pursuits. We invite interested individuals to serve in this Committee.

The Executive Committee approved the decision to award the 2005 Skinner Prize to Feng Wenqing from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, in Beijing. (Xiaoming Wang, Chair)

— COMMITTEE LISTINGS —

Click here to search for committee information:

<http://www.vertpaleo.org/committees/committeeSearch.htm>

— AWARD WINNERS —

RICHARD ESTES MEMORIAL GRANT—LAURA K. SÄILÄ

I was born and raised in Helsinki, Finland. After high school I studied zoology at Open University (Helsinki) for a year, and in 1998 was accepted into Helsinki University to do an undergraduate degree, leading to an MSc in ecological and morphological zoology. I was initially planning to become a marine biologist, but after studying geology and paleontology as minor subjects under Prof. Mikael Fortelius, I decided to specialize in vertebrate paleontology. Finland, unfortunately, has a very scarce fossil record, so after finishing the undergraduate part of my zoology degree, I took a year off to do a paleobiology MSc in the University of Bristol, U.K., during 2001–2002. My



thesis project in Bristol, supervised by Prof. Mike Benton and Dr. Pam Gill, was a redescription of the reptiles of Pant 4 fissure, part of a microvertebrate fauna from the Lower Jurassic of South Wales. Afterwards, I returned to Helsinki to finish my zoology MSc, and graduated in 2004 with a thesis project on mate choice in the live-bearing poeciliid fish *Heterandria formosa*.

In October 2004, I returned to Bristol to start a PhD on the evolution, interrelationships, and biogeography of the parareptilian clade Procolophonoidea, with funding from the Finnish Osk. Huttunen Foundation. I am supervised by Prof. Mike Benton and Dr. Sean P. Modesto (Cape Breton University, Canada). I am very grateful to

have been awarded the Richard Estes Memorial Grant because it will allow me to include a review of the Russian procolophonoids in my project.

JOSEPH T. GREGORY AWARD—LOUIS L. JACOBS

Louis L. Jacobs is Professor of Geological Sciences and President of the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Louis has served the SVP as its Vice-President and then President. In addition, he has been chair or member of its Development, Bryan Patterson, Honorary Membership, and Nominating committees. He co-founded the SVP-affiliated Save America's Fossils for Everyone. He is also the founder of The Saurus Institute, which has supported the research of a number of graduate students.

Louis began his career in geology in an offshore seismograph crew in the Gulf of Mexico. A year later he served a short stint in the merchant marine. He received his PhD in geology from the University of Arizona in 1977. Before joining the SMU faculty, he was Research Paleontologist at the Museum of Northern Arizona and then Head of the Division of Paleontology at the National Museums of Kenya. He has conducted extensive field research in Pakistan, Mexico, Kenya, Cameroon, Malawi, Yemen, Israel, and Mozambique, as well as Texas and other parts of the United States. His current field efforts are focused in Angola and Alaska. His research interests lie in all vertebrates and how they can be used to decipher life and Earth history.



Louis serves on the boards of directors of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and the Jurassic Park Foundation, and he is a trustee of The Edwin H. Colbert Paleontological Library Trust. He was formerly a board member of The Dinosaur Society and of the Museum of Northern Arizona. In 1999 he served as Director *ad interim* of the Dallas Museum of Natural History. He is Honorary and Charter Member of the Dallas Paleontological Society and one of its professional advisors. In 1998 he was awarded a lifetime membership in the Texas Earth Science Teachers Association. He has received a number of university awards in addition to the Edwin H. Colbert Award for his book "Quest for the African Dinosaurs" and recognition by joint resolution of the Texas legislature for his book "Lone Star Dinosaurs."

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD—DAVID S BERMAN and EVERETT LINDSAY

David S Berman

I can actually recall the single event that steered me into the field of vertebrate paleontology, a chance encounter with Peter P. Vaughn in the summer of 1962 at the University of California, Los



Angeles. I had just received my BA in Zoology at UCLA and was desperately trying to find my way careerwise, when his offer of a part-time job as a preparator seemed like the perfect escape from the harsh world of reality. I was hired on the spot, despite having no idea how a fossil is prepared. I quickly became totally engrossed in the Early Permian research projects handed me, as well as gaining Peter's enthusiastic approval of my developing preparation skills. A year hadn't passed before Peter, believing that he recognized in me a bent for paleontology, asked me if I had "ever considered a career in VP, and would I be

interested in being his student?" My answer to the first question was no, whereas an apprehensive yes was my response to the second question. This was the auspicious beginning of my career in VP, and managing to barely survive the rigors of graduate studies, I received an MA in 1965 and then a PhD in 1969, with my thesis test being a vertebrate assemblage from the middle of the Lower Permian, terrestrial type section of Texas.

Infected with Permian fever, I was hired as a curator by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in 1970, where you can still find me today. It wasn't long before I realized how fortunate I was to be at the CMNH, which has allowed me a boundless range of academic freedom to pursue not only my primary interest, all varieties of Permo-Pennsylvanian vertebrates, but also access to a collection storehouse containing untapped research projects that frequently lured me into new and unfamiliar territories, most especially that of dinosaurs. 1992 marked a fortuitous opportunity to expand my field research to a global scale in a collaborative study with Dr. Thomas Martens of the Museum der Natur, Gotha, Germany, who had discovered Early Permian vertebrate skeletal remains at the Bromacker locality in central Germany, which for over a century has been well known strictly for its exquisite vertebrate trackways. With the help of many colleagues, an uninterrupted series of 13 summer field seasons at the Bromacker from 1993 to the present has elevated its stature to a level we unabashedly proclaim makes it the most important Early Permian terrestrial locality ever discovered in Europe, not only in far surpassing all others of comparable age in Europe in the quantity, quality, and diversity of specimens yielded, but also in comprising taxa that occur otherwise only in the U.S. The successes of the Bromacker project and those of my other forays into the late Paleozoic and infrequent diversions into the Mesozoic and Tertiary, invariably reflect vital collaborative support and encouragement of numerous colleagues. Those to whom I owe the greatest gratitude in enriching my career over the long haul have been Mary Dawson, David Eberth, Amy Henrici, Betty Hill, Jack McIntosh, the late E. C. Olson, Robert Reisz, and Stuart Sumida. But most of all, I will always be especially indebted to Peter P. Vaughn for not only his patient guidance as instructor and mentor, but also instilling in me that there is no richer experience in paleontology than the excitement and satisfaction that comes from discoveries made in the field and lab. Having never sought celebrity status, I am not only deeply flattered and honored as a recipient of the highly prestigious award of Honorary Member of the SVP, but also overwhelmed by the nomination campaign effort that must have been made by colleagues and friends for me to receive this truly unexpected distinction.

Everett Lindsay

I am very honored to receive this recognition from the SVP. When I read the list of honorary members I am delighted to see names of many of my role models, mentors, and friends: it is a

prestigious group, and I cherish the opportunity to join this distinguished group. I only hope this doesn't mean that I have to act dignified now.

My first SVP meeting was 39 years ago, at UC Berkeley, where I was an eager and inexperienced graduate student. That was before PowerPoint so the graduate students got to run slide projectors and mess up the sequence of slides for distinguished speakers. I regret that graduate students no longer have this opportunity, but hope that they will find some other means to disrupt our hallowed proceedings. Let me take this opportunity to formally apologize to all of the speakers (and students) that I may have abused over the years, and I hope that humility and candor will always be hallmarks of SVP meetings.



I started my academic career as an athlete and am eternally grateful to a former football coach, who was also my freshman biology professor, when he pointed out to me that I had more talent in the classroom than on the football field. I changed my major to biology, and after graduation thought that I wanted to become a mammalogist. Again, I am grateful to my mammalogy professor, Herb Wright, who explained to me that the questions I was asking (How are cats related to dogs? How are deer related to cows?) were more appropriate for vertebrate paleontology than mammalogy. Several years later I was teaching science at Yuba City Union High School in northern California when Sputnik was launched, igniting the drive to upgrade (and broaden support for) our educational system. I joined the band wagon and with financial help from the NSF obtained an excellent background in geology (and a Master's degree) at Cornell University before applying for admission to graduate school at UC Berkeley at the ripe old age of 32. I was fortunate to have excellent instructors and mentors at UC Berkeley, who were doing first-class research.

My research has had two main themes, small mammals and Cenozoic chronology. I attribute my interest in small mammals to John White, who in 1963 co-taught (with Dave Webb) Stirton's mammalian taxonomy class at Berkeley. John pointed out early on that you could collect a small mammal skeleton in little more than an hour and carry the specimen to the lab in your pocket whereas it might take several years to collect a dinosaur skeleton. I attribute my interest in Cenozoic chronology to Don Savage. The classic Evernden et al. paper (with Savage the second author) was published during my first year at Berkeley and I felt very privileged to work in the shadow of that esteemed friend and mentor. One aspect of that Evernden et al. paper was the report of reversed magnetic polarity in basalts from Hawaii. I found that very difficult to believe until I met Noye Johnson and Neil Opdyke in 1970 who made a believer of me and culminated in a long and productive collaboration and friendship. This collaboration took us to Pakistan where we joined forces with David Pilbeam and his students for many more years of productive collaboration.

