SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
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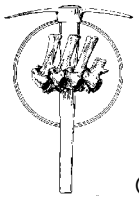

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
News Bulletin, Number 169
February 1997

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- **OFFICIAL BUSINESS** -

MINUTES OF 56TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, OCTOBER 17, 1996

David W. Krause, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and welcomed the group to the 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

John Flynn, Secretary, asked for a motion to approve the 55th Annual Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by vote of attending SVP members. Flynn also reviewed: the membership totals in each category for the year; the election ballot results noting that John Flynn will serve as Vice President, John R. Bolt as Treasurer, and Blaire Van Valkenburgh as Member-at-Large.

John R. Bolt, Treasurer, presented his report which included an overview of the Society's financial position highlighting the fact that a very small deficit was expected for the 1995-96 fiscal year. Bolt also reviewed the 1996-97 budget with the group. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and approved.

Annalisa Berta, Chair of the Information Management Committee, reviewed the committee's initiatives for the year which included the completion of a Society home page on the World Wide Web.

William Clemens, *BFV* Supervisor, reviewed the accomplishments of the *BFV* staff with the group. The accomplishments were as follows: 1) finished 1993 *BFV* and sent it to Dr. H. Axelrod for printing, 2) met with Victor van Beuren of AGI and discussed expanding

journal coverage to better capture vertebrate paleontology records, 3) electronic retrospective capture of *BFV* data by converting and testing the Hay 1 data.

Richard Fox, *JVP* Editor, noted that the most significant problem with the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* was the current 18-month lag time from acceptance to publication. Fox noted that this lag time was unacceptable. He noted that the Executive Committee had approved measures to reduce the lag time by increasing the 1995 volume to 900 pages and hold all subsequent volumes to 800 pages. Fox noted that the overall rejection rate was 31% and that the average lag time has now been reduced to 14 months.

John R. Wible, Development Committee Chair, noted that it had been a very successful year in terms of fund raising for the Society. Wible noted that donations were received both from outside sources and generosity of SVP members. Wible noted that the committee is considering an SVP distinguished speakers program that would also provide fund-raising revenue.

Patrick Leiggi, Government Liaison Committee Cochair, noted that Vince Santucci has stepped down from the GLC Cochair position becuase of his current remote posting in Yellowstone National Park. Leiggi then updated the group on the HR 2943 bill and the fact that the GLC was successful in preventing the bill from getting out of the subcommittee. Leiggi also noted that the Bureau of Land Management signed a cooperative agreement with SVP and that SVP also awarded the BLM a Golden Anniversary Plaque. Lastly, Leiggi noted that SAFE has begun a volunteer program and requested that anyone interested in assisting SAFE with legislative efforts contact Lawerence Flynn, SAFE President.

Lawrence Flynn, SAFE President, commented that SAFE's efforts last year were completely focused on HR 2943. Flynn noted that SAFE had been collaborating with other organizations and in fact the Association of Science Museum Directors had passed a resolution against H.R. 2943. Lastly, Flynn said that SAFE had engaged a professional lobbyist organization entitled Conservation, Environment and Historic Preservation, Inc. (CEHP).

Judy Scotchmoor, Education Committee Chair, noted that only four applications were received for SUE Graduate Fellowship (down from nine last year). Scotchmoor also noted that SVP has cosponsored with The Paleontological Society a workshop for educators on paleontology (to be delivered at GSA and the National Association of Science Educators meetings).

John Flynn then read the Outreach Committee report on behalf of Sally Shelton.

Emily Buchholtz, Membership Committee Cochair, commented on the fact that many new member applications had been reviewed by the committee in the past year. Buchholtz also announced the establishment of a Lev Nessov Fund whose purpose is to assist international members in attending the SVP Annual Meeting.

Kevin Padian, Program Committee Chair, thanked many of the members for their support of his efforts during his tenure. His report also included an appeal to members to provide their feedback to the committee regarding the format of the program.

Hans Thewissen, Media Liaison Committee Chair, commented that 40-50 journalists registered for the Annual Meeting this year, partly due to New York as a media center, and the extensive efforts of the AMNH Press Office. Thewissen noted that an SVP press conference was held on-site with six SVP members presenting research findings.

Krause then reviewed the new business items. He noted that the 1997 Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago at the Ramada Congress Hotel on October 8-11 with evening events at Shedd Aquarium and the Field Museum of Natural History. Krause then announced that the 1998 Annual Meeting would be held at the Snowbird Resort in Salt Lake City, Utah. Krause noted that an invitation from the Denver Museum of Natural History had been received for 1999 and that the Annual Meeting for the year 2000 will be held in Mexico City.

Krause announced that the Open Executive Committee Meeting would be held on Saturday from 12:30-1:30 P.M. He then turned the floor over to Malcolm McKenna who briefly queried the group regarding computer use with platforms, relevant to the Columbia University Press publication of the McKenna Mammal Classification.

Krause then invited Farrish Jenkins to the podium to deliver the Motion of Thanks.

Motion of Thanks

Let us praise the stalwart and faithful servant of our society. A scientist and scholar who has brought thoughtful order to the harried and hectic pace of scientific exchange. A gentlemen whose sense of fairness and good judgment ensures that the fruits of countless hours, many months and even years of human inquiry can be displayed in so short a time as three days. Let us be therefore grateful that we have been the beneficiaty of the wisdom and dedication of our Program Officer. And resolve to express our deep gratitude to Kevin Padian.

Whereas, as is the common course of human affairs, the SVP has metamorphosed from a once cantankerous union of cowboys, trappers, and explorers to a strong association with multifaceted scientific purposes; Whereas, in ontogeny, growth cannot proceed without regulatory rules, and in scientific societies, maturity cannot be attained without a wise leadership; Whereas, our Society's tentacular involvement in the realms of science, politics, education, and publishing requires no less that our president be an intellectual, a politician, an educator, and a businessman.

Therefore, let it be resolved, however unlikely that we should find among us an individual who could do all of these things, that we did enjoy **just** such good fortune in the scientific acumen, the craft of gentle statemanship, the focused vision, and managerial

skills of David Krause as President of SVP, for which we express our enduring gratitude, by unanimous acclaim.

Clarissimi sodales et tu, magister eximius celeberrimi conventus, quis vestrum non putet, hodie, in hoc venerabili loco, ubi custoditae sunt maximae reliquiae rerum extinctarum, nobis gratias agendas esse ipsa extincta lingua Latina? Quoniam, hodierni conventus maximi momenti ad tempora praeterita cognoscenda; Quoniam si hospis solus onus homini, milia onus diis; Quoniam, praeda scientiae divites fimus, die festivo pinguescimus, et postremo hiantes miramur maximam formam istius exhibitionis; Ergo, una demus, plausum tumultuosum et gratias agamus summis viris Marcus Norellius, Ricardus Tedfordius, Iohannes Alexandrus, Marcus Carrasco, Eugenius Cheloniorum, Iohannes Pisrix, Malacus Maccheneus, et Micaelus Novaceck, salvete!

Most illustrious colleagues and distinguished President of our most celebrated Society, who would not think it appropriate, today, in this venerable place, where the largest collection of dead things in the world is kept, to express our gratitude in Latin, a language that is also extinct? Whereas, meetings in the present are essential for understanding the past; Whereas, if one guest is a strain for a mortal, a thousand guests are a trial for the gods; Whereas, we are all enriched with scientific booty, are fattened by the festivities, and are awed by the spectacle of the exhibits; Therefore, be it resolved, to roundly applaud and express our greatest gratitude to Mark Norell, Richard Tedford, John Alexander, Marc Carrasco, Eugene Gaffney, John Maisey, Malcolm McKenna, And Michael Novacek by unanimous acclaim!

Resolution by standing acclamation.

Krause then called incoming President Louis Jacobs to the podium for the adjournment remarks. Jacobs acknowledged the leadership skills of David Krause and thanked him for being such a good role model. Jacobs also recognized the efforts of William Clemens, Annalisa Berta, Pam D'Argo, and Kathy Lundgren of the Business Office and other SVP volunteers. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. (John Flynn)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOTIONS, OCTOBER 16-19, 1996

Motion: To approve the June 1996 Executive Committee minutes
By: John Bolt
Seconded: William Clemens
PASSED
Motion: To approve the Denver Museum of Natural History as the host museum for the 1999 Annual Meeting
By: Elizabeth Nicholls
Seconded: William Clemens
PASSED
Motion: To approve Oscar Carranza's offer to host the SVP Annual Meeting in the year 2000 in Mexico City

By: John Bolt
Seconded: William Clemens
PASSED
Motion: To approve Nicholas Fraser as the new *Memoir* Editor of the *JVP*
By: William Clemens
Seconded: John Flynn
PASSED
Motion: To approve the 1996-97 budget as presented by Treasurer John R. Bolt
By: Lawrence Flynn
Seconded: Elizabeth Nicholls
PASSED

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS** -

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Two years ago, the Development Committee was charged with a new fund-raising initiative to meet the growing financial needs of the Society, in particular, to reduce the backlog of manuscripts in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* by increasing the number of pages published. A two-year campaign was conceived, targeting the SVP membership, private individuals, and foundations. The Development Committee is pleased to announce to the Society that the fund-raising campaign has been a resounding success.

Regarding the SVP membership, your colleagues have increased their level of giving significantly during the last year, with more than $63,000 contributed. Every member should thank these colleagues, because it is only through such generosity that the Society will continue to grow and expand its programs. The Development Committee adds its special thanks and a hope that those who can will continue to contribute to the SVP endowment and various funds.

Regarding private individuals and foundations, it has been hard to top the successes of last year highlighted by a $200,000 anonymous gift. Thanks largely to the energies of incoming Development Committee Chair Don Lofgren, SVP submitted a $25,000 proposal to a private foundation. We did not receive an award, but Don has plans to target other foundations and corporations in the coming year.

A variety of new ideas for fund raising are in various stages of planning. Included are the SVP Speakers Program, proposed by Development Committee member Stuart Sumida and modeled on the Sigma Xi program, and a proposal by artist Dan LoRusso to develop an artists' catalogue with proceeds to benefit the Society. The Development Committee is always looking for new ideas and welcomes the input of all interested parties.

Finally, outgoing Chair John Wible would like to thank those who have served with him on the Committee the last two years and also the membership at large for their incredible support of their Society. (John R. Wible, Chair)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee reports a graduate programs and funding page is now available on the WWW. We have also sent off an HTML file of this page to David Polly, so that it can be linked to the more general SVP home page when it becomes available. To date, there are approximately 30 graduate programs listed on the page (split between the US, Canada, and England) and there are about ten waiting to be added. Only a few funding agencies are listed (and linked) on the page, but we hope that people who consult the listing will forward addresses to other agencies.

The Education Committee received only four applications for the SVP Graduate Fellowship, down from nine last year. Why this should have declined, we don't know. Perhaps next year better advertising of this important source of funds should be considered. We are now in the process of reviewing the applications and hope to soon advise the Executive Committee of our choice.

GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Mike Woodburne was unable to attend the meeting this year due to a traffic accident. Due to his remote location in Yellowstone National Park, Vince Santucci has asked to be relieved of his cochairmanship of the GLC. Vince will remain a member of the GLC and we look forward to his continued service on the committee.