In 1967 I took the role teaching vertebrate paleontology at the University of Arizona, following John Lance who had been a close associate and friend of Don Savage. When I came to Arizona I was blessed with the friendship and support of three esteemed colleagues who, over the years, became mentors to my students. These now-deceased colleagues (George Simpson, John White, and Charles Repenning) contributed significantly to the progress of all my students; I didn't always agree with their counsel, but I appreciated it, and we all gained from it. Eight students completed their doctorate and 14 students completed their Master's thesis in vertebrate paleontology at the University of Arizona under my guidance and direction. Most of these students have continued in vertebrate paleontology and I am very proud of their progress and achievements. We formed a loosely organized social club when they were students, calling ourselves the Red Fire Balls, and we still get together to rub antennae and tell lies. We shared

many exciting and memorable experiences, too many to mention. I retired from the University of Arizona in 1996.

Over the last four decades I have enjoyed seeing many new concepts and advances in our discipline. I hope that the next four decades will be marked by many more changes and advances; moreover, I sincerely hope that being a participant in those developments will be as much fun as it has been for the last four decades.

LANZENDORF PALEOART PRIZE, TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART—TODD MARSHALL

Todd Marshall has worked in the entertainment industry for 18 years as an illustrator. Todd's work on dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals has appeared in numerous publications, including books such as Indiana Press's "Thunder-Lizards," Pie Press's upcoming book "Pterosaurs From Deep Time," and Child World's "Exploring Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals" series. Todd's work has also appeared in popular science magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Discover*, and *Science*.



LANZENDORF PALEOART PRIZE, THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART—BRIAN D. COOLEY

For over 20 years Brian Cooley has specialized in large-scale sculptural projects that have become world renowned for their dynamic composition, quality, attention to detail, and public appeal. A graduate and former instructor at the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary, Alberta, Brian is best known for the impressive, life-sized sculptures of dinosaurs that can be seen in museums and traveling exhibitions around the world. He has created works for The Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, The Nature Museum of Canada, Expo '86 in Vancouver, The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut, El Museo de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid, Spain, The Fukui Prefectural Museum in Japan, and the Museum of Natural History in Taiwan. The Calgary International Airport is home to two of Brian's installations. One features suspended sculptures of some of history's most amazing flying animals, from the giant dragonfly, *Meganeura*, to the enormous 40-foot pterosaur, *Quetzalcoatlus*. In the other, a crowd favorite, travelers are greeted by the sight of four raptors ripping up luggage on the Air Canada baggage carousel. His most ambitious project to date was completed in May 2004 and features a 75-foot *Alamosaurus* and her two 25-foot babies smashing out of Children's Museum of Indianapolis.



Brian Cooley has been commissioned to produce art for several issues of *National Geographic* magazine including the covers of the May 1996, July 1998, and March 2003 issues.

Brian Cooley is co-author (with wife Mary Ann Wilson) of the critically acclaimed children's book "Make-A-Saurus" (Annick Press).

LANZENDORF PALEOART PRIZE, SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION—CAROL ABRACZINSKAS



A graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Carol Abraczinskas began her career as a professional artist in 1989 at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, documenting Egyptian and Nubian artifacts. Later that year, she joined Paul Sereno's team at the University of Chicago, accompanying him on field expeditions to Texas and Niger as a scientific illustrator. Her award-winning drawings have been featured in exhibits at the Field Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, as well as in national magazines and scientific journals such as the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, *Science*, *Nature*, *National Geographic*, and

Newsweek. She has contributed her expertise to workshops for Project Exploration as well as to graduate classes at the University of Chicago, where she has taught advanced courses in scientific illustration since 1994. Most recently, Carol has worked as an artist for the Epigraphic Survey of the Oriental Institute from 1998–2000 in Luxor, Egypt, where she recorded wall reliefs from the 18th dynasty chapel at Medinet Habu for publication.

BRYAN PATTERSON GRANT—KARU ALYSSA PRASSACK

Ironically, despite interests in vertebrate paleontology (especially carnivores) that went back to when I was in elementary school, I initially pursued a degree to teach art, after being discouraged by various teachers and relatives against such an “impracticable” career choice. Being somewhat stubborn I eventually revolted, obtaining degrees in anthropology (BA) and paleobiology (BS) from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001, entering the PhD program in anthropology at Rutgers University in 2003. I believe in an interdisciplinary approach to paleontology and was drawn to the innovative interdisciplinary research being conducted by Rob Blumenshine and his students in the areas of taphonomy, hominin paleoecology, and carnivore behavior, especially their emphasis on using neotaphonomic observations to formulate and test hypotheses.



My research aims to more accurately reconstruct past environments and community structure by considering how various taphonomic processes affect fossil preservation. Specifically, my interests are in how these processes affect avian, compared to mammalian bone, and what new paleoenvironmental information can be gleaned from taphonomically assessed avian assemblages. Neotaphonomic experimentation allows for a higher level of confidence in such systematic analyses, and I am actively engaged in various aspects of field observation, data collection, and experimentation involving modern birds of East African saline lake ecosystems.

As a member of the Olduvai Landscape Paleoanthropology Project, I will be applying this data towards the taphonomic analysis of the avian fossils from Olduvai Gorge, an important early hominin site in Tanzania. This will allow for the formulation and testing of current hypotheses about hominid land usage across a heterogeneous paleolandscape and provide other researchers with a systematic method for the taphonomic interpretation of avian bone in paleontological and zooarchaeological context.

When I am not playing in the mud, I especially enjoy observing carnivores, dancing, and drinking milk stout beer under the stars in the Serengeti.

PRE-DOCTORAL GRANT—RICHARD BUTLER

I am very honored to accept the SVP Predoctoral Award 2005, and would like to thank the award committee and SVP for giving me this opportunity to further my research. I would also like to thank my PhD supervisors Dr. David Norman (Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge), Dr. Paul



Upchurch (University College, London), and Dr. Angela Milner (Natural History Museum, London), as well as Dr. Paul Barrett (Natural History Museum, London) who kindly supplied a letter of recommendation.

I grew up on a farm in the English–Welsh borderlands and inherited from my father a keen love of nature and the outdoors. I was enticed to study geology at Bristol University by the exciting combination of science and field work. I fell in love with paleontology while at Bristol, due largely to a number of inspiring lecturers, including professors Michael Benton and

Derek Briggs. For my undergraduate research project I worked with Dr. Richard Twitchett, reassessing the conodont biostratigraphy of the Early Triassic of northern Italy.

After graduating from Bristol in 2002 I took up a PhD studentship funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). This studentship is held jointly at the University of Cambridge (where I spend most of my time) and at the Natural History Museum, London (who provide additional funding under the CASE scheme).

My research has looked at the evolution of the ornithischian dinosaurs and has covered a broad range of topics, including phylogeny, taxonomy, biogeography, and functional morphology. Early work focused on new ornithischian material from the Elliot Formation (Late Triassic–Early Jurassic) of southern Africa. The first results of this work will be published shortly as a single-author paper in the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*; a second manuscript is in preparation with Dr. Roger Smith of the South African Museum.

Later work has included the development of a robust global phylogeny for Ornithischia and ongoing work on the systematics, anatomy, and functional morphology of Middle Jurassic ornithischians from Sichuan, China. A number of research trips have been undertaken to collect data, visiting institutions in Europe, South Africa, China, and North America. A coauthored paper on the Chinese Middle Jurassic ornithischians is in press with *JVP*, and a manuscript on the Chinese pachycephalosaur record is currently in review.

The SVP Predoctoral Award will give me the freedom to pursue two specific projects: firstly, I intend to visit the Zigong Dinosaur Museum in Sichuan, China, to continue functional and anatomical research on the unusual Middle Jurassic ornithischian *Agilisaurus louderbacki*. Secondly, I intend to visit Warsaw to collect information on the enigmatic dinosauriform *Silesaurus opolensis*. Both taxa have the potential to yield valuable information on the early evolution of dinosaurs, and ornithischians in particular, and may give insights into the evolution of feeding strategies and herbivory within Archosauria.

In my spare time I enjoy music, films, reading, travel, playing and watching football (soccer), and spending lazy summer weekends punting on the river in Cambridge.

PREPARATORS GRANT—STEVEN C. WALLACE

Steven Wallace always had an interest in skeletal anatomy and entered college hoping to become a high-school science teacher. The best route seemed to be a major in comprehensive science, which meant majoring in two sciences and minoring in two others. One of the majors (of course) was geology. Even at the intro level, geology fascinated him, and he quickly changed majors. However, it was not until his junior year that it finally clicked—paleontology combined both his fascination with skeletal anatomy and his new interest in geology.



With his BS in geology Wallace moved to Fort Hays, Kansas, to work on an MS under Dr. Richard Zakrzewski. There he described a late Miocene terrestrial fauna in western Kansas. Because the taxa consisted mostly of megamammals, Wallace hoped to gain some experience in micromammals, hence his choice to work on a PhD under Dr. Holmes Semken at the University of Iowa. Unfortunately, this meant that his MS work was pushed aside (unpublished) as he shifted gears to work in the Pleistocene.

Needless to say, Wallace is probably best known for his dissertation work on the Pleistocene voles, which included the utilization of schmelzmuster (enamel microstructure) and morphometrics to identify species-specific characters within the genus *Microtus*. Although much of this work has been published, and holds promise for refinement/expansion, Wallace's recent appointment at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) has again changed his focus to something new (yet familiar).

In 2001 (just after his graduation from the University of Iowa) Wallace was hired to oversee the excavations at the newly discovered (late Miocene) Gray Fossil Site in northeastern Tennessee. Back in the Miocene, Wallace began vigorous excavations at the site hoping to find similarities that would allow him to revisit his unpublished work from Kansas. Instead, what he found was a very unique site that is proving to be far more interesting and significant than he had originally anticipated.

The treasure trove of material from Gray (including a new species of red panda and Eurasian badger) prompted Wallace to immediately pursue funding. Fortunately, he discovered that the state of Tennessee has federal "flow-through" money available for projects involving the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). These Enhancement grants are traditionally given to build rest stops and welcoming centers, but because the site was originally discovered during TDOT road work on State Highway 75, Wallace thought that it was worth a try.

The proposal was to create a visitor's center (and museum) "on site" to qualify for the funding. Essentially, it's a welcoming center just off of the interstate, yet considered part of the ETSU campus. TDOT liked the idea, so the proposal was further refined to include a museum that was "functional." This meant the inclusion of preparation space, storage space, offices, classrooms... everything needed to make the center a productive (and efficient) research facility. Again, TDOT approved, so the proposal was expanded further to include staffing (field crew, post docs, etc.) through the life of the grant—the argument being: "what good is a fossil museum if it is empty?"

This is where Jeff Supplee came into play. Jeff started off as a volunteer at the site, but quickly showed his skills as an excellent (yet untrained) preparator. Fortunately, the staffing opportunities of the TDOT Enhancement Grant provided a way to reward Jeff's efforts by hiring him as our full-

time preparator. With his position secure, the SVP Preparator's Grant was the next logical step. With this training, Jeff will quickly become an invaluable member of the Gray research team.

A. S. ROMER—G. G. SIMPSON MEDAL—DON RUSSELL

The name of Don Russell is synonymous with the highest quality of paleontological research, particularly on the Paleogene and its mammals. He led the way toward the biostratigraphic framework that has placed intercontinental correlation, particularly between North America and Europe, on an accurate footing. His innovative field projects were aimed across a broad range of paleontological subjects, and his sustained and productive career, extending back to the late 1950s, has provided the firm base on which a host of later studies on the Eurasian Paleogene were grounded.



Don's early field work, 1957–1960, centered on French Paleocene mammalian faunas found in the vicinity of Cernay-les-Reins, which were not well understood prior to his work. Don utilized classic excavation procedures in his field area, but notably he introduced the first screen-washing techniques to the fossiliferous deposits of France. His analysis of the new collections led to his doctoral thesis, "Les Mammifères Paléocènes d'Europe," which was published in 1964 as Mémoire 13 of the National Museum of Natural History.

After his initial studies of the Paleocene, it was natural to progress to work on the Eocene. Results included a series of studies with Don Savage, P. Louis, J. Sudre, and others on various European Eocene faunas. Working in the Paleogene, he was very aware of the important faunal changes at the Paleocene-Eocene boundary, as well as of the problems of establishing accurate temporal correlation on a worldwide scale. Don followed his interests in biogeography as applied to mammalian faunal movements by extending his field and research investigations to Asia and Africa, where he expanded his temporal sweep into the Mesozoic.

One of Don's first synthetic studies was his paper in 1982, with co-workers, "Mammals and Stratigraphy: The Paleogene of Europe." Working under the difficulties inherent in European Paleogene deposits, where surface exposures tend to be limited and facies highly discontinuous, Don and his colleagues set out a clear analysis of faunal and stratigraphic relationships from western Europe to Turkey. Another major synthetic work, this with his mentor Don Savage, was the 1983 "Mammalian Paleofaunas of the World."

Don's Asian field work began with a project in Pakistan with P. D. Gingerich. This led to an expansion into eastern Asia, with projects in cooperation with D. Dashzeveg and others on Paleogene mammals of Asia. Again, Don recognized the great need at that crucial time in the development of Asian paleontological investigations to bring together information from a great diversity of sources. This project, undertaken cooperatively with R.-j. Zhai of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, culminated in the publication in 1987 of "The Paleogene of Asia: Mammals and Stratigraphy," the landmark study on the Paleogene of the Asian landmass.

Don's undergraduate study at Oregon State University was followed by a stint in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict. After earning his Master's degree in paleontology at the University of California, Berkeley, Don moved to France, where he undertook research projects in the Institut de Paléontologie, and received the Doctorat d'Etat en Paléontologie in 1964. He became a citizen of France in 1974. His professional career was spent at the Institut de Paléontologie in Paris, as a research paleontologist with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique until his retirement in 1992. The award of the Médaille d'Argent of the CNRS in 1969 recognized his many accomplishments.

Don shares his life with his fellow paleontologist/wife, Denise Sigoneau-Russell, with whom he has done field projects and continues to assist in research. He also continues the program of molding and casting fossils that he initiated while at the CNRS and that has enabled fossils to be studied on the basis of excellent copies far from their repository.

On top of his remarkable scholarly contributions to paleontology, Don Russell is an inspiring teacher, highly effective field paleontologist, true gentleman, and a truly deserving recipient of the highest award of the SVP.

ALFRED SHERWOOD ROMER PRIZE—WALTER JOYCE

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but spent most of my formative years growing up in Erlangen, Germany, just miles away from the *Plateosaurus* type locality. My interest in paleontology was sparked by a fragmentary trilobite that I found in Wisconsin as a boy and was only intensified by the abundant Muschelkalk fossils around my grandmother's house and the Liassic ammonites that were plentiful around my hometown. After graduating from high school I enrolled in the geology/paleontology program at the University of Erlangen, where I received an excellent education in all aspects geological and paleontological, with the exception of vertebrate paleontology. Considering that my interests had always tended towards fossil vertebrates, I decided to expand my horizons by participating in student exchange programs with the University of Kansas, Louisiana State University, and the University of Texas at Austin, and by undertaking a MS thesis project under the supervision of Martin Sander at the University of Bonn on a Solnhofen turtle.



Although I greatly enjoyed working on turtles for my MS, I was determined to move down the tree of life for my PhD, because basal reptiles fascinated me. My dissertation topic at Yale University was thus initially geared toward resolving basal toothed-reptilian relationships and addressing the placement of turtles within amniotes. However, the more I worked on this problem, the more I noticed that turtles themselves needed much more work before their phylogenetic placement could be understood. I thus came full circle, and my dissertation focused on turtles after all.

In addition to my family and friends, I wish to thank a number of people for supporting me throughout my student career, in particular Paul Enos, Roger Kaesler, and Larry Martin at the University of Kansas; Judy Schiebout at Louisiana State University; Martin Sander at the University of Bonn; Chris Bell and Tim Rowe at the University of Texas; and my dissertation committee members at Yale University: Leo Hickey, Karl Turekian, and Elisabeth Vrba. Most of all, however, I wish to thank my primary graduate advisor, Jacques Gauthier, for his uncomplicated collegial friendship, for providing me with the freedom to develop my own ideas, for our many inspiring discussions, and especially for his ability to truly understand my dissertation and provide me with qualified advice when needed.

I am particularly honored to be the recipient of the 2004 Romer Prize from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

MORRIS SKINNER PRIZE—FENG WENQING

Feng Wenqing had his first exposures to vertebrate paleontology as an exhibit interpreter for the Zhoukoudian Peking Man Site in 1983, then under the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP). Soon afterward, he had the opportunity to participate in the Sino-Canadian Dinosaur Expeditions in the mid to late 1980s. Almost immediately Wenqing (often nicknamed Xiao Feng by Chinese colleagues) found his calling as a driver, trouble shooter, and, more importantly, collector of vertebrate fossils. Collecting fossils has since become his passion.