On February 1, 1996, the Fossil Preservation Act of 1996 (HR 2943) was introduced in the US Congress by South Dakota Representative Tim Johnson. The bill was referred to the House committees on Resources, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure. Over the last half of the 104th Congress which ended on October 5, 11 cosponsors were obtained by Congressman Johnson's office. The SVP opposed HR 2943 because of its provisions to allow commercial collection of vertebrate fossils on public lands, and its intent to remove these scientifically and educational public resources from the public trust. No congressional action was taken during the remainder of the session and the bill died when the 104th Congress ended. However, the GLC has received information that this bill will be introduced again at the beginning of the 105th congressional session (1997). The GLC will continue to track this and other legislative issues over the next year and will make recommendations to the SVP Executive Committee where appropriate.

In an attempt to define a consistent, unified position from paleontological societies in the United States who are concerned with public access, use, education, and research of public fossil resources, a legislative task force was established between The Paleontological Society, The Dinosaur Society, and the SVP. For many months the leadership of these societies worked tirelessly to provide a workable solution for more practical legislation that would not only represent the professional and avocational communities, but the general public as a whole. The GLC would like to thank Steve Gittleman of The Dinosaur Society, Jack Sepkowski of The Paleontological Society, and Lou Jacobs of SVP for their work. The GLC recognizes the achievements of their collective efforts and recommends that the legislative task force be continued.

During 1996 the SVP established and re-established relationships with many societies and associations that include the: Association of Science Museum Directors, Western Interior Paleontology Society, Garden Park Paleontology Society, American Association of Professional Anthropology, Utah Friends of Paleontology, South Dakota Academy of Science, North Dakota Academy of Science, New Mexico Academy of Sciences, American Federation of Mineral Scientists, Conservation for the Environment and Historical Preservation, and SAFE. Besides their professional support and efforts in working with the SVP towards responsible legislative matters, some of these groups passed resolutions opposing HR 2943. Most notable was the Association of Science Museum Directors who unanimously passed a resolution to protect fossil resources on public lands. The GLC will continue to work with these and many more organizations over the next year.

In August, the SVP presented its first "Stewardship Award" to the Bureau of Land Management as part of its 50th-year anniversary celebration in Denver, Colorado. Hosted by the Denver Museum of Natural History, the award was presented to Assistant Deputy Secretary Sylvia Baca by SVP President David Krause for the BLM's outstanding achievements in managing fossil resources on our public lands. The GLC wishes to thank Richard Stucky and the Denver Museum of Natural History for their generous hospitality during the event.

In an associated matter, the GLC would like to extend its appreciation to SAFE and its newly established SAFE Advocacy Team or (SAT). It is our understanding that SAT volunteers will be receiving up-to-date information about legislative matters that pertain to fossil resources and the opportunity to do something about them. (Michael O. Woodburne, Patrick Leiggi, and Vince Santucci, Cochairs)

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

To date the SVP list server has 506 subscribers. This is a slight increase (5%) over the number reported at the Annual Meeting. Messages will be broadcast to the list server offering the opportunity to join SVP. We need to encourage its use to advertise important deadlines and upcoming events. Sam McLeod continues to do an excellent job of managing the server.

The SVP Web site is now permanently on John Damuth's ETE Web server at UCSB (http://eteweb.lscf.uscb.edu/svp/). The home page now contains information about the Society (membership, ethics statement, membership fees, and price lists), Society publications, annual meetings, Society activities (SAFE), officers and committees, links to the *News Bulletin*, e-mail addresses of vertebrate paleontologists, other paleo sites (e.g., museums, professional organizations, academic departments). Over the summer "trial testing" period, there have been 128 hits to the home page (mostly from Damuth, Polly, and the Executive Committee).

The last seven issues of the *News Bulletin* (February 1996, October 1995, June 1995, February 1995, October 1994, February 1994, February 1993) are now available on line

via the WWW site. Access statistics for the week of April 28 (most recent statistics available) include: main SVP page, 81 times; SVP Bulletin search, 23 times. A review of the access statistics for previous weeks ranges from a low of 61 (week of March 3, previous low was five for the week of September 10) to a high of 139 (week of January 21, the previous high of 63 occurred during the week of September 24).

The table of contents of the last three issues of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* (Volume 15, no. 4, and Volume 16, numbers 1 and 2) are on line.

A considerable backlog of older volumes of the *BFV* is taking up much rented storage space. There are over 200 copies of each year (1981-89) with the exception of 1985 of which only 12 are left. Sale flyers were mailed this spring which resulted in 70 copies sold (1980, two copies; 1981, 33 copies; and 1991, 35 copies).

The AGI inventory of the *BFV* includes 1980, 32 copies; 1973-77, two copies; and 1979, one copy, which will be donated to SVP less shipping charges.

By the end of this week, photoready copy of the 1993 *BFV* volume, the one supported by Don Baird, should be off to the printer (Axelrod). The editors are including a special tribute to Don, in the form of a photograph and appropriate acknowledgements.

Regarding the electronic version of the *BFV*, a proposal submitted to BIOSIS (Joel Hammond) entails the development of a three-year agreement with SVP to produce hard-copy versions of the *BFV*. We are still awaiting response from Hammond.

The Dinosaur Society has given a grant of $68,000 to fund the electronic capture of the 1973-80 AGI database and the Hay and Camp bibliographies under sponsorship of SVP. (A special vote of thanks to Dave and Pam is in order for obtaining copyright clearance for the Hay II and AGI volumes. Obtaining copyright clearance for the volumes published and copyrighted by GSA is in process.) We will discuss, at the Executive Committee Meeting, possibilities of obtaining funding for the electronic capture of the Romer et al. bibliographies.

The projects described above will produce electronic copies of the Hay, Camp- Gregory, and Romer bibliographies but what do we do with them? Decisions on this matter need to be made to facilitate the work of the *BFV* bibliographers as well as set the stage for the next phase of our bibliographic project. (Annalisa Berta, Chair)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This report is in two parts. First, we review what has been accomplished since last year at this time, and second, we propose recommendations about membership and the Membership Committee.

We have made progress on the major goals that we set out at the Membership Committee meeting in November 1995. These include representation of SVP, usually by a member

of the Membership Committee, at other professional meetings; further streamlining of the review process for new applications; and elaboration of ideas for developing a sponsorship fund with the primary goal of encouraging new members from developing countries.

SVP display booths or tables were set up at four professional meetings earlier in 1996 and plans are underway for representation at GSA later this month. In collaboration with the SVP Business Office, we have a set of display materials, including casts of vertebrate fossils, a poster with mounted photos and text about the mission of SVP, representative publications, and fliers for potential new members. These materials are sent to or otherwise handed over by Catherine Badgley and Kathy Lundgren to the person in charge of the display; the publications are then returned to the Business Office and the casts to C. Badgley.

Catherine Badgley and Emily Buchholtz, as cochairs of the Membership Committee, review all new applications. These are sent to us by Kathy Lundgren approximately once a month, and we return our reviews by e-mail within a few days of receiving a packet of applications. If neither of us knows the nominator or the nominee, then one of us contacts the nominator to learn more about each person before giving final approval to the application. Thus far, we have only turned down one person because he was under age. Generally, we see a diversity of "professional" and "amateur" applicants who have the best interests of the Society at heart.

Last year, we discussed the idea of establishing a sponsorship fund to collect money to pay the annual dues of individuals from developing countries. The purpose is to support individuals who are dedicated vertebrate paleontologists and who cannot afford the annual membership fees. Our discussions more recently have involved David Archibald, who is promoting the idea of a similar fund (Lev Nessov Fund) to help pay the costs of attending the annual meeting. We (Emily, Catherine, and David) will propose jointly the creation of a Sponsorship Committee to handle both subjects (see below). We note that the current sponsorship process, via the sponsorship application, is getting some use, but that most of the sponsored individuals are not from developing countries. So, while this added kind of application is drawing in more numbers, it is not drawing in as many foreign members as we had hoped.

Finally, we wish to note that communication with and support from Pam and Kathy in the Business Office are very good.

We feel that the Membership Committee could be somewhat smaller, with each member having an assigned role, such as liaison with the Outreach Committee, or supervision of the display booth at the GSA meeting. In addition to the cochairs, probably six to eight individuals can cover the activities. A large fraction of applicants to SVP consists of the dedicated amateurs; our committee needs one individual dedicated to coordination with the Outreach Committee.

We note that advertising SVP at other professional meetings has not resulted in the recruitment levels that we had hoped for. Only about 6% of new members are being recruited from SVP displays and contacts at other meetings. We feel that efforts of this kind should continue but that we should target only a small set of meetings each year, with one member of the Membership Committee assigned to that meeting as her/his primary responsibility for the year.

Along with David Archibald, we propose the establishment of a Sponsorship Committee that will run two programs. One is a Membership Fund for covering part or all of membership fees for individuals from developing countries who cannot afford to pay the annual fees. The other program is the Nessov Fund for covering costs of attending the annual meeting. We anticipate that these programs would best be covered by one small committee, consisting of someone from the Membership Committee, a past president of SVP, the chair of the host committee, and/or the program officer. The emphasis would not be on cash awards per se but on covering membership fees, registration fees, and accommodations. We feel that this new committee could effectively be a subcommittee of the Membership Committee and need to have Dave Archibald's input on this idea.

An alternative or supplement to the proposed Membership Fund is to create a sliding scale of membership fees. I (CB) noted that the Ecological Society of America has such an arrangement, based on salary level. For SVP, the essential point would be to identify a criterion (such as salary below US $20,000) that would help people of low incomes in any country to become more actively involved in SVP. This idea will be discussed at the Membership Committee meeting in New York and Emily will convey a summary of the viewpoints raised to the Executive Committee. (Catherine Badgley and Emily Buchholtz)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The SVP Nominating Committee is comprised of three Past Presidents of the Society. This year's committee is comprised of William A. Clemens, Bruce J. MacFadden, and myself. We were charged by President Louis Jacobs to provide nominations for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and one MemberatLarge. We are happy to recommend the following individuals for inclusion on the upcoming election ballot. As stipulated in the SVP ByLaws, "additional nominations for any office may be added by petition of any ten members" not later than two months after publication of this report.

The current Secretary of the Society is Catherine Badgley. In accordance with SVP By-Laws, Catherine was appointed to the position in November 1996 by the Executive Committee to fulfill the final year of the twoyear term of John J. Flynn. John was elected to serve as Vice President and President Elect by the membership in the most recent election. According to the SVP Constitution, the "Secretary shall be elected for a twoyear term and shall be eligible for reelection to that office for an additional term." We are pleased to nominate Catherine to serve the Society as Secretary for a twoyear term beginning in October 1997.

The current Treasurer, John R. Bolt, will have completed four oneyear terms in office in October 1997. The SVP Constitution stipulates that the "Treasurer shall be elected annually but shall be eligible for reelection to that office without restriction." We are pleased to nominate John for an additional term as Treasurer.

A MemberatLarge is required to replace Lawrence J. Flynn, who will have fulfilled his term in October 1997. Each of the three MembersatLarge serves a term of three years, with each term beginning in a different year so that the terms are staggered. The two nominees for the vacant MemberatLarge position are Kenneth E. Campbell and Richard L. Cifelli.

All candidates have indicated their willingness to serve if elected. We are very pleased to present this list of nominees in that we are fully confident that, if elected, each will serve the Society with diligence and enthusiasm. (David W. Krause, Chair)

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee continued to establish liaisons with amateur paleontological groups and to document programs and opportunities for responsible amateurs. Outreach has established ties with the international Society for Amateur Scientists, whose director, Shawn Carlson, edits the "Amateur Scientist" column for *Scientific American*. SAS has offered to link SVP/Outreach Web sites to its own Web page, providing increased information on amateur paleontological opportunities. For this and other reasons, a top priority of Outreach for the next year will be placing the newsletter onto a Web site and mailing out as few copies as possible (though as many as needed).