Wenqing has participated in numerous field trips in China during the last 20 years, and everywhere he goes he has shown himself to be an outstanding collector. Colleagues from China and abroad were always delighted by his optimism, humor, and seemingly inexhaustible resourcefulness in field logistics, and his outgoing personality and ready smile that often transcended language barriers. In a country where doing field paleontology may seem too daunting, with its limited resources, notoriously difficult drivers, and all too often, seemingly intractable bureaucratic obstacles, it is a miracle that things were done with grace when Xiao Feng was around.

In the last ten years Wenqing has collected late Cenozoic mammals in the Tibetan Plateau and remote basins in Xinjiang Province, and has worked in the feathered dinosaur and bird localities in western Liaoning. Since the late 1980s, he has been a preparator at the IVPP and in 2000 received an SVP Joseph Chance Award to travel to New York to further his preparation techniques. It is an honor to receive the 2005 Morris F. Skinner Prize.

STUDENT POSTER PRIZE—LAURA K. SÄILÄ

See bio given in Estes Grant report above.

— CALL FOR NOMINATIONS —

Award nomination information is available at the following link:

<http://www.vertpaleo.org/awards/index/html>

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— NEWS FROM MEMBERS —

CANADA (Kevin Seymour, Canada Editor, kevin@rom.on.ca)

Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Sean Modesto was able get back to the laboratory and the field after a busy 2004–2005 academic year at Cape Breton University (formerly University College of Cape Breton). Last July Sean spent a month in South Africa. He was joined by student Laura Säilä, a PhD candidate at the University of Bristol that Sean is co-supervising with Dr. Michael J. Benton. Two weeks were spent examining collections in the South African Museum, Cape Town, and the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. A highlight of the South African visit was joining Dr. Jennifer Botha of the National Museum, Bloemfontein for a two-week collecting trip to the *Lystrosaurus* Assemblage Zone. Several promising Early Triassic tetrapod specimens were collected and are now undergoing preparation at the National Museum. In addition to revisiting familiar sites, two new localities were discovered and will be the focus of field work in 2006. Projects on procolophonoid reptiles and therapsid synapsids continue, and descriptions of the skulls of *Mesosaurus tenuidens* and *Labidosaurus hamatus* will appear (finally!) this year in *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. (Sean Modesto)

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario

The new gallery work continues, with the planned opening of the Age of Dinosaurs and Age of Mammals galleries being delayed until late 2006 or maybe even earliest 2007, no doubt post-SVP meeting in nearby Ottawa. Our big news is the posting of an entry-level position for a research curator on dinosaurs (see Positions Available). We welcome Jean-Bernard Caron as Associate Curator of Invertebrate Palaeontology to work on the famous and sizable Burgess Shale collection, replacing Des Collins. We also welcome new Research Associate Gerry De Luliis (honorary position only, unfortunately).

Kevin Seymour has had three papers come out this year: one on archaeological fish bone analysis in Kitty Emery's new book on "Maya Zooarchaeology," one on the Pleistocene vertebrates from the Mill Creek site, Michigan, in *Michigan Academician*, and a tribute to the life of Loris Russell in *Canadian Field-Naturalist*, including a bibliography. Shawn Doran continues to screenwash Kevin's Don Valley Brickworks samples for interglacial microvertebrates. (Kevin Seymour)

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Drumheller, Alberta

We have had several significant staff changes over the past quarter. Phil Currie has moved to the University of Alberta in Edmonton, although he maintains his connection with the Museum by way

of an adjunct appointment. As well, specimens in the collections of the Museum continue to be central to his research. We welcome two postdocs. François Therrien, who has been here on an NSERC postdoc, will continue his research on the climatic and faunal changes through the late Campanian and Maastrichtian in a two-year position with the Museum. Don Henderson has accepted the Betsy Nicholls Postdoctoral Fellowship, a two-year position funded by the Cooperating Society of the Royal Tyrrell Museum. Don will continue his studies of the biomechanics of dinosaurs, including a study of the biomechanics of the forelimb of ceratopsians, using some of the well-preserved material that has been collected from the ceratopsian bonebeds in Dinosaur Park over the past decade.

Partly as a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Museum and partly to launch the book "Dinosaur Park—A Spectacular Ancient Ecosystem Revealed" edited by Phil Currie and Eva Koppelhus, the Tyrrell Museum hosted a very successful symposium on Dinosaur Provincial Park in late September.

The research section is taking an active role in developing some changes to the exhibits at the Museum. Our introductory gallery will undergo major changes, with reconstructions of a pack of *Albertosaurus* to replace the globe. We are also undertaking a revision of our exhibit on ceratopsians, with the goal of presenting some of the new ceratopsian specimens in our collections. Among the new specimens will be four new taxa being described by Michael Ryan and co-authors, as well as new skulls of long-established taxa. In preparation for this exhibit, three specimens of *Styracosaurus* and a new dinosaur from Dinosaur Park that show affinities to *Pachyrhinosaurus* are under preparation. In conjunction with the new ceratopsian exhibit, we are planning a symposium on ceratopsians for the fall of 2007. This symposium is being organized by the researchers at the Tyrrell Museum in conjunction with Michael Ryan, Philip Currie, and Brenda Chinnery. (Don Brinkman)

INTERNATIONAL (Xiaobo Yu, International Editor, xyu@cougar.kean.edu)
(no news submitted)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region (Margaret Lewis, Regional Editor, margaret.lewis@stockton.edu)
New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey

We haven't submitted news for some time, which has led some people to assume that the renovations to our main building have left us idle. Please be assured that we are working as diligently as ever, perhaps more so. We have several galleries open, and have hosted the "Hatching the Past" exhibition, with Jack Horner giving a presentation at its opening. Many of our most famous specimens are on view in our auditorium galleries.

We have no access to most of our collections, however, so only a few loans and research visits will be possible for the next year. The New Jersey State Geologist's office has given us some laboratory space, so we are able to continue some current research. In fact, some long-delayed publications are finally going to the editors. We are also still doing some limited field work.

Bill Gallagher and Dave Parris both attended the meetings in Mesa, and especially appreciated the quality of the associated field trips. Bill is now looking forward to the 2006 GSA meeting in Philadelphia and will be leading a post-meeting field trip to some significant New Jersey Coastal Plain sites. We also hope to have an Atlantic Coastal Plain K/T boundary symposium at the meeting.

Dave is anticipating a productive year of scientific exchange. Wang Xuri of the Dalian Museum of Natural History plans to join him for field work in the Cretaceous of New Jersey and the Western Interior during the summer, and Dave expects to spend October in China. We are very grateful to International Partnerships Among Museums (American Association of Museums) for making this exchange possible. We also thank Craig Wood for his encouragement.

As those who attended the Mesa meeting are aware, Dave Parris and Barbara Grandstaff are again assisting Guy Darrough and Mike Fix at the Chronister Site in Missouri. The four of us hope to produce a major paper on this interesting Cretaceous dinosaur locality within the next year. (Dave Parris and Bill Gallagher)

NYCEP (the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology), New York

NYCEP is a PhD training program combining faculty and students from CUNY, NYU, and Columbia, with links to the AMNH and Bronx Zoo (www.nycep.org). VP projects are underway by both students and faculty at NYU and CUNY. At CUNY, several dissertations involve aspects of primate (including human) paleontology. Most of these involve 3-D geometric morphometric (3D GM) analyses using Microscribe digitizers to collect data, under the supervision of Eric Delson. Karen Baab is currently in Indonesia collecting the final fossil data for her 3D GM study of cranial variation in *Homo erectus*. Lissa Tallman is about to start her 3D GM project on postcranial variation in African Plio-Pleistocene hominins with a collection trip in western European museums this spring, followed by one to Africa over the summer pending additional funding. Sarah Freidline and Steve Wang are developing dissertation proposals to investigate hominin cranial variation and evolution (with a mainly 3D GM approach) in the Middle Pleistocene and East Asian Pleistocene, respectively. Siobhan Cooke is developing a project to reanalyze Caribbean fossil platyrrhines, working with Alfie Rosenberger (Brooklyn College/CUNY Graduate School).

Alfie himself, and his colleagues Marcelo Tejedor, Adan Tauber, Mary Palacios, and Carl Swisher III, are describing (in PNAS) a new genus of platyrrhine from the middle Miocene of Patagonia and adding a new revised datum to the chronology of the classic Santacrucian deposits, which is dated 16.4 Ma at one of the sites that John Bell Hatcher and others explored early in the 20th century. Alfie has also been working with 3-D laser scans of fossil skulls and faces looking for clues to anthropoid origins. He is coming up with a very different view of the systematics of omomyids, the group that many agree are a good model for the ancestry of higher primates, and will have interesting things to say on such matters as the organization of the haplorhine head, the paleontological affinities of tarsiers, the phyletic position *Rooneyia*, and interrelationships of some Eocene Asian forms like *Bahinia*, which may be another in a long line of strepsirhine pseudoanthropoids—adapiforms that have been mistaken for anthropoids or their immediate ancestors.