Outreach continues to work on the Opportunities brochure with the addition of a section on hands-on opportunities for younger children. This will enrich the brochure but delay the final publication date. Outreach continues to solicit information on all field and lab classes, certification and site steward programs, and other opportunities for increasing volunteer and avocational contributions.

Outreach is on the mailing list for newsletters from the following organizations: Paleontological Research Institute, Central Texas Paleontological Society, Dallas Paleontology Society, New Mexico Friends of Paleontology, Utah Friends of Paleontology, the Aucilla River Prehistory Project of the Florida State Museum, and Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. Thanks to these and other organizations for continuing to keep us informed. Abstracts from these will be included in the newsletter/Web site with permission.

Outreach wishes to recognize the following individuals: David Parris for his continuing work with Native American on-site training programs; John Rensberger for his excellent report to SVP on the contributions of key amateurs; Pat Monaco and Donna Engard, who continue to set standards for responsible amateur leadership at the highest levels. Their most recent milestone is receiving formal notification that the Dinosaur Depot has been named a federal repository. Pat and Donna are graduates of the Denver certification

program, and have developed the Cañon City program to the highest professional standards; Mike Gottfried for continuing to seek ways to fund amateur programs. Details on these will be published with permission in the newsletter/Web site.

In the next year, Outreach will address the following issues: The aforementioned Web site will be developed and implemented in conjunction with, and with the approval of, the SVP Executive Committee; the committee will redefine its goals and priorities through a strategic planning process, reflecting Outreach's growth and changes over the past four years. An initial, informal meeting will be held in San Diego during the federal and international permits workshop. Anyone from SVP or interested in Outreach who is attending the permits workshop is welcome to attend this session.

Lastly, I am nominating Martha Hayden of the Utah Geological Survey as a new Outreach Committee member. (Sally Shelton, Chair)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

As outgoing Chair of the committee, I would like to express thanks. First, to the Executive Committee and to the Business Office, for providing the leadership and support that enabled us to function under a clear set of guidelines and to assemble the yearly programs with a renewed sense of purpose. Second, to the many people who have served on the Program Committee-this year, thanks go to Catherine Badgley, Chris Bell, Lance Grande, Don Prothero, Hans Sues, Mark Goodwin, and Bill Simpson-for their time and effort in reviewing the abstracts and providing timely advice. Finally, to the SVP members, particularly those who have submitted abstracts each year, have organized symposia and workshops, and have made the high quality of the program what it is today. Many of these people have accepted assignments that have not been their first choice, because of size constraints on the program, and every member without exception has been cooperative and understanding, despite our growing pains.

The size of our annual meetings appears to be growing every year, but the growth in attendance does not begin to mirror the growth in submission of abstracts, which has risen from 235 to 325 to 380 in the past three years-an increase of over 60% in this period alone, and over 100% from five years ago. The Executive Committee, in deciding to hold the line on the length of the meeting and the number of concurrent sessions, also put in a vote of confidence for expansion of the poster session, which now runs unopposed by any other activities. With their agreement we established a committee to review the abstracts, to ensure a more complete balance of consideration and assignment. The next few years will tell us whether growth is continuing to the point that reassessment of our practices is required. For now, however, we have a first-rate technical program that is due entirely to the professionalism of our membership, and in leaving this service it is my pleasure and privilege to extend congratulations to everyone on that account. (Kevin Padian)

EDITORIAL REPORT, *JOURNAL OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY*

Background

Since its foundation in 1980 the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* has experienced rapid growth, but this has been particularly marked in the past two or three years. By 1994 the backlog of accepted papers had increased to such an extent that the Executive Committee of SVP took the extraordinary step of increasing the size of volume 15 so that up to 900 pages were published rather than the normal 600. This was intended as a one-time-only increase in volume length, but the editors report in 1995 showed that although there was no increase in the backlog, neither had any impression been made on it, nor was it predicted to alter in the near future. This was largely due to a substantial increase in the number of submissions in the 1994-95 reporting period. In view of this, the Executive Committee voted to extend the enlarged volume size for at least another year (allowing up to 800 printed pages). In addition the font size was decreased slightly and the margins reduced to allow for more words per printed page. We report here on the effect these changes have made on the backlog of accepted manuscripts.

Results for 1995-96

As in previous reports the present account is based on a fiscal year and covers the period 1 July 1995 through 30 June 1996. A total of 67 (+ Rich's numbers) manuscripts were received by the editors. The systematic breakdown is as follows:

Group No. mss. %

Agnatha/fishes 11 14.7

Amphibia 2 2.6

Reptilia (restricted) 25 33.3

Dinosauria 11 14.7

Aves 1 1.3

Mammalia 20 26.7

Other 5 6.7

Final processing was done on 76 manuscripts (54 lower vertebrate, 20 mammal), of which 52 (38 lower vertebrate, 14 mammal) were accepted and 24 (18 lower vertebrate, 6 mammal) rejected. The overall rejection rate was 31.5% (33% lower vertebrate, 30% mammal).

The total number of printed pages for the reporting period is 796, and is split as follows: 15(3), 256; 15(4), 173; 16(1), 190; and 16(2), 177. Seventy-four articles, notes, and reviews were published resulting in an average of 10.75 pages per contribution. Publication lag times for the four issues, given as elapsed months from acceptance to publication averaged as follows: 15(3), 15.08 (ranging from 17.26-13.5); 15(4), 15.92

(ranging from 16.86-14.22); 16(1), 14.45 (ranging from 18.16-13.8); 16(2), 14.57 (ranging from 17.06-9.93). The estimated lag time for 16(3) is 14.6 months.

The target date for publication of each issue is the 15th of each quartile month (March, June, September, December). The manuscripts for inclusion in 16(4) are currently at the press and, based on the above publication schedule, some papers will have a lag time of 16 months. However, on the available data, it is estimated that the maximum lag time for any article in 17(1) will be 14 months; for 17(2), 13 months; and by the end of the year the lag time should be 12 months or less.

Comparisons with Previous Years

The total number of manuscripts received, 75, is down significantly from the previous year, but it is nevertheless comparable with 1991-93 levels. Clearly this has significantly relieved the pressure of the backlog of papers. However, it does not mean that we can afford to cut back on the length of the journal, as the submission rate is still at a similar level to that which led to the initial increase in the length of the journal in 1994.

It was noted in last year's report that there was a slight decrease in the number of mammal papers (43% of the total). This continued the trend from the previous year (45% of the total). Prior to that, the mammal/lower vertebrate split was approximately equal. This year saw a dramatic decline in submission of manuscripts on mammals (26.7%). Indeed this decline accounted for most of the overall decrease in submissions from the previous year. It is difficult to offer any explanation as to why this should be the case, and it might be expected that, unless there has been a sudden shift in the interests of the memberships of the Society, submissions on mammals will be up in the next reporting period (although we see no evidence of this at present). It is interesting to note that submissions of manuscripts dealing with Reptilia (restricted) now account for a third of the submissions.

Submission of dinosaur-related manuscripts was up slightly from 1994-95, but was similar to the 1993-94 level. Once again it seems that the availability of support for page charges by The Dinosaur Society has not inflated the numbers of dinosaur-related contributions.

Of the 75 submissions, 28 were by sole or senior authors from outside the US and Canada. Overseas manuscripts were received from ten countries, including the United Kingdom (9), Australia (6), India (3), Argentina (3), Italy (2), Brazil (1), France (1), Germany (1), South Africa (1), and Russia (1). Clearly the rate of foreign contributions remains high and indicates that the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* is truly an international journal of vertebrate paleontology.

We have maintained a similar rejection rate through the past two reporting periods. At over 30% this is much higher than in the years up until 1994. We believe that such a rejection rate can be maintained without jeopardizing the scope of the journal.

We introduced a new section into the journal in 1995 called Rapid Communications. This is intended as a vehicle for quick communications of exceptional finds or of new theories or interpretations that are of general interest to the Society. Three manuscripts were submitted for this category. One has been accepted and will be published in 16(4).

Discussion

The monumental increase in submissions that was recorded last year has not been repeated and the threatened spiralling increase in the backlog of accepted manuscripts averted, at least for the time being. However, it has taken fairly stringent measures to keep this backlog in check. The rejection rate has been kept at a relatively high level and the format changes have helped to print more contributions in the space available. Given that the situation with respect to accepted manuscript backlog has stabilized, it is felt that it would be of no value at this time to provide projections for the future size of the journal based on different scenarios of numbers of submissions, length of submissions, and rejection rates. However, given the volatile nature of submission rate, the editors will be keeping a close watch on the situation and will report immediately to the Executive Committee should there be any significant change over the next 12 months. In particular, given the marked drop in the percentage of submission of papers dealing with mammals, it might be expected that this category would show a significant increase over the next 12 months to bring it back closer to the 50% mark once more.

Given that the decrease in the submission of mammal papers may well be an isolated occurrence, and that the levels of submission in all other areas have remained close to the 1994-95 levels, we recommend that the journal continue in its present format and that the length be maintained at a minimum of 800 printed pages per volume. (Richard C. Fox and Nicholas C. Fraser)

SAFE ANNUAL REPORT: 1996

SAFE's first year was productive and can be measured as a success thanks to the heroic efforts of its members and thanks to the support of SVP. SAFE members strived to promote the science of vertebrate paleontology on a national scale and assure that the benefits of our science reach the public. We would like to acknowledge especially the contributions of outgoing member David Krause, whose articulate and evenkeeled counsel inspired us all, and whose selfless efforts were an example we hope to emulate.

The SAFE Board welcomes Catherine Badgley to a twoyear appointment, joining Larry Flynn (President), Mark Goodwin (Vice President), Mike Woodburne (Treasurer), and Louis Jacobs (Secretary). Since last year, we have been occupied by government affairs activities that require a public voice. Some of these activities are proactive, involving bridgebuilding and outreach. SAFE and SVP have developed closer collaborative relationships with the American Geological Institute and with the American Association of Museums. The Association of Science Museum Directors heard our message and passed a resolution through the efforts of Pat Leiggi and the Government Liaison Committee to protect fossil resources on public lands. We have informal collaborations

with the Society for American Archaeology, Association of Systematic Collections, and several societies of avocational paleontologists. At the formal level and on a parallel track, of course, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology is discussing policy issues with The Dinosaur Society and The Paleontological Society. SAFE developed a home page linked to SVP's, and is developing a long-range plan to establish more predictable income.

However, our attention was forced mostly upon the issue of how to respond to the introduction February 1, 1996, of legislation by Congressmen Tim Johnson (SD) and Joe Skeen (NM), the Fossil Preservation Act of 1996 (HR 2943). The 1995 SVP annual meeting closed on a hopeful note in which we had formulated what we thought was constructive feedback to Johnson's office on an earlier draft of the bill. Given that Rep. Johnson chose to ignore our views, moved away from them, and then prematurely introduced the bill, we had no choice but to oppose it. We wish to be clear that we think it is imperative to develop sound legislation to protect fossils on public lands, but this bill was so far from its goal that we found it unsalvageable. We took this view because we did not see any inclination by Johnson's staff to accommodate the views of the SVP membership (note various surveys), or of the general public (see the 1995 poll conducted by The Dinosaur Society).