Eric Delson (Lehman College, CUNY Grad School, and AMNH) is working on several parallel projects, as usual. With Lyon colleagues Martine Faure and Claude Guérin, and a host of other French and American team members, the Senèze Research Project has been reinvestigating the classic Late Villafranchian locality of Senèze, in the Auvergne region of central France. Known since 1892, Senèze was intensively collected by local landowners in the 1910–1940 interval, producing a large mammalian assemblage which has come to be the reference fauna for zone MN 18, close to the Plio-Pleistocene boundary. Unfortunately, the early collectors were amateurs who sold their fossils to museums in Lyon, Basel, and Paris, and no data were preserved about the actual findspots or the detailed stratigraphy revealed. The SRP has worked since 2001 to clarify stratigraphic relationships; collect samples for dating (by argon and ESR techniques), paleomagnetic, palynological, tephrochronological, and sedimentological studies; investigate taphonomy and paleoenvironments; and collect evidence of rarer mammalian taxa, where possible. Several well-preserved partial skeletons (rhino, horse, and deer) have been recovered, along with some carnivore remains, but small mammals (and primates) have eluded the group, and pollen is limited. New dating evidence is just reaching the point where some results may be

forthcoming in time for the next SVP meeting. This July will probably be the last field campaign for a while, with analytical work continuing for several more years.

One of Eric's major efforts in recent years has been the development of the collaborative NYCEP Morphometrics Group (NMG), based mainly at AMNH with NSF funding. The NMG has supported a number of PhD students and postdocs working with 3D GM approaches to primate and human paleontology, systematics, and comparative morphology. A new NMG project was funded in June by the NSF Computer Science division, with a collaborative team composed of research groups at the University of California–Davis (including computer scientists Nina Amenta and David Wiley, and VP Ryosuke Motani), CUNY (Delson, Rosenberger, postdoc Will Harcourt-Smith, and grad students Baab and Tallman among others), the University of Oregon (Steve Frost), and Stony Brook University (Jim Rohlf). This study will combine research in paleontology, biostatistics, and computer science to reconstruct the shape of the Old World monkey cranium in inferred intermediate ancestors along an evolutionary tree defined by a molecular systematic branching sequence. Rather than simply morphing graphically between two shapes, this work uses a statistical model of morphological evolution to calculate average shape information from 3-D laser scans of crania, complemented by digitizer landmark data. A video explaining the process and presenting preliminary results won Honorable Mention in the 2005 AAAS/NSF Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge in the category of non-interactive media. See www.nycep.org/nmg for more details. The NMG is also developing a major Web-based database system to make available linear and 3-D data, catalog/locality info and other "metadata," and eventually digital images.

Eric is also trying to complete several "pure" paleo projects on fossil monkeys, especially the Eurasian Pliocene *Paradolichopithecus* (whose type specimen comes from Senèze), as well as African and Asian collections from Taung, Yushe, and elsewhere. Eric and Ross MacPhee (AMNH) have founded a new book series, "Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology," published by Springer, which is actively seeking submissions in these areas (see www.springer.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,11855,5-10039-69-107887971-0,00.html). Almost all of Eric's publications are now available on his Web site (www.nycep.org/ed).

Postdoc Will Harcourt-Smith (Lehman and AMNH) is currently working on a reassessment of the Pliocene hominin footprint trail from Laetoli using laser-surface scanning, researching Miocene and Pliocene hominoid postcranial morphology and locomotion, and investigating (with colleagues from the NMG) hominoid postcranial joint congruence using geometric morphometric techniques. Other NYCEP faculty members active in VP research include: Tom Plummer (Queens College and CUNY Graduate School, Plio-Pleistocene paleoecology of hominins on the Homa Peninsula, Kenya), Terry Harrison (NYU, paleoenvironments and paleontology in the Laetoli area of Tanzania and in southwest China), Susan Antón (NYU, *Homo erectus*, especially in Indonesia), and Shara Bailey (NYU, dental paleoanthropology of the later Pleistocene). We hope they and their students will submit further reports soon. (Eric Delson)

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Pomona, New Jersey

This year has been a bit of a whirlwind as we are adjusting to our expanding size with new faculty in geology and biology. We are pleased to welcome our newest geologist, Linda Davis, to the Stockton faculty.

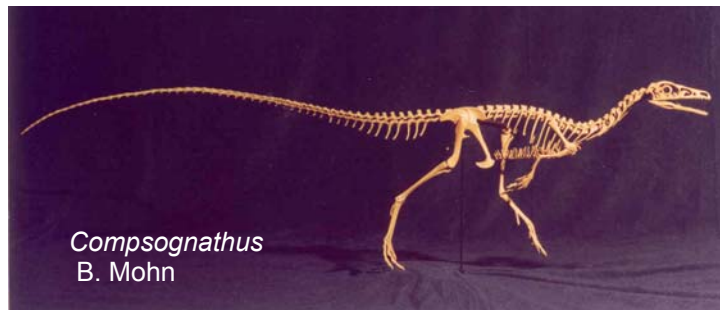
Margaret Lewis is in the process of finishing up her description of the Carnivora from Koobi Fora, Kenya, with Lars Werdelin of the Swedish Museum of Natural History that will comprise the next volume in the Koobi Fora Research Project Series. As with the upcoming volume on the Koobi Fora primates, this volume will be published by the California Academy of Sciences. Margaret and Lars are also hard at work on the creodont and carnivore chapters for the new version of "Cenozoic Mammals of Africa" edited by Lars and by Bill Sanders of the Museum of Paleontology at the University of Michigan. In the fall, Margaret attended the Stony Brook Human Evolution Symposium and Workshop, "Out of Africa: Who, Where and When," organized by Richard

Leakey, John Fleagle, Fred Grine, Lawrence Martin, and John Shea. Margaret had a wonderful time and would like to thank the organizers for inviting her to provide the “African carnivore” perspective on this issue.

Mike Lague continues to work on patterns of postcranial sexual dimorphism in living and fossil primates. Recently, he has been working with Mike Plavcan of the University of Arkansas and Bernard Wood of George Washington University on a grant on this topic. Publications that should be coming out soon include one with Nicole Collard, Brian Richmond, and Bernard Wood on assessing taxonomic utility of hominid mandibular corpus morphology. Mike is also the statistical consultant on a project measuring recovery from lower-limb injury using multivariate analyses of gait symmetry with Elizabeth Hsiao-Wecksler and John Polk of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Roger Wood continues to work on turtles, both the living and the dead and is still the Director of the Coastal Conservation Research Project through the Wetlands Institute. Undergraduates interested in summer research internships in the behavior, ecology, and conservation of coastal fauna and/or flora should be aware that applications are due soon. More information can be found at www.wetlandsinstitute.org/research.html or by contacting research@wetlandsinstitute.org.

Bruce Mohn is in the process of making three skeletons (*Pterodactylus*, *Rhamphorhynchus*, *Archaeopteryx*) for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, as well as assisting in production of the illustrations for their revamped dinosaur hall. He will also make another skeleton (*Rhamphorhynchus*) for Sankar Chatterjee at Texas Tech. For more information or to order Bruce’s wonderful paleoart, please contact him at brucemohn@aol.com. (Margaret Lewis)



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Southwest Region (Chris Jass, Regional Editor, jass@mail.utexas.edu)
Museum of Northern Arizona

Dave Gillette had a busy field season in southern Utah. With Northern Arizona University graduate students Becky Schmeisser and Kaitlin McCormick, and University of Rochester senior Curtis Congreve, Dave and crew excavated our most complete plesiosaur skeleton to date. It is from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, in the Upper Cretaceous Tropic Shale, and will be an important specimen in our impressive collection of plesiosaurs, currently under description.

With Barry Albright and Alan Titus, Dave is describing the therizinosaur skeleton that MNA excavated from the Tropic Shale in 2001. The MNA field program in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the Upper Cretaceous Kaiparowits Basin has begun to wind down, with new focus on description and analysis of the faunal biodiversity.

Other projects currently in progress are final description of the type material of the early sauropod *Barapasaurus tagorei* from central India, with Saswati Bandyopadhyay and Dhurjati Sengupta from the Indian Statistical Institute.

Mike Woodburne is greatly enjoying his retirement in Flagstaff and is delighted to be Honorary Curator of Geology at the Museum of Northern Arizona. What a nice, friendly, and productive place. And the scenery can't be beat! And Bill Breed keeps us all in synch with all past perspectives and new initiatives.

Mike still is working on various projects dealing with Miocene horses, and is finishing a review of the *Cormohipparion occidentale* group. It turns out that this "species" is composed of five others, of which one has a likely role in the generation of the *Hippotherium* Datum of the Old World. This is part of a bigger project on New and Old World hipparions that Mike and Ray Bernor are addressing.

Mike also spent a couple of weeks in November in Patagonia with Pancho Goin, Museo de La Plata, Argentina, visiting many of the classical Paleocene sites in coastal Chubut Province, including his first visit to the Gran Barranca. Mike, Pancho, and colleagues are also working on some new early Eocene mammal faunas from the northwestern Chubut River area that fill in the gap left by removal of the Casamayoran to the later Eocene. As part of the above process a new early Paleocene mammal has been recognized in the Lefipan Formation of the area, of which notice should be coming shortly in *JVP*. (Mike Woodburne)

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science will host the Seventh Federal Fossil Conference entitled "Preserving America's Public Fossils." The conference will be held 22–24 May 2006 in Albuquerque. In addition to papers related to the management of paleontological resources on public lands and general research, the conference includes a Cretaceous symposium. Registration information and general details about the conference are posted at the following Web address: <http://www.nmmnh-abq.mus.nm.us/nmmnh/fossilconf.html>. (Patricia Hester)

University of Texas at Arlington

This coming year Dr. Chris Scotese will be taking a sabbatical from UT–Arlington to work on a new series of paleogeographic maps for Shell Oil in Houston. Many people know Dr. Scotese for his work on paleogeographic reconstructions, but most in SVP do not know of his interest in dinosaur paleobiogeography. Dr. Scotese has spent the last few years working with his graduate students on a new series of dinosaur distribution maps. This past year his graduate student Derek Main completed a Master's thesis on hadrosaur biogeography and is beginning a PhD project on global dinosaur paleobiogeography. This coming year a new PhD student, Thomas Diamond, will also be working on dinosaur paleobiogeography with an emphasis on global theropod distributions. Other graduate student projects include mapping global paleoclimate belts from the Paleozoic to the present and creating a comprehensive digital database of global fossil localities. Other faculty projects include Dr. John Holbrook's continuing work on the mid-Cretaceous stratigraphy of the Dakota Group. Currently Dr. Holbrook is working with his students on a new ornithopod track site located in the Dakota outcrops of New Mexico. Although he will be in Houston through much of 2006, Dr. Scotese may still be reached via his Web site: <http://www.scotese.com>. (Derek Main)

The University of Texas at Austin

The Austin paleontology community was delighted to welcome three new students this fall! Anjan Bhullar joined our program in August after graduating from Yale University; he will be working toward an MS degree here, centered on fossil squamates. Kerin Claeson arrived in Austin to begin her PhD after finishing her MS degree at UMass. Jen Olori also officially entered our PhD program this fall. Naturally, we expect glorious good work from all of them!!

Gabe Bever, Chris Jass, and Ted Macrini are all busy writing their dissertations. Ted reports that he plans to defend his dissertation this spring. Christian George advanced to candidacy and his research on Hall's Cave is progressing. Jon Wagner continues his work on the phylogeny of caimans. He has begun molecular phylogenetic analysis and is visiting collections of fossil and Recent caimans collecting morphological data. His work on the hadrosaurs of Big Bend creeps ever onward toward publication.

Chris Bell had an entertaining and involved year. A short trip to Israel in March was followed by an extensive six-week excursion to Australia with Jim Mead, Sandy Swift, and Marci Hollenshead from Northern Arizona University. The team spent several weeks in the field in Western Australia studying and collecting squamates and examining fossils from some of the Pleistocene caves in Western Australia. In September Chris joined John Harris and Chris Shaw from the Page Museum and David Orchard from Houston on a trip to the Maracaibo Basin in northwestern Venezuela. The trip centered on examination of collections and field sites associated with extensive tar seep deposits in the region. The consensus view was that the Mene Inciarte tar seep shows great scientific promise and preserves a remarkable paleontological resource! Preliminary excavation and faunal analysis of fossils from the Mene Inciarte tar seep were performed by Ascanio Rincón, who joined the Austin paleontology community in October as a postdoctoral fellow in the Jackson School of Geosciences.

Ernie Lundelius continues to work on Pliocene and Pleistocene faunas from Australia and Texas. His work on the second FAUNMAP project with Russ Graham continues. He is also working on a project that deals with the latest Pleistocene horses on the Southern Plains.

Pamela Owen continues her education and outreach roles at the Texas Memorial Museum. She is the manager and staff supervisor for the TMM Paleo Lab, a working laboratory that is part of the Museum's permanent exhibits in the Hall of Geology. The Paleo Lab is an "open" exhibit where visitors are encouraged to interact and ask questions of the lab staff while seeing first hand how fossils are properly prepared and handled. Pamela is very excited about receiving a grant from the Webber Family Foundation for new workstations, interpretive materials, and technical support equipment for the Paleo Lab. When not presenting programs for local schools and organizations, responding to numerous e-mail and phone requests for fossil identifications, and participating in various exhibit and education projects, Pamela tries to find time to look at carnivoran bones and teeth. She and colleagues from Istanbul University, Vedat Onar and Oktay Belli, recently published their paper on red fox remains from an Anatolian archaeological site. (Chris Jass)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION (Brent Breithaupt, Regional Editor, uwgeoms@uwyo.edu) ***St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm (SGDS) and Dixie State College (DSC)***

By the time everyone reads this the SGDS will have been open for a little over a year and has exceeded everyone's expectations! Thanks to a most-dedicated corps of volunteers under the leadership of Andrew R. C. Milner, the site has received rave reviews not only from the Washington County (Utah) community, but a broad swath of national and international visitors. For those who don't know, the SGDS is a brand-spankin' new museum constructed over a world-class, Early Jurassic tracksite housing hundreds of theropod (*Grallator*, *Eubrontes*, and possibly others), crocodylomorph (*Batrachopus*), possibly sphenodontian (*Exocampe*), and invertebrate

(*Kouphichnium*, *Protovirgularia*, and others) ichnites along with a plethora of sedimentary structures deposited both on-shore and off-shore of a 199 million-year-old lacustrine setting colloquially nicknamed “Lake Dixie.” Plans are already underway to expand the signage and exhibits within the existing building *and* to acquire additional land for new buildings to house expanded exhibits, collection space, offices, a library, an expanded and better-equipped prep lab, etc. Cliff Green (Price, Utah) has been contracted by the SGDS Foundation to replicate a full-size *Dilophosaurus wetherelli* bronze to be mounted in front of the Museum. We look forward to this new addition!

Further exploration of the Moenave Formation in the St. George area has produced a number of new fish body fossils—mostly semionotids, but all of which are still undergoing preparation. Sally Stephenson, one of the volunteers and avid Utah Friends of Paleontology (UFOP) member, discovered a new species of ceratodontid lungfish in the Moenave Formation southeast of St. George that is currently being studied by Andrew and Jim Kirkland (Utah Geological Survey). Nearby the SGDS, in the “Freeman Quarry,” the Moenave has also produced fragmentary dinosaur remains, including several theropod teeth (many of which do not resemble those of coelophysoids) and a single, small vertebra. Also based on material from this site, Andrew and Jim are describing a new species of *Lissodus* (hybodont shark); along with the common semionotids, other fish from this site include a new palaeoniscoid and a very large, *Chinlea*-like coelacanth. So much potential, so little time!

Andrew and several volunteers also spent time in southeastern Utah during the summer, re-exploring some of Bob Schaeffer’s old Chinle Group (Upper Triassic) fish localities in the Lisbon Valley area. They came back with a treasure trove of new specimens, including semionotids, redfieldiids, coelacanths, and more. Andrew, along with Jim Kirkland, Martin Lockley (University of Colorado, Denver), Alden Hamblin (Cedar City), Garrett Vice (University of Nevada, Reno), Jessica Williams (Southern Utah University), and myriad volunteers have been documenting numerous new tracksites in Washington County in the Moenave and overlying Kayenta formations. Andrew, Jim Kirkland, Bob Biek (UGS), and Spencer Lucas (New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science) have been pounding out the stratigraphy of the Moenave Formation in the area. Lastly, Bill Tidwell (BYU) and Sid Ash (Albuquerque) are describing new plant megafossils from the region, some of which represent new taxa. All told, an exquisitely detailed picture of an Early Jurassic lacustrine and near-lacustrine ecosystem is emerging in southwestern Utah! And somewhere in the midst of all this, Andrew still has time to toy with Late Cretaceous tracksites in the Cedar City-Parowan area, as well as Middle Cambrian trilobites from Nevada, Early Triassic Moenkopi ammonites (with Spencer Lucas), reptilian tracks from the Shinarump Formation of the Chinle Group (with Martin Lockley and Spencer Lucas), and Early-Middle Triassic tetrapod tracks from southwestern Utah and Chinle tracks south of Moab with Deb Mickelson (Denver). Andrew, Dawna Ferris-Rowley (BLM—St. George Field Office), and Jim Kirkland are starting up the first Paleontological Site Stewardship Program in the nation for the BLM. It will be based in Washington County to start with, but if all goes well, it will be expanded to adjacent counties in Utah and Nevada. They already have 18 volunteers wanting to join up, and they haven’t even finished designing the program!