Realizing the need to act so that our views would be heard, SAFE focused its efforts on this bill, HR 2943. SAFE got rolling thanks to the efforts of individuals who donated funds over the last year. Donations amounted to over $8000. We proceeded to engage the services of the professional, registered lobbying firm CEHP (Conservation, Environment, Historical Preservation) and costs over the year ran to 90% of our budget. CEHP facilitated many contacts with legislators and other lobbying groups, as well as with land management agencies and affiliated societies, which led to a much more effective voice in Washington. The remainder of our budget went to funding mailings.

SAFE first distributed the results of the poll released last year by The Dinosaur Society to every member of congress, both houses. Then we wrote to all representatives and then to all senators about fossils, their importance, and why HR 2943 just didn't cut it. SAFE board members made numerous contacts with legislators and media to discuss why it is important to have responsible policy toward managing fossil resources, why the issues are complex, and why vertebrate fossils on public lands need protection. You have perhaps heard some of us on the radio and TV, or seen our names in print.

SAFE's board member David Krause went to Washington (personal funds) to discuss strategy with CEHP and meet with various congressional leaders. He participated in an AGI meeting which included discussion of the fossil legislation. Needless to say, our views were not always welcomed, but at least they were heard. SAFE's board member Louis Jacobs also went to Washington (personal funds) to participate in the BLM golden anniversary celebrations and then to work in coordination with CEHP on behalf of SAFE.

More recently, SAFE has continued to pursue a dialogue with various groups, including those not necessarily in agreement with us. Larry Flynn spoke again with American

Lands Access Association leadership, this time Vice President Fred Schaefemeyer. All indications are that a bill like HR 2943 will go nowhere. There were no hearings and it was not passed during the 104th Congress. We believe that SAFE has had an effect, at least in aprising legislators that there are issues to be heard and that HR 2943 is controversial. Our efforts paid off, but is the bill dead? No-it appears that it will still be alive and on the plate of the next congress. Furthermore, Senator Herb Kohl appears to be committed to penning a Senate bill. It may or may not be similar to HR 2943. We are working closely with his aide to make sure that our voice is heard, and start with the assumption that reasonable compromise is possible. If Sen. Kohl or nowSen. Johnson do proceed, we intend that our concerns will not go unheeded for lack of effort. This last development is positive, which is very heartening because SAFE hopes to promote the goals that the Society wants, rather than only react to outside events.

This is an important time for SVP to remain proactive and vigilant. Now is the time to participate in legislation writing-not after a piece of legislation is introduced! Now is the time to shape the law-making process and present practical solutions to managing fossil resources to serve the public AND preserve our natural heritage. We can do this through SAFE. But SAFE is short on funds. We have been forced to reduce our collaboration with CEHP, which organization remains committed to our cause. We desparately need your support to perform effectively! We have a wonderful start to the second year of SAFE operations. At the annual meeting nearly $3000 was donated, including the auction of Big Al for $1375! Next year look for another SAFE auction! Meanwhile, your donations to SAFE, 401 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611-4267, are desperately needed to fund monitoring of events in the new 105th Congress, so that we can stay ahead of legislative initiatives and promote our voice when it must be heard. (Lawrence Flynn)

- **AWARD WINNERS** -

ROMER-SIMPSON MEDAL-PERCY BUTLER

It was a surprise to hear that I was to be awarded the Romer-Simpson Medal, as I am only marginally a paleontologist. I have had no geological training and have found fossils only in museums. I collected insects as a boy, but biology was not taught at my school, where I learned mathematics, physics, and chemistry. On entering Cambridge University (1930) I took up botany and zoology, and specialized in zoology in the third year. The advanced vertebrate course, taught by Forster Cooper and Parrington, was almost entirely about fossils. In those days the Cambridge Natural Sciences Tripos was a four-year course, and as I was uncertain whether I could afford a fourth year, I entered for a London B.Sc. as an external student. The examination included a Special Paper on a chosen subject, and Forster Cooper suggested mammals with special reference to artiodactyls and perissodactyls. It was while reading the literature on this subject that I got interested in teeth.

What struck me about teeth was their gradation of form along the series, so that each could be mathematically transformed into the next. I am more interested in

transformation aspects of evolution than in bifurcation aspects. Starting postgraduate research in 1934, I worked out the field theory on the basis of a study of zalambdodont insectivores. I aimed to explain the morphology in terms of the concepts of experimental embryology. I tested the theory against a range of other mammals, especially Mesozoic mammals. In 1936 I had the extremely good fortune to be awarded a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship to study for two years in the United States. I worked in the AMNH under the supervision of W. K. Gregory, examining a great variety of Recent and fossil mammals. I learned to drive and travelled all over the country. It was a marvelous experience.

Returning to England, I began my first systematic paleontological study, on erinaceids, but the war intervened, and the paper was not published until 1948, when I was at Manchester University. This work got me interested in skulls. It led to an invitation from Louis Leakey to describe the Miocene erinaceids from East Africa, and that started many years of study of African fossil mammals, mainly insectivores, in which I had the valued assistance of Marjorie Greenwood.

At Manchester I wrote some papers based on chapters of my Ph.D. thesis. While studying milk molar evolution in perissodactyls I hit upon the significance of wear facets, as providing a functional interpretation of molar cusp patterns. J. R. E. Mills found corresponding facets in primates, and since then tooth wear, and its relation to diet and chewing movements, has become a flourishing field of research. Another paper that has had some influence is a review of the ontogeny of molar pattern. This subject was taken up by W. A. Gaunt, who followed me to Royal Holloway, where he made careful descriptions of tooth development in the mouse and other mammals.

In 1965 Bert Kraus invited me to Pittsburgh to study his large collection of human tooth germs, dissected out of fetuses. They made possible a quantitative analysis of tooth growth, on which I am still working. I also spent much time in the Carnegie Museum, and visited several other museums and universities, collecting information on wear facets and making camera lucida drawings. I made another tour for a month in 1984, and there have been short visits since. I am most grateful to my many American friends for their hospitality and help.

With new discoveries and technical advances, much of my work is beginning to look old-fashioned and merely of historical interest. I am greatly honored that, by the award of this Medal, the Society has put on record that I have made some contribution to vertebrate paleontology. Thank you very much. (Percy M. Butler)

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP-MASON B. MEERS

Even growing up, whenever I decided to pursue something, I tended to be somewhat tenacious. So when I began playing the trumpet in grade school, no one was really surprised when it became a bit of an obsession. Consequently, when I began playing the trumpet professionally in jazz bands throughout most of the Midwest at age 15, it simply seemed logical that I should enter the Indiana University School of Music on a jazz

scholarship. Changing my major to biology and dissecting road-kill, however, seemed a complete surprise. I continued to play professionally through college, never intending to do anything with my biology degree until I was given the opportunity to assist Dr. Della C. Cook and Dr. Michael B. Worrell with some work they were doing on the epaxial back musculature of orangutans. Dissecting such a fascinating specimen and learning the processes of functional inference, I knew I'd found the challenge I'd been looking for in functional morphology and evolutionary biology. Dr. Cook and Dr. Worrell further fueled my interests by providing me with every animal you could imagine to dissect. By my senior year in college I had dissected animals from nearly every major tetrapod clade, assisted in numerous faculty research projects, and begun my senior honors thesis on the anatomy of the tail in primates. Through the support of Drs. Cook and Worrell, I made the difficult decision to head off to graduate school rather than continue my career as a musician.

Entering the functional anatomy and evolution program at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1992, I had entirely too many different projects in mind to complete in my few short years here. I've been very fortunate to have been able to follow up on several of my own ideas since coming to JHU, as well as having the opportunity to interact with faculty members on other projects. For example, I was among the first to put Extant Phylogenetic Bracketing to the test through the phylogenetically constrained reconstruction of archosaurian forelimb anatomy (SVP '93, co-authored with D. B. Weishampel and P. Dodson). Through this and other studies undertaken during the past four years, my dissertation on the evolution of locomotor behavior in crocodilians has evolved. My dissertation draws on my background in a diverse array of areas (no, not music...yet!), including soft-tissue anatomy, biomechanics, animal behavior, and phylogenetic character optimization. This work has taken great strides ahead due to the assistance of the SVP Predoctoral Fellowship Award, and I thank the Society for its support of my research.

As I near the end of my graduate career, I am pleased to be preparing several manuscripts on the many projects I've undertaken here (not all on crocs). I am grateful to my advisor, Dr. David B. Weishampel, for his mentoring and insight into the role of phylogeny in functional morphology and paleobiology. Dr. Chris Ruff has also been an invaluable aid in my biomechanical work, and Dr. Joan Richtsmeier has generously provided advice and instruction for the morphometric side of much of my research. (Mason B. Meers)

RICHARD ESTES MEMORIAL AWARD-MAUREEN KEARNEY

I received both bachelor's (1988) and master's (1990) degrees in biology, through the evolutionary biology program at the George Mason University in Virginia. After completion of the master's program, I spent three years teaching courses in biology, anatomy and physiology, and vertebrate zoology, and enjoying my son who was born not long after graduation. A desire to return to research led me back to academia in 1993. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biological Sciences at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. At GWU, I became interested in cladistic theory and methods through courses in systematics and paleobiology, which often

focused on the philosophical and practical issues associated with the study of evolutionary history.

My dissertation research focuses on the evolution of amphisbaenians, using evidence from both living and extinct forms. The project offers an excellent opportunity to study the evolutionary history of a relatively poorly known and fascinating group with a good fossil record. It also satisfies my interests in exploring theoretical issues in systematics, such as different approaches to character coding, dealing with missing data in fossils, and the contributions of different lines of evidence to phylogenetic studies. A rapidly growing program in systematics in the Biology Department at GWU and my graduate advisor, Jim Clark, provide constant opportunities for discussions and arguments about systematics, paleobiology, and science in general.

I would like to thank the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology for awarding me the Richard Estes Memorial Award. Richard Estes was a preeminent paleoherpetologist, whose contributions to our knowledge of squamate evolution were vast. I didn't know Richard, but I am benefitting from his work through his legacy in the literature and through interactions with many of his academic progeny, such as Kevin de Queiroz, Jacques Gauthier, and Mark Norell. I think he would have appreciated the combination of squamate evolution, paleobiology, and phylogenetic theory and methods, which forms the foundation of my research. (Maureen Kearney)

BRYAN PATTERSON AWARD-BRUCE J. SHOCKEY

Bruce J. Shockey is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Zoology at the University of Florida, where he is finishing his dissertation on the systematics and functional morphology of some notoungulates from the Oligocene of Bolivia. For much of his time at the U of F, Bruce has been an instructor in the anatomy and physiology labs.

Bruce's undergraduate degree was in psychology and he also has a master's in counseling. Prior to returning to graduate school to study zoology and paleontology, he worked in the mental health profession as a clinical social worker and ultimately as the director of an inpatient psychiatric unit.

A few years ago Bruce J. MacFadden took on Shockey as a graduate student and encouraged him to study part of the fauna from Salla, Bolivia, a high altitude Oligocene locality in the eastern Andes. Several field seasons in Bolivia has left Shockey enamored with that country, which is not only rich in fossils, but in a warm and colorful culture. Shockey is also impressed with the growing collections of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in La Paz and has enjoyed an amiable working relationship with the chief of the paleontology lab, Federico Anaya Daza (a previous recipient of the Bryan Patterson Award). After graduation, Bruce hopes to work on new projects in Bolivia. (Bruce J. Shockey)

ROMER PRIZE-CHRIS BROCHU

I'm originally from Springfield, Massachusetts, where I lived until I was 12. I was one of those oddballs who never outgrew a first-grade fixation on dinosaurs. I spent my junior high and high school years in New Jersey, and then went to the University of Iowa, where I got a B.S. in geology in 1989. While there, I conducted an honors thesis project on environmental variation in Panamanian corals under the tutelage of Nancy Budd.

Soon after arriving at UT, Tim Rowe prompted an interest in the relationship between development and phylogeny. I started reading about limb allometry in living crocodylians, and chose to continue along those lines, completing a master's thesis on postcranial ontogeny in crocodylians in 1992. I also developed an interest in phylogenetic systematics, in part from Tim's influence, but also from exposure to a dynamite systematics community that encompasses individuals from the departments of Geological Sciences, Botany, Zoology, and Anthropology. Upon completion of my M.A., I turned my attention to the phylogenetic systematics of the crown-group Crocodylia, the subject that has dominated my life ever since.

Many thanks to those who have advised, helped, or just been there: Tim Rowe, Ernest Lundelius, James Sprinkle, David Hillis, David Cannatella, James Clark, Wann Langston, all those museum curators whose dead crocodiles I've been fondling for the past five years, the UT Multimedia Lab, fellow paleo and systematics students at UT and elsewhere, my parents, and especially Robin Balinsky. (Chris Brochu)

SKINNER AWARD-RAYMOND ALF

Raymond Manfred Alf was born in Canton, China, in 1905, and lived there until 1917; his parents were missionaries. After relocation in the United States, Alf attended Doane College where he distinguished himself as a world-class sprinter; he narrowly missed making the US Olympic team in both 1928 and 1932 (in 1974, he was named to the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics). In 1929, Alf became a faculty member of Webb School of California, a private high school near Los Angeles. Alf took students on trips to collect fossils in the 1930s and in 1927, Alf and student Bill Webb found the skull of a new species of peccary, *Dyseohyus fricki*, which was identified and described by Chester Stock from the California Institute of Technology. The discovery of "The Peccary" inspired Alf to travel to Nebraska and South Dakota to search for fossils. While on this trip, Alf met John Clark from the University of Colorado and decided to seek a master's degree in geology under Clark's tutelage. Alf took a sabbatical from teaching, completed his master's in one year, and returned to California to resume his teaching duties. Thereafter, Alf incorporated paleontology into the curriculum of his biology class and led numerous fossil collecting trips accompanied by students. These trips became known as Peccary Trips, named in honor of "The Peccary." Over the next three decades, Alf led hundreds of Peccary Trips for students where thousands of fossils were collected. Eventually, the number of fossils outgrew available space and the current museum facility was constructed and dedicated as The Raymond M. Alf Museum in 1968.

Alf was an inspiring teacher and won numerous teaching awards, including the Distinguished Secondary School Teaching Award from Harvard in 1961, a Teaching Award from the Ford Future Scientists of America in 1967, and the Distinguished Teaching Award from the National Association of Geology Teachers in 1979. Many of Alf's students won national science talent search competitions. Also, Alf inspired many of his students to seek careers in science; four notable examples are S. David Webb (University of Florida), Daniel Fisher (University of Michigan), Malcolm McKenna (American Museum of Natural History/Columbia University), and Donald Kron (University of Colorado); all vertebrate paleontologists who began their careers as students of Raymond Alf, their high school mentor.

Alf published numerous short articles based on research generated through his fossil collecting activities with students. He was a research fellow at Harvard University in 1941. In the early 1970s, he received honorary doctorate degrees from Lewis and Clark College, Claremont Graduate School, and Doane College. Presently, Alf is enjoying his retirement years and spends much of his time drawing and visiting with his daughters Janet and Mimi. He lives less than a kilometer from the museum he founded.

JOSEPH T. GREGORY AWARD-DONALD BAIRD

For me it's almost an embarrassment to be chosen for an award that bears the name of my old friend Joe Gregory, whose contributions to our Society and our profession have been so much greater than mine. Indeed, Joe was a charter member of the SVP, whereas I wasn't introduced to it until the second annual meeting. That was the Pittsburgh meeting of 1945, when a newspaper photographer put a patriotic spin on the event by assembling the VPs who were in (or just out of) the military. So, posed with curator "Pop" Kay and the *Protoceratops* skeleton, were such vetetans as Colonel George Simpson, Majors Loris Russell and Bryan Patterson, Captain Lew Gazin...and Private First Class Baird. Talk about moving in exalted company! And it's been that way ever since. Looking back on the past half century of association, I'm not just honored, I'm heartened by this expression of goodwill from my fellow gone-guessers; and I'm only sorry that my current decrepitude has prevented me from accepting it in person. My warmest thanks to all.

Before donning the uniform, I had worked part time at the Carnegie Museum, learning preparation and the latex-molding technique from the old masters. After taking a B.S. degree, I ill-repaid "Pop" Kay's many kindnesses by marrying his secretary, Lucy Bailey, and the two of us went off to take master's degrees in geology at the University of Colorado, meanwhile working part time for the University Museum. Museum jobs being perenially scarce, I was lucky to land a curatorship at the University of Cincinnati Museum, paying $2,400 a year. So I spent the happy years of 1949-51 learning curatorial paleontology and how to write a scientific paper from the ebullient Prof. Ken Caster. At that time the classic coal-mine locality of Linton, Ohio, was lost to science (the two maps of it in the VP literature being grossly erroneous); but a local citizen led Lucy and me to the spot, and the old mine dump yielded abundant remains of fishes and amphibians. So Carboniferous critters and their footprints became my first research field.

In 1951 I began doctoral work under Alfred S. Romer at Harvard, and the Museum of Comparative Zoology became my happy home for the next half-dozen years. Grocery money was earned by teaching the comparative anatomy labs and curating the MCZ collections. After taking the Ph.D. in 1955 I continued as full-time collection manager and published my dissertation, which dealt with a long-known but totally misinterpreted assemblage of Late Triassic reptile footprints from Milford, New Jersey.

An NSF grant to Romer for 1955-56 launched field parties, including Lucy and me, into the Carboniferous of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio to collect amphibians and fishes. (The Clark Hill bonebed, being Permian and thus "off our turf," was promptly relinquished to Dick Beerbower.) In 1956 a swarm of Harvards in three parties prospected most of the Carboniferous outcrops of Nova Scotia, accumulating fishes, amphibians, and trackways from new localities (Grand Etang, Florence upright trees) as well as classic sites. This Acadian reconnaissance shaped my field activities for decades to come.

A curatorial grant from Mrs. Agassiz running out, I moved on to an assistant curatorship at Princeton under the unpredictable Glenn L. Jepsen. As it turned out, my curatorial responsibilities also included Recent skeletons, important archaeological and ethnological collections, and (later on) the fossil invertebrates and plants as well. It pays to be versatile! It also leads to publications in fields far from VP. Princeton's historic concentration on Early Cenozoic and Cretaceous biostratigraphy certainly broadened me professionally, as did 1958's summer field work in southeastern Montana under Marrshall Lambert's expert guidance. Although Princeton traditionally "went west" for fossils, I joined forces with a number of dedicated New Jersey amateurs who, with proper encouragement, poured quantities of Triassic and Jurassic dinosaur tracks and Cretaceous reptile bones (plus a multituberculate femur!) into the museum's collections. And with the discovery of the first Triassic reptile bones in Nova Scotia by Bill Take of the Provincial Museum, my field work expanded to take in procolophonids, rhynchosaurs, dicynodonts, gomphodonts, and pseudosuchians. Then we hired Jack Horner...and found ourselves in a hubbub of exciting dinosaurian discoveries.

Meanwhile Princeton had been putting a gradual but inexorable squeeze on vertebrate paleontology and the exhibits museum. When the department voted in 1985 to donate the entire VP collection to Yale, the party was clearly over, and I, too, needed a new haven. So in 1988 I retired as "Director and Curator"-empty titles!-and moved back to Pittsburgh, to a house a few blocks from Carnegie Museum. Reverting to the Coal Measures, for the past decade I've been teamed with Bob Hook to exploit a rich trove of Pennsylvanian amphibians and fishes from strip mines at Five Points, Ohio-a rest-of-my-life project for sure. (Don Baird)

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Stanley J. Olsen

Born, Akron, Ohio, June 24, 1919; married Eleanor Louise Vinez, June 20, 1942; one son, John Wilfred Olsen, born Concord, Massachusetts, December 4, 1955; USNR, October 1942-November 1945; staff member Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (Department of Vertebrate Paleontology), December 1945- February 1956; field work: Devonian of Canada; Colombia, South America; British Honduras; Mexico; Tertiary fossil beds of Wyoming, Utah, and Florida; Permian fossil beds of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Permo-Triassic of Colorado; Vertebrate Paleontologist with the Florida Geological Survey, February 1956-June 1968; member of participating faculty, Department of Geology, Florida State University, 1957-1968, Department of Anthropology, Florida State University, Associate Professor, September 1968-June 1972, Professor, September 1972-June 1973; Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, Zooarchaeologist Arizona State Museum, July 1973-; Member of Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (President 1965-1966), Society for the Study of Evolution, Society of Mammalogists, Society for American Archaeology, American Society of Systematic Zoologists, Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Explorers Club (Fellow), The Society of Sigma Xi, Company of Military Historians (Fellow). Specializing in vertebrate osteology and historical archaeology. All classes of vertebrates, particularly those forms found in archaeological sites, military archaeology, underwater archaeology. Beginnings of animal domestication, particularly China, Soviet Asia. Research in China (Tibet), Nepal, India, USSR, Sweden, Great Britain, Colombia, and the United States. Teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses in zooarchaeology, Tertiary faunas in association with hominids, historical archaeology, and specialized graduate seminars relating to faunal analysis and historical archaeology. (Stanley J. Olsen)

Richard Tedford

I'm deeply grateful and honored by election as an Honorary Member and I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the people who, through my 50-year love affair with vertebrate paleontology, have been important in guiding my career.

During my undergraduate years at U.C. Los Angeles, I was fortunate to meet the pioneering paleornithologist Loye H. Miller and through him the paleomammalogist Chester Stock of CalTech. They helped me decide to change my career from existence as an organic chemist to life as a vertebrate paleontologist. Loye Miller had already retired and Chester Stock died in 1951, so I elected to go to U.C. Berkeley to follow my new resolve. Eight years later, with two years serving Uncle Sam, I got my Ph.D. in 1959. R. A. Stirton was my major professor and he had a major orienting effect on my career, especially in 1953 when we were Fulbright Scholars in Australia looking for Tertiary faunas in the interior of the continent. That trip initiated a research program I still follow and a dozen or more expeditions to central Australia from the 1950s into the 1980s. Stirton, Don Savage, and the irascible micropaleontologist Bob Kleinpell honed my interests in phylogeny, zoogeography, biostratigraphy, the dynamics of faunal change, and development of the stratigraphic record of mammals. All of these themes I have returned to repeatedly in my career.

During those years, Berkeley had a motley band of VP graduate students who made their mark on me including Wann Langston, the returned WWII vets Ted Downs, Bob Fields, and Arnold Shotwell. Malcolm McKenna, Les Marcus, and I were boys that luckily missed out on the Korean War and Bill Clemens was a local kid who entered the paleo program as an undergraduate.

I finished my dissertation on the job at the then young general campus at U.C. Riverside teaching geology for seven years and spending time initiating the VP program there and acquiring its supporting collection.