Now that the Museum is open, some focus has been moved over to formally describing many of the fossils from the SGDS and surrounding area. Much of this stems from the well-received “Tracking Dinosaur Origins: The Triassic-Jurassic Terrestrial Transition” conference held at DSC in March 2005. The conference has spawned two publications (both still in the works as of this writing around Christmas of 2005), a slick full-color volume aimed at the general public (published by the UGS) and a more technical volume produced as a *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin*. Watch for both coming soon. Andrew, Martin Lockley, and Jerry Harris (DSC) are working on describing the tracks, and Andrew, Jerry, Jim Kirkland, and Sterling Nesbitt (Berkeley) are working on the dinosaur body fossils. Andrew is heading up study of the fish.

Jerry has been busy cementing his teaching program at DSC—teaching both Introduction to Geology courses as well as a new Introduction to Dinosaurs course of his own design, which has

been very well received by the student body so far. He has also been delivering various talks in the region, mostly on the SGDS and its significance. His other research is also proceeding apace: several papers detailing the osteology and systematics of *Suuwassea emillieae* are in press at the moment, and he has one more in the works. He is also working with his colleagues Matt Lamanna (Carnegie Museum of Natural History) and You Hailu (Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences) on several papers describing new fossils from the Lower Cretaceous Xiagou Formation in Gansu Province, China. These will be the first scientific publications ever for DSC—we hope the first of many! He also hopes to continue his work on Morrison Formation stratigraphy and sauropod neck ligamenture and have that out soon. (Jerry D. Harris)

University of Wyoming Geological Museum

First we would like to welcome Mark Clementz as our new paleobiologist here at the University of Wyoming in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. Mark is enthusiastically developing a paleontology program that encompasses more of the nontraditional methods of reconstructing paleoecosystems and deciphering the ecology of ancient organisms. His work has chiefly focused on using stable isotopes as measures of ecological information. These have included isotopes of calcium, carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and strontium, but will certainly expand as new applications for other elements are developed. Most of his projects have focused on marine mammals, but he has done some work in terrestrial ecosystems and would like to explore this area further down the road.

Director of the UW Geological Museum Brent H. Breithaupt traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the 117th Geological Society of America Meeting in October and co-authored the papers “In search of Ferdinand V. Hayden’s 1868 ‘lost’ tracks: New field evidence for the location and description of the first dinosaur fossil discovery in Wyoming,” along with UW alumnus Jack Deibert, and “Digital dinosaur tracking: Using GIS to analyze the Twentymile Wash Dinosaur Tracksite, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah,” with Neffra Matthews, Tom Noble, Josh Smith, and Alan Titas. This group also presented the paper “A geospatial look at the morphological variation of tracks at the Twentymile Wash Dinosaur Tracksite, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah” at the SVP meeting in Mesa, Arizona. Along with Beth Southwell and Neffra Matthews, Brent presented the paper “In Celebration of 100 years of *Tyrannosaurus rex*: *Manospondylus gigas*, *Ornithomimus grandis*, and *Dynamosaurus imperious*, the earliest discoveries of *Tyrannosaurus rex* in the West,” at the GSA meeting, as well as a similar paper in Mesa, Arizona.

University of Wyoming undergraduate student David DeMar and Brent presented findings from David’s EPSCoR-funded research project on a unique Cretaceous lower vertebrate fauna from Wyoming entitled “Faunal analysis and paleoecology of the lower vertebrate microfossil assemblages on the Mesaverde Formation (Upper Cretaceous, Campanian) of the Wind River and Bighorn, Wyoming” at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. Beth Southwell also presented a poster at the SVP meeting entitled “The Race to Restore the First Complete Sauropod Skeleton: The 1905 AMNH Mount of *Apatosaurus*.” Finally, UW undergraduate student Kalyca Hunter and Brent presented their project (“Rising from the Dust: An *Allosaurus*’ Journey to the 21st Century”) concerning historical discoveries of dinosaurs in southeastern Wyoming in Mesa. Museum displays and publications will follow on these topics in the near future. (Brent H. Breithaupt)

PACIFIC COAST REGION (John M. Harris, Regional Editor, jharris@nhm.org)

Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Paleontology Society volunteers started the 2005–2006 field season working in the 5 Ma old, deep-water marine deposits of the Mud Hills member of the lower Deguynos Formation. New to the Anza-Borrego record from the area is a shark tooth, placed in the family Squalidae (dogfish) by Mark Roeder (San Diego NHM, who went back to the

locality and recovered a half ton of matrix for washing). A dentary fragment, referable to *Megalonyx leptostomus*, was recently recovered from the Yuha member of the upper Deguynos Formation. Of late Hemphillian/early Blancan age, it is the oldest identifiable xenarthran from the Park. The Borrego Badlands recently produced an articulated *Equus* forelimb from the Irvingtonian Ocotillo Conglomerate (not known for its articulated remains), as well as new mammalian track sites including several carnivore prints.

Completion of the new paleontology collections hall is still delayed. A grant for about 2/3 of the remaining costs has been secured, covering the next phase of construction. At least we will have part of the interior finished. Our best guess is that the collections periodically may be unavailable for research through the summer of 2006.

Just before SVP the Park radio dispatch tower was hit by lightning, sending a hefty jolt through every system in the complex. Our preparation laboratory is still without HVAC, but we have a new lab computer now.

Lyn Murray (PhD candidate UT–Austin) has been working with the collections and locality data, developing methods for plotting taxa directly to a high-resolution DOQ image. He and Chris Bell (UT–Austin) are working with Becky Dorsey (University of Oregon) and Bernie Housen (Western Washington University) in refining the stratigraphic correlations of fossil localities with a revised paleomagnetic transect across the Vallecito Creek/Fish Creek Basin. The section spans from the late Hemphillian through late Irvingtonian.

Cory Jones (graduate student from San Diego State University) has sampled and is analyzing the carbon and oxygen isotopic signatures of Anza-Borrego turtle and tortoise remains. Cory is looking for a climatic signal from these animals.

Our book, "Fossil Treasures of the Anza-Borrego Desert," is finally finished. It ended up being almost twice as long as planned, just shy of 400 pages, and understandably three months late. Copies will be available in late January for purchase from Sunbelt Publications Inc. www.sunbeltbooks.com. Related works also available include "Program Abstracts for the Fossil Treasures of the Anza-Borrego Desert Symposium," "Selected Artwork from Fossil Treasures of the Anza-Borrego Desert," and the 2005 SVP poster "Vertebrate Fossils of the Anza-Borrego Desert." The Anza-Borrego Institute, an educational organization cooperating with the Park, sponsored a two-day symposium based on the book's contents. Most of the 23 contributing authors were able to present papers and lead field trips. A good time hob knobbing was had by all. (G. T. Jefferson)

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

It's been the best of years, it's been the worst of years. With the completion of the new Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, the paleontology staff breathed a sigh of relief and have returned to a more normal and "scientific" outlook to managing fossil resources. Staff prepared and delivered several lectures at the annual meetings of the Geological Society of America in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology held in Mesa, Arizona, this year. Academic and general visitors alike appear delighted with the research center completion, and the development of a strong evolutionary theme throughout all of the public exhibits.

The slow, tedious process of compiling nearly 30 peer-reviewed research papers into a special volume to be published by PaleoBios (University of California) continues. This is the first time in the 140-year history of paleontological research in the John Day Basin that such a compilation has been attempted. At this stage Ted Fremd sends sincere and profound apologies to all authors and coauthors for the delays we have experienced getting this done. A combination of wanting to include as many papers as possible and a host of less-important but more-urgent competing projects is to blame, and he takes all responsibility for these decisions. Meanwhile, an

excellent solution has emerged to get the finished manuscripts out and the good people at PaleoSOS are to be credited for that.