The miraculous opportunity to come to the AMNH in 1966 led me to Nirvana and I have yet to come back to earth! The legendary Frick Collection of Neogene mammals had just been made available for study following Childs Frick's death in 1965. It included tens of thousands of fossils lovingly collected over 40 years, from nearly every corner of the USA, only a fraction of which had ever reached the literature. The carnivore collection alone contained a record of this group so rich that it boggled the mind. Perhaps this explains why, 30 years later, the Carnivora still have their teeth in me!

Through the years I have benefitted enormously from interaction with my colleagues in the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology and in other AMNH departments, but I want to mention two protean figures who were part of the Frick Laboratory and responsible for amassing significant parts of that collection. Under Morris Skinner and Ted Galusha's tutelage, I was willingly subjected to an intensive training program in the complexity of stratigraphic data surrounding much of the Frick Collection. The knowledge gained of so many sites not described in the literature has been fundamental to my use of the collection. Their friendship and willingness to share their lifetime knowledge has meant a great deal to me.

Last, but not least, I want to thank the legions of vertebrate paleontologists many of you whom I have been privileged to meet over the last 30 years at the AMNH. I have learned much from you in our discussions in the office and especially in the collections.

So thank you again for this honor. I shall cherish it! (Dick Tedford)

John S. McIntosh

Insert Jack's bio here, if received in time. Otherwise, just include a short blurb.

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- **NEWS FROM MEMBERS** -

AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Museum

John Long has been busy over the last six months working up research from his three-month stay in Paris last year on ptyctodontid placoderms, and recently submitted the first

of a series of papers redescribing taxa to *Gaia*, the new format for the *Bulletin of the Museum of Natural History, Paris*. In April we had Arthur Cruickshank here from Leicester, working with John on the Kalbarri pliosaurids and other Mesozoic reptile bits that had been found from all over Western Australia. This resulted in a manuscript describing a new species of *Leptocelidus* from Western Australia, and another paper describing isolated plesiosaur and pliosaur isolated bones from throughout the state. Another paper recently submitted, and one much awaited by sarcopterygian enthusiasts, is the monograph describing the cranial anatomy of the Gogo osteolepiform *Gogonasus andrewsae* by John, Ken Campbell, and Dick Barwick. It is to be published later in 1996 by the Western Australian Museum as a special supplement (orders and enquiries to Anne Ousey, Western Australian Museum, Francis Street, Perth). Field work sponsored by the National Geographic Society continued in July, with the discovery of a new Devonian fish site in the Carnarvon Basin in the Famennian horizons. At this stage material is unprepared and will need a lot of work before a faunal list can be ascertained. The last week in the field was bedogged by heavy rains and floods cutting off the road- 1.4 m of water over the main highway just south of our camp! In September John will go back to South Africa and join field work searching for Devonian vertebrates in the Bokkeveld Group with Eric Anderson, John Almond, Johann Loock, Patrick Bender, and Fiona Evans, and attend the PSSA meeting later in the month. We are also getting busy for next year's vertebrate paleontology meeting to be held here in Perth (see ad in Calendar of Events). (John Long)

CANADA

(The following news was delayed from the October 1996 issue.)

Heritage Branch, Yukon Department of Tourism

Work on the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre continues apace, with opening scheduled for May 1996. I managed brief expeditions to Old Crow and Dawson City, and plan to see Dick Harington in late August to go through the goldfields and examine miners' discoveries.

I am trying to build a database of Yukon specimens and localities. If your institution has Yukon collections and I haven't approached you yet, could you please 1) let me know, and 2) if at all possible, fax or e-mail data. Thank you to all who are able to help. (John Storer)

Royal Saskatchewan Museum (Regina) and Eastend Fossil Research Station (Eastend)

This summer's activities have centered around cleaning up old quarries and miscellaneous excavations. Of note is the recovery of an early Oligocene brontothere skeleton discovered this past May; though mostly complete it is rather crushed. A number of *Triceratops* remains have been located in the Maastrichtian Frenchman Formation but will have to wait until next year for excavation. There are also several microvertebrate

sites, three of which have been bagged and are awaiting processing. The closest site to the K-T boundary is approximately 12 m.

The preparation of the *T. rex* skeleton is on temporary hold. Don Stoffregen and volunteers will resume this work in September. The preparation of the large mosasaur skeleton from the Campanian/Maastrichtian Bearpaw Formation collected last year is nearing completion. This is being accomplished by Melanie Vovchuk and volunteers.

Tim Tokaryk has finished a short paper of juvenile *Triceratops* from the Frenchman Formation. Next on his list will be the small theropods from the same formation. Illustrations will be done by volunteer Andrea Tait. (Tim Tokaryk)

This spring Hans Sues, in collaboration with Dino Frey and Wolfgang Munk (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Karlsruhe), continued excavation of the richly fossiliferous latest Permian fissure filling near Korbach/Hesse. A preliminary report on that site (by Hans and Wolfgang) has just been published. Highlights of recent collections include a partial captorhinid skull and additional jaws with teeth of *Procynosuchus*. Hans, Dino, and Wolfgang are also working on a monographic study of *Coelurosauravus jaekeli*, based especially on a virtually complete new specimen from Thuringia.

Barely back in town, Hans departed for field work with Jim Clark and Pete Kroehler to recover Triassic marine reptiles in Nevada. During the summer, Hans finished a number of manuscripts including a detailed description of newly recognized material referable to *Chirostenotes* and various book chapters on dinosaurian topics. Now Hans has turned his attention back to his studies of Triassic tetrapods from the Neward Supergroup. Ably assisted by local expert George Hrynewich, he and Ian Morrison spent a week in August in Nova Scotia collecting material. Hans has also commenced work with Robert Reisz and Bob Sullivan on a review of the cranial structure in *Coelophysis bauri*, partially motivated by his collaboration with Paul Olsen examining a new theropod specimen from the Newark Supergroup. (Hans Sues)

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology

With Dave Eberth running the show in Dinosaur Provincial Park, Don Brinkman in charge at Devil's Coulee, and Betsy Nicholls exploring the Triassic of British Columbia from the seat of a helicopter, the Royal Tyrrell Museum has enjoyed one of its most extensive and productive field seasons ever.

The Horseshoe Canyon Formation is beginning to belie its reputation as a rather barren unit of rock. Yet another ornithomimid was collected (? *Struthiomimus*) this summer, this one from higher up in the formation. It is complete from the tip of the tail to the middle of its rib cage, with the front end in worse shape and dipping down, folded over on itself. Finally, the skull of *Euoplocephalus* was just delivered to the museum in a cardboard box. Site investigation revealed postcranial material running into the hill. Added to work over the last few years, these discoveries will allow us to significantly increase the ratio of real to cast material in the dinosaur gallery.

We've had a very active and successful summer in Dinosaur Provincial Park. Supported by paying volunteers, the museum completed five separate excavations. Postcranial remains of what is probably *Prosaurolophus*, as well as the pelvis and partial hindlimbs of *Albertosaurus* were collected. The first systematic excavation of a classic, multigeneric bonebed was undertaken, and two monogeneric, ceratopsian bonebeds were studied. The multigeneric bonebed yielded more than 700 mapped and collected specimens to provide a database for comparison with surface-collected specimens.

Brief field trips from the Park to exposures of the Judith River Group along the South Saskatchewan River yielded a partial unidentified ankylosaur and the consistent occurrences of three apparently discontinuous ceratopsian bonebeds. This means we have now identified 12 ceratopsian bonebeds in the region.

Stephen Godfrey is well on his way to completion of a general consideration of the anatomy, geology, and life style of our juvenile *Albertosaurus libratus*, which was discovered in 1990 in Dinosaur Provincial Park.

The latest Devil's Coulee egg block just revealed its most exciting contents, the nearly complete left maxilla of an *Alphadon*.

Andy Neuman continues investigation of Lower Triassic fishes from Wapiti Lake and other areas in western Canada, as well as working with Mark Wilson and Don Brinkman on Upper Cretaceous fishes. The complete skull of a Jurassic saurichthyid was collected by Russell Hall of the University of Calgary, which represents only the second record of this family in the Jurassic of the Western Hemisphere.

Bruce Naylor and Jim Gardener will be looking at some of Dan Chure's Morrison salamanders once preparation is complete later this fall.

Xiao-chun Wu continues to work on *Leidyosuchus* with Don Brinkman and Tony Russell. Six undescribed skulls and many isolated lower jaws will allow a full revision and ontogenetic study of the genus. Papers coauthored with Tony Russell on dinosaur systematics and functional morphology have been accepted for publications. (Bruce Naylor)

Université de Montréal, Laboratoire de Paléoanthropologie

Thesis research is progressing for Pierrette Hart, Michel Chartier, Martin Dubreuil, Julie Roy, and Guylaine Germain. Other students in the lab work on topics which are not paleontologically oriented, but are still within the broad realm of evolutionary studies. Isabelle Légaré is studying the changes given to the relative importance of hunting and gathering as a means of good procurement. Damienne Stordeur is studying how evolutionary medicine uses ethnographic analogy for the construction of scenarios of human adaptation in the Paleolithic. André Costopoulos will be attempting to build a model and simulation of the exchange of lithic raw materials in northern Fennoscandia just before the metal age.

For Martin and Michel, university work has been slowed down due to their involvement in a new museum. Montréal, despite its fairly large population, has never had a museum devoted primarily to paleontology, and we hope to remedy this situation. For the time being, the "Museum of Paleontology and Evolution" exists only on paper, but its founders are working hard to make the project a reality. The museum's team also includes retired vertebrate paleontologist Yvon Pageau (formerly UQAM), high school teacher Albert Cornu, earth sciences educator Michel Moisan, Ph.D., student Victor Reynoso (McGill), and avocational paleontologists Mario Cournoyer and Nathalie Daoust (who have their own company, PaléoVision, giving lectures in schools about paleontology). The first step towards the establishment of a permanent exhibit was the construction, in Old Montréal, of a temporary summer exhibit which attracted more than a thousand visitors. We feel that this was very good attendance, given the modest size of the exhibit (1600 sq ft), its duration (three-day weekends from late June until the end of August), and the limited publicity. The exhibit featured fossils from Québec and the other eastern provinces, as well as Alberta's dinosaurs. It cost about $500, financed in large part by museum memberships, and was ingeniously built using recycled wood, paint, and other materials. Rent was paid by PaléoVision. Most of the fossils displayed came from the founders' and their friends' private collections. External support, in the form of specimens, was provided by the Redpath Museum, Miguasha, Royal Ontario Museum, and Research Casting International, among others. We thank our friends at these institutions for helping us in our endeavors. We now hope that our summer exhibit caught the attention of local government officials and private corporations so that we can secure funds for the pursuit of a permanent exhibit. (Michel Chartier)

University of Victoria Centre for Earth and Ocean Sciences

Rufus Churcher and Lee McKenzie McAnally of the University of Victoria carried out a brief three-day survey of the north shore of the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the vicinity of Carmanah Point this summer. The Canadian Coastguard flew us in by helicopter and Gerry Etzorn, the lighthouse keeper, and his wife Janet and children Jake and Justine made us welcome with warm meals in one of the unoccupied keepers' cottages. We spent three days prowling the beaches at low tides accompanied by the keeper or members of his family, locating bones that had been noted by Lee on an earlier visit and by members of the family, and finding others. Most of the specimens appeared to be cetacean, with vertebrae the most common, either isolated or in groups, some rib fragments, a few pectoral girdle or limb elements, fragments of, or partial skulls, and one fairly complete skeleton. One partial skull appeared to represent another mammal, possibly a seal. In all, we observed about 50 specimens better than bone fragments.

The fossils lie within a poor quality sandstone or siltstone, with a few shale beds separating the siltstone layers, and some are associated with coarse sands, gravels, or coarse clastic units. The local stratigraphy is complex and the geological history in the locality unclear. The strata and fossils are part of the late Paleogene Hesquiat Formation. Lee and I are now arranging for a few of the important fossils to be saved from the ravages of the ocean as the locations all lie within the Pacific Rim National Park and thus may not be collected without special licenses. (Rufus Churcher)

FRANCE

Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, URA 1365 du CNRS, at Villeneuve d'Ascq

The best new that we can give here is that our past graduate student Claire Derycke got a permanent assistantprofessor position ("Maitre de Conferences") in our lab. Claire is involved mainly in Devonian-Carboniferous vertebrate microremains from northern France and Belgium. An extraordinary assemblage from Turkey has yielded radiolarians, ostracodes, conodonts, foraminifers, and vertebrate microremains. It will be very useful for worldwide biostratigraphical correlations. Claire is also working on new material from the USA (W. Gross's collection, University of Göttingen, Germany), and Mauretania whose first Paleozoic ichthyofauna mainly composed of chondrichthyans has been found. Claire's Ph.D. thesis on Late Devonian-Early Carboniferous vertebrate microremains found between the Channel and the Rhine River (systematics, biostratigraphy, paleobiogeography) is presently in press in the Mémoires du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle/Cahiers de Paléontologie (MNHN/CNRS copublication).

Richard Cloutier has been working at the Parc de Miguasha, Québec, for the past year. He continued his bedbybed analysis of the Upper Devonian Escuminac Formation, north of the Chaleur Bay, with special interest in sequence analysis, geochemistry, taphonomy of fishes, event stratigraphy, and paleoenvironment. Recent palynological data from the formation has confirmed a middle Frasnian age based on miospores (Cloutier et al., 1996, Rev. Palaeobot. Palynol.). It has also yielded unexpected acritarchs which suggest a transitional marine rather than a freshwater environment. A great deal of his research on the Escuminac Formation just came out during the summer (Schultze and Cloutier [eds.], 1996, Devonian Fishes and Plants of Miguasha, Quebec, Canada. Verlag Dr. F. Pfeil, München, 374 pp.) including a morphological study of *Cheirolepis* (with Gloria Arratia), *Miguashaia, Scaumenacia, Fleurantia, Quebecius*, and *Holoptychius* (with HansPeter Schultze). In addition Richard wrote on the taphonomy of the Escuminac fishes (with Norman Parent) and on a cluster analysis of the Givetian-Frasnian fish assemblages (with HansPeter). Other subjects on which Richard works include a biostratigraphical survey of the Lower Devonian Atholville fish beds from New Brunswick, a CTscan analysis of *Eusthenopteron* and *Elpistostege*, and an ontogenetic study of toothplates of *Scaumenacia*.

Alain Blieck is mainly involved with editing (in collaboration with Susan Turner, Brisbane, Australia) of the IGCP 328: Palaeozoic Microvertebrates Final Report as a Courier ForschungsInstitut Senckenberg volume. This will cover all the Paleozoic systems with emphasis on marine/nonmarine correlations. Susan and Alain are also waiting for the publishing of the second part of the Gross Symposium volume in *Modern Geology* (resulting from our IGCP 328 midterm major meeting held in Göttingen, Germany, 1993). The first part was published in *Modern Geology*, 1996, 20(3-4):203-410. These activities are (partly) responsible for our delay in finishing to write the Handbook of Paleoichthyology, Vol. 1 on "agnathans." New programs include: 1) a collaboration with V. N. Talimaa (Vilnius, Lithuania) on the Early Devonian

heterostracans of Severnaya Zemlya, Russia, under the banner of IGCP 406: Circum-Arctic Lower-Middle Palaeozoic Vertebrates; 2) a continuation of studies on the Early Devonian heterostracans of Spitsbergen by student C. Bexiga from the University of Algarve, at Faro, Portugal (also under IGCP 406); 3) a new project with Polish colleagues (including M. Ginter, University of Warsaw) on the Devonian- Carboniferous of the Holy Cross Mountains, Poland; 4) a new project with Portuguese colleagues (including J. P. Andrade, University of Algarve) on the Devonian-Carboniferous of the South Portuguese Zone. (Alain Blieck)

GERMANY

Because of the problem in electronic transmission of files, printing errors occurred in the news report from Tübingen (Institut und Museum für Paläontologie und Zoologisches Institut, Universität Tübingen) in the October 1996 issue of the *News Bulletin* (no. 168:38-41). Tübingen was incorrectly printed as "Tgen." Martin Rückling was misprinted as "Martin Rg." Axel Hungerbühler was misprinted as "Axel Hungerb." We regret these errors.

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

Hans-Peter Schultze started in July 1994 as director of the Institut für Paläontologie of the Museum für Naturkunde of Humboldt University in Berlin. He had at the time the possibility to increase the number of curators and buy some much needed equipment. The labs are in the process of being built, but we have not yet started the general restoration of the building. Actually, there are ten permanent curator positions (two for paleobotany, four for invertebrate paleontology, three for vertebrate paleontology, and one for stratigraphic collections), three five-year positions (one for each paleobotany, invertebrate and vertebrate paleontology), and two full professor positions. In addition, we have postdocs supported by several international institutions, and graduate students. The institute has 16 technical employees.

Hans-Peter organized a one-day symposium on E. Beyrich, the first director of the museum (1889-1896) and director of geology/paleontology. He was mainly a stratigrapher who established the Oligocene and even published few papers on fossil vertebrates (e.g., xenacanthids and *Semnopithecus*). The contributions of the symposium will be published in *Zeitschrift deutsche geol. Ges.*, 1997. Hans-Peter still finds time for research outside his administrative duties and from time to time he escapes to Lawrence, Kansas, where he can hide in the collections and do research quietly. This spring, the Miguasha book edited by Schultze and Cloutier (Devonian Fishes and Plants of Miguasha, Quebec, Canada; 374 pp.) was published by Verlag Dr. Pfiel. Dr. Pfiel has put out an excellent product with a very attractive price (US $50). The stratigraphic work on Hans-Peter's expedition to the eastern Canadian Arctic in 1975 has finally been published (Langenstrassen and Schultze, 1996) in *N. Jb. Geol. Paläontol., Abh.*, 201:33-93. A monograph on the North American *Sagenodus* (Hans-Peter and John Chorn, Lawrence) has been submitted for publication. Hans-Peter and John started a new project on the description of sarcopterygian fishes from the Upper Devonian of southwestern Colorado,

based on material collected by them in 1993. Currently Hans-Peter is trying to finish two projects, a chapter on intertidal fishes in a book on intertidal fish ecology, behavior, and physiology by Horn, Martin, and Chotkowski, and a contribution on muscle preservation for a taphonomy volume.

Gloria Arratia is very busy with the organization of the Second Meeting of Mesozoic Fishes-Systematics and the Fossil Record which will be held in Buchow, near Berlin, July 6-11, 1997. Gloria is happy with the recent publication of two paleontological books: 1) Contributions of Southern South America to Vertebrate Paleontology, published as a special volume of the *Müncher Geowissenschaftliche Abhandlungen* (342 pp; G. Arratia, ed.). The volume contains nine chapters on South American vertebrates. 2) Mesozoic Fishes-Systematics and Paleoecology published by Verlag Dr. Pfeil. This book contains 37 papers (572 pp.) dealing with systematics of elasmobranchs, primitive and advanced actinopterygians, sarcopterygians, the fossil record of certain localities, and paleoecology. Gloria continues with her research in fossil and Recent teleosts. Currently she has in press a monograph on basal teleosts and teleostean phylogeny.

Peter Bartsch recently moved from the University of Tübigen to the Institute of Systematic Zoology at the museum. Because his research includes fossil and Recent fishes, he is also included in this report. Currently, Peter is mostly working on ontogenetic studies, especially developmental studies of Polypteriformes; he has prepared a long manuscript that will be published in *Acta Zoologica*.

Gottfried Böhme studies isolated remains of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles of Quaternary freshwater deposits. It is possible to identify the material by comparison with extant European species. The sequence of localities through time shows the development of these groups and of the climate in Central Europe; however, the interpretation might be complicated due to taphonomic processes. Gottfried has published an extensive study of fish remains of the Eem interglacial in the Niederlausitz in a special issue of a local series. He also wrote the historical development of the herpetological fauna of Central Europe in R. Günter's book "Die Amphibien und Reptilien Deutschlands."

Jorge Casciotta (La Plata Museum) visited the Institute for three months with support of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Program) to continue his research on *Lepidosiren*. He had a very successful stay. Two manuscripts are in preparation, one on the vertebral column and associated elements (with Gloria) and another on tooth plates and tooth plate-bearing bones in fossil and Recent *Lepidosiren* (with Hans-Peter).

Karlheinz Fischer continues his research on *Elephas antiquus*. He has finished the study of a male and a female from the Eem interglacial of Gröbern near Bitterfeld. In 1995 he started with the study of the very rich *E. antiquus* locality (24 specimens) in the Geiseltal near Merseburg. At present he has only to add additional material of the *Homo erectus* locality of Bilzingsleben. An undescribed skeleton of the *Mammuthus primigenius* studied for comparison was also described and published (*Berliner geowiss. Abhandl*., E18, 1996). The specimen was discovered in Eem (warm!) interglacial deposits. On the

side, Karlheinz works on Oligocene birds. He has a manuscript on a rail and a frigate bird in press.

Oliver Hampe recently moved from the University of Mainz to the Institute. This year he started a revision of xenacanthids from the Carboniferous of the British Isles; he is also busy, together with J. Long from Perth, with the histology of Devonian shark teeth from Antarctica. Oliver and U. Heidtke (Bad Dürkheim) have finished a manuscript about a new xenacanthid shark, the second-oldest known articulated specimen, from the Namurian B of the Sauerland area, Germany. Oliver's paper on the description of a baleen whale from the Upper Miocene of the Niederrhein area, West Germany, with a brief consideration of certain systematic problems in fossil balaenopterid and cetotherian whales, appeared during the fall.

Wolf-Dieter Heinrich continues his studies on the evolution and biochronology of arvicolids (voles and lemmings) in the Late Cenozoic of Eurasia. Special attention was given to fossil remains of the water vole (*Arvicola*) which were recovered from middle Pleistocene deposits in Europe. A comprehensive paper about Late Cenozoic sequences of mammalian sites is in preparation together with O. Fejfar (Prague), M. A. Pevzner, and E. A. Vangengeim (both from Moscow). Moreover, Wolf-Dieter was specially concerned with evolutionary changes in the dentition of *Trogontherium cuvieri*, an extinct beaver which was widely dispersed in Eurasia from late Pliocene to middle Pleistocene. Two posters dealing with this species and the correlation of Late Cenozoic rodent biochronology to magnetostratigraphy in Europe (the latter together with O. Fejfar and E. H. Lindsay, Tucson, Arizona) were presented at the congress "The Dawn of the Quaternary" (The Netherlands, 1996). Wolf-Dieter also continued his program of microvertebrate sampling in matrix of the Late Jurassic Tendaguru Beds collected by the German Tendaguru Expedition (1909-13) in East Africa. The mammalian remains, a molar of a triconodontid and a fragmentary dentary of an eupantothere, deserve special attention; in addition, teeth of dinosaurs and remains of lizards were obtained. Four proposals for projects on Tendaguru material (fauna of Tendaguru [Wolf-Dieter and coworkers] and the physiology [H.-C. Gunga, Free University, Berlin], functional morphology [Hans-Peter with A. Christian, Bochum], and ontogeny [M. Sander, Bonn] of dinosaurs) are pending at the German Science Foundation.

Jürgen Kriwet has started research for his doctoral thesis on the jaw articulation and dentition of pycnodontiform fishes. Besides this, current research projects include ongoing work on shark teeth from the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous of Spain (a pleasant field trip to Spain this summer yielded a lot of new material). A redescription of the hybodontid shark *Lissodus microselachos* from the Barremian of Spain is underway (together with K. Kussius, Free University, Berlin). A manuscript on Coniacian sharks from northern Germany is almost finished. During the SVP meeting in New York Jürgen met Jerry Case and had a look at his shark tooth collection, and they are now planning a project together. During the last months, Jürgen and O. Rauhut (now at the University of Bristol) and U. Gloy (Free University, Berlin) have been studying a microvertebrate fauna from the Bathonian of southern France.

Gerald Mayr is studying middle Eocene birds from Grube Messel near Darmstadt, Germany, and comparative material from other localities throughout the world for his doctoral thesis. Gerald focuses on the small "coraciiform"-like birds and their phylogenetic relationships. The research also includes osteology and phylogenetic interpretations of modern "coraciiform" birds. Gerald presented a preliminary report in June at the Symposium of the Society of Avian Evolution and Paleontology in Washington, D.C.

Markus Otto, research fellow supported by the German National Foundation, is working on two early Middle Devonian vertebrate faunas from the eastern Rhenish Massiv. A paper about the fauna of the Mühlenberg Formation has been accepted for publication in *Paläont. Zeitschrift*. The slightly younger fauna of the Brandenberg Formation contains crossopterygian and dipnoan remains, but mainly coccosteomorph arthrodires and a new tuberculated holonematid. The latter one might be described in a joint paper together with E. Mark-Kurik, Tallinn, because she, too, has found a tuberculated holonematid in the Early Eifelian of Estonia. The new material is a geographical "missing link" between the Old Red of Scotland and the Baltic countries and the Russian Platform. At the annual meeting of the German Paleontological Society Markus gave a talk on Early Devonian arctolepid placoderms from the eastern Rhenish Massiv. This material is very similar to forms described from the Wood Bay Formation of Spitsbergen. In the same meeting he demonstrated in a poster that the "soft-part animals" of the Lower Devonian Hunsrückschiefer are in reality misinterpreted hard parts of invertebrates.

Francisco Poyato-Ariza (Universidad Autónoma, Madrid) was again in Berlin for a two-month visit to continue with his research on new teleosts from the Early Cretaceous of Spain. In addition, he examined our materials for a manuscript on Spanien pycnodontiforms (with S. Wenz, Paris).

Rodrigo Soler-Gijón continues with his research fellowship on systematics of Paleozoic xenacanth sharks; two manuscripts on new xenacanths from the Stephanian of Puertollano basin (Spain) and the Permian of Muse, France. Other projects include studies on the structure and growth of skull roof bones of *Sagenodus copeanus* (with Hans-Peter and J. Chorn, Lawrence), and studies of the fish fauna (e.g., siluriform teleost, sharks, and rays) from the Late Cretaceous/ Tertiary boundary in the south-central Pyrenees (Lleida, Spain), including their paleoecology and paleobiogeography (together with paleontologists from the Universidad Complutense, Madrid). Rodrigo continues with his field work at Puertollano basin, a project supported by the Autonomous Government of Castilla-La Mancha; he plans to work in the field the last months of 1996 and to return to Berlin in January 1997.

Zhang Jiangyong (IVVP, Beijing) returned to China after a 15-month stay with us as a research fellow supported by Academia Sinica. Jiangyong has worked with excellently preserved material of the osteoglossomorph *Kuntulunia* from China and submitted a manuscript to the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

Zhu Min (from IVVP, Beijing) joined the Institut as a research fellow of the A. von Humboldt Foundation. Before he joined our group, Min attended the Goethe Institute for four months to learn German, which he uses now all the time. Since November he has worked mainly on Devonian sarcopterygians and their systematic positions. His project on the histology of galeaspids, started at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, will be completed soon. A revised version on *Sinacanthus* will be submitted to *Palaeontology*. A contribution to IGCP 328 Final Report about the Silurian and Devonian vertebrates from China is in preparation by Min and Chinese colleagues. (G. Arratia and H.-P. Schultze)

JAPAN

Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences

Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences (director, Dr. Ken'ichi Ishii) has been carrying out a joint expedition to the Gobi Desert, Mongolia, for the past four years with the Geological Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Science led by Dr. Rinchen Barsbold, a specialist in small carnivorous dinosaurs. During these four years, we found numerous vertebrate (mainly dinosaurs), invertebrate, and plant fossils from the Cretaceous continental deposits in the Gobi Desert. From 1993 to 1995, the expedition team found a flock of baby *Protoceratops*, a mass burial site of *Pinacosaurus* consisting of nearly 30 juveniles, many complete skeletons of *Protoceratops*, the complete skeleton of a primitive hadrosaur, the skeletons of variable theropods (from *Tarbosaurus* to *Mononykus*), a dinosaur nest and eggs with embryonic bones, and more. In the summer of 1996, we found more than 10,000 dinosaur footprints and trackways in a locality called Shar Tsav, situated in the southern area of the desert, and large theropod eggs with embryonic bones in a nest from Bayn Shire in the eastern Gobi region. Shinobu Ishibaki, a specialist in dinosaur footprints, is very happy to work with the huge amount of dinosaur footprints that were discovered first in Mongolia. Shigeru Suzuki, a specialist in nondinosaurian fossils, is concentrating his work on the newly discovered, wellpreserved specimens of a poorly studied turtle, *Mongolcheys*, of Late Cretaceous age. The specimens include several skulls. Mahito Watabe is struggling with numerous ankylosaurian skeletons and dinosaur eggs for study. In this joint expedition, the following specialists participated from the United States: David Fastovsky, sedimentologist, University of Rhode Island; David Weishampel, dinosaur vertebrate paleontologist, The Johns Hopkins University; Doug Nichols, palynologist, USGS; and Dan Brinkmann, geologist, Yale University. In the expedition of 1997, a magnetostratigrapher and a paleobotanist will also participate. Comprehensive analysis of the Cretaceous continental deposits bearing vertebrate fossils by vertebrate paleontology, geochronology, sedimentology, and paleobotany is the purpose of the joint expedition. For preparation of the vertebrate specimens, Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences is seeking a preparator (see Positions Available). (Mahito Watabe)

MONGOLIA

In Mongolia, heartland of dinosaurs, several joint paleontological works are going on. R. Barsbold, director of the Geological Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, identified the new primitive ornithomimids discovered from the Lower Cretaceous locality of Khuren Dukh in the eastern Gobi, in the summer of 1996. The finding is under preparation now. He also participated in the Mongolia-China-Japan joint expedition to the western part of the Gobi desert. Kh. Tsogtbaatar worked as team leader of the joint expedition team with Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences to the eastern and central part of the Gobi desert during the field season of the summer of 1996. They found more than 10,000 dinosaur footprints and trackways from the Upper Cretaceous locality of Shar Tsav in the southern Gobi region. This is the first discovery of abundant footprints and trackways of dinosaurs. His team also found a substantial dinosaur skeletal assemblage including dinosaur eggs and nest, with embryonic bones of a large theropod, from Bayn Shire in the eastern Gobi desert. Kh. Tsogtbaatar is continuing his work on the evolution of Mongolian hadrosaurs with specimens from infants to gigantic adults collected from the intact sequences of the Upper Cretaceous of the Gobi. Both R. Barsbold and Kh. Tsogtbaatar are busy with the preparation of a travelling exhibition of Mongolian dinosaurs that will be held in several European countries in 1997. This year, a special exhibition of Mongolian dinosaurs will be shown in Japan. (Kh. Tsogtbaatar)

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Comenius University, Department of Geology and Paleontology, Bratislava

Peter Holec reports his three papers: A Plio-Pleistocene large mammal fauna from Strekov and Nová Vieska, south Slovakia- *Acta zool. cracov.* ; Tertiary vertebrates from Devínska Kobyla (with M. Sabol)- *Mineralia Slovaca* ; Late Pleistocene mammals (Vertebrata, Mammalia) and gastropods (Mollusca, Gastropoda) in a young Paleolithic site from Tren_ianske Bohuslavice (with J. Kernatosová)- *Mineralia Slovaca*. An interesting contribution-A primitive phocid from the Badenian stage (early Miocene) of central Paratethys (with I. Koretsky)-was presented at the Annual Meeting of SVP in New York. (Martin Kundrát)

Comenius University, Institute of Ecology, Bratislava

Jozef Klembara continues his studies on seymouriamorph tetrapod *Discosauriscus* from the Boskovice Furrow in Moravia (Czech Republic). His revised paper on the cranial anatomy of *Discosauriscus* was accepted in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*. Jozef concluded that only one genus and two species- *Discosauriscus austriacus* and *D. pulcherimus* -may be distinguished in the Lower Permian deposits of the Boskovice Furrow at present. However, several new discosauriscid taxa from the Boskovice Furrow await description. The revision of the postcranial anatomy of *Discosauriscus* (together with Ivan Bartík) is nearing completion. The paper on the lateral line system (including the pit-lines) of *Discosauriscus austriacus* has appeared in *Paleontographica* A 240 (1996). The description of the subdivided dermal pectoral elements of *Discosauriscus austriacus* will appear soon in *Journal of Vertebrate*

Paleontology. The study of the forelimb of ? *Seymouria* from the Bromacker (Germany) is in progress (together with Thomas Martens from Gotha and Ivan Bartík).

Ivan Bartík (Department of Zoology) defended his master's thesis on the postcranial anatomy of larval and metamorphic specimens of *Discosauriscus austriacus*. He started his postgraduate program with the ontogeny of the cranial structures of several saurians.

Peter L'upták continues his studies of the ontogeny and the morphology of the bullar structures in Mustelidae. His first evidence of *Perunium ursogulo* in Slovakia appeared in *Slovak Geological Magazine* 2 (1995) and the description of *Ictitherium viverrinum* from the Upper Miocene of western Slovakia appeared in *Geologica Carpathica* 46 (1995). (Jozef Klembara)

Division of Paleontology and Zoology, Gemer-Malohont Museum Rimavská Sobota

Martin Kundrát changed his position to Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology and Zoology at Gemer-Malohont Museum in Rimavská Sobota in September 1996, where he has started and headed the extensive international paleontological project Expedition Hajná_ka 1996-2000 with the cooperation of Prof. Old_ich Fejfar (Prague, Czech Republic) and Dr. Lorenzo Rook (Florence, Italy) on the famous Pliocene locality Hajná_ka near Rimavská Sobota, southern Slovakia. He continues his developmental studies on the chondro- and osteocrania of *Pseudopus apodus* and *Anguis fragilis*, which he has enriched about the Recent archosaur species *Crocodylus siamensis*. Martin finished his papers on the interesting fossil skull of the lesser panda from the Plio-Pleistocene V_eláre locality, Slovakia. He will present some of his scientific results at the Fifth International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology in Bristol and at the Third World Herpetology Congress in Prague. (Martin Kundrát)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Southeast