Scott Foss has expanded the reach of the Oregon paleontology program by accepting a new position as the BLM regional paleontology coordinator, with a new office in Utah. He will continue to work on paleontological resources in Oregon, only now focusing on those found on Bureau lands instead of National Park Service property. We hope to fill his Collection Manager vacancy with a qualified candidate in the not-too-distant future. The position is an enjoyable one working with excellent material in a spectacular setting, but any cultural amenities require a three-hour drive. In the meantime, Matt Smith has eagerly begun to assume some of Scott's collection management duties and can be heard cheerfully mumbling to himself in the museum storage area as well as in his usual domain behind the glass in the new laboratory. Regan Dunn continues her studies of the fossil plants of the basin, and is tentatively planning on completing a PhD at Penn State while maintaining her position at the park. She has already revamped the paleobotanical storage to reflect locality, rather than taxonomic groupings. Dave Whistler joins the ranks of distinguished academic volunteers, and is having great fun carting exciting new microvertebrates one way and his outstanding reprint collection to the new JODA research library the other way. He appears to be thriving at his sparse, humble cabin (not!) near Bend, Oregon. Ted Fremd, as the Pacific West Region's Science Advisor, has been requested to help several parks support research with their fossil deposits this summer, including such California parks as Joshua Tree, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, and Golden Gate, as well as an upcoming visit to sites in Hawaii and Alaska. "It's a tough job," he says, "but somebody has to do it." (Ted Fremd)

Occidental College, Los Angeles

In August, Don Prothero and his field crew and family did paleomagnetic sampling in the Gualala block on the coast of California north of San Francisco, then met Ed Davis of UC Berkeley out in northwestern Nevada, and sampled the Massacre Lake locality, and the best section through the Thousand Creek beds, plus some Eocene plant localities near Cedarville, California. All of those samples are nearly done on the Oxy magnetometer, and the results will be submitted to the Neogene symposium published by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. Don also completed work on a paper on the paleomagnetism and tectonic rotations of the southern Coast Ranges for the Abbott SEPM symposium volume, and on a paper on the magnetic stratigraphy of Eocene-Oligocene plant localities for Herb Meyer's Florissant GSA Special Paper.

Don and Scott Foss continue to work on editing the artiodactyl symposium volume for Johns Hopkins University Press. Most of the chapters have been reviewed, but a few stragglers are still holding things up. We hope to send it to production next spring. The Cenozoic trade book "After the Dinosaurs: The Age of Mammals" is now in full production mode at Indiana University Press, should be out in mid 2006.

Don was invited to write an article on fossils and evolution for the November issue of *Natural History* magazine. In December, he gave an invited talk to the Skeptics Society on evolution, creationism, and the fossil record. He has also received a contract from Columbia University Press to write a new book on evolution and the fossil record to counter all the furor about "intelligent design creationism." Twenty years after fighting those battles in Illinois and debating Duane Gish, it seems like the fight against creationism never ends. The new book will probably sell a lot better than other trade books or professional volumes, but it will be the only project that also generates hate mail! (Don Prothero)

Paleo Environmental Associates, Inc.

The company was contracted by William Lyon Homes, Inc., to recover a mammoth skeleton from the Plio-Pleistocene Saugus Formation in Moorpark, Ventura County, southern California. A field crew directed by Mark Roeder recovered the specimen, which is in the final stages of preparation before being transferred, hopefully, to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The

specimen, roughly 75% complete, has been identified as *Mammuthus* or *Archidiskodon meridionalis* by George McDaniel of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Lanny Fisk of PaleoResource Consultants will be conducting the palynological analysis, Hugh Wagner of the San Diego Natural History Museum will be identifying the rodents, and Don Prothero of Occidental College has agreed to conduct the magnetostratigraphic analysis at his new campus facility. (Bruce Lander)

William Stout

Paleoartist William Stout is currently painting 12 murals depicting different eras of prehistoric life in San Diego for the San Diego Natural History Museum's new (and permanent) Fossil Mysteries prehistoric hall.

As many of the prehistoric San Diego reconstructions include Rancho La Brea elements (in addition to the expected, appreciated, and welcomed support from SDNHM scientists), Bill is relying on the information, kindness, and support of the good people from both the George C. Page Museum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and other SVP members whose expertise includes the flora and fauna covered in these murals to influence his work. William Stout would like to use this SVP forum to publicly thank them for their ongoing and rigorous help with this important public project. (William Stout)

— POSITIONS AVAILABLE —

VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGIST (DINOSAURIA)—THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is Canada's pre-eminent international museum and houses some of Canada's most important collections in both Natural History and World Cultures. The ROM currently invites applications for the position of an entry-level Associate Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology to conduct field and collections-related research on Dinosauria.

The successful applicant will be expected to: develop a program of externally funded scholarly research and publications; curate and continue building the disciplinary collection of vertebrate fossils; and participate in the development and rotation of new permanent galleries, traveling exhibitions, and other public programming.

Qualifications: Applicants must have a PhD in systematic paleontology, and be well versed in anatomy, evolutionary biology, or a related field at the time of appointment; familiarity with current phylogenetic methodologies; a record of scholarly publication in peer-reviewed journals; be qualified for cross-appointment to the University of Toronto; and be eligible for NSERC funding in support of research (i.e., proven record of successful grant applications). Experience in a museum or equivalent environment is preferable.

Salary and rank are commensurate with experience as stipulated in the Collective Agreement between the ROM and ROM Curatorial Association.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Applications for the position will be accepted until 1 April 2006. Applicants should provide a curriculum vitae, a summary of their research, and an outline of their proposed research, and should arrange to have three confidential letters of recommendation sent on their behalf to: Human Resources Department, The Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto ON M5S 2C6, Canada; Fax: (416) 586-5827.

— OBITUARIES —

DONNA ENGARD, 1948–2005

Donna Jean Engard, 57, died from cancer on 21 November 2005 at New Hope Ranch in Wetmore, Colorado. She was born 10 July 1948, in Pontiac, Michigan, to Howard G. and Alice (Schmidt) Engard. She attended Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, where she earned a degree in physical education, which led her into playing women's field hockey on a U.S. Invitational Team.



Donna had a very outgoing personality. She loved to teach and share her knowledge of fossils with individuals and groups of all ages. I first met her in 1983 while volunteering at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. We both enjoyed the same kind of work and shared the very same interests. We loved to travel and do a lot of outdoor things, including hiking and backpacking, and the beginning of our life-long friendship flourished during the time I spent at Cranbrook.

Donna started as a volunteer for the Cranbrook Museum and worked there for almost 20 years as exhibit designer and international travel program coordinator. Here, she designed and helped build a temporary fossil preparation laboratory. Donna began collecting fossils at an early age and donated her amateur collection to Cranbrook Institute, where it serves as an example of a well-documented collection. She also helped with the planetarium in Michigan before deciding it was time for a change. I had moved to Wetmore, Colorado, and bought a ranch after I became widowed. I called Donna and asked how would she like to be my ranch hand until she figured out what she was going to do next. So it was that Donna became a ranch hand for New Hope Ranch. Initially she spent some of her time building custom furniture and things for the house, as well as picture framing.

Prior to moving to Colorado Donna had never fished in her life, but she soon learned to make lures to catch trout in the Arkansas River. While working on the ranch, we both joined the management plant advisory group for the Garden Park Fossil Area with the Bureau of Land Management. We volunteered and offered tours of the fossil area, beginning in 1988. Donna and I took a certification course in paleontology at Denver Museum Nature and Science and graduated in 1991.

Along the way, a group of us, spearheaded by Donna, established the Garden Park Paleontology Society, which is a nonprofit organization. It was this group that established the Dinosaur Depot Museum, which opened in 1995. Donna was the supervisor of the laboratory and field excavations at the Museum along with being the curator and collections manager.

Fossils excavated from the Garden Park area by the crews of Marsh and Felch in the late 1800s ended up at the National Museum of Natural History, but had never been worked on. Donna was instrumental in establishing a long-term loan agreement between The Dinosaur Depot and NMNH to permit batches of the dinosaur fossils to be sent to Cañon City for preparation and identification before being sent back to Washington. Donna also directed the excavation at Skyline Dinosaur track site, and designed the original exhibits and the recent renovations at Dinosaur Depot.

Under the direction of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Donna assisted with the excavation of a wonderful specimen of *Stegosaurus* found in the Garden Park Fossil Area in 1992. A replica of this specimen now graces the exhibits at Dinosaur Depot. Donna was also instrumental in securing for the Museum a federal repository status and fossil collection permit, making the Depot the only amateur-run museum with such a status.

Throughout her time at the Cranbrook Institute and in Cañon City, Donna eagerly gave of her services to many professional paleontologists. Whether it was mapping, working up stratigraphic sections, or collecting microfossils and dinosaurs, her help was always gratefully received. In the words of Cañon City administrator Steve Rabe, "Donna was an incredible resource for this city." Rabe stated that the city is committed to maintaining Dinosaur Depot as a repository for the fossils and artifacts found in the vicinity of Cañon City. "Without her, that wouldn't have been able to happen. That's an asset that's going to be hard to replace. She obviously had a great passion and love and commitment to the Dinosaur Depot and I know they're going to be hard pressed to fill her shoes."

Contributions in her memory may be sent to the Dinosaur Depot Museum, 330 Royal Gorge Boulevard, Cañon City CO 81212. (Pat Monaco)

THE SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY BY-LAW ON ETHICS

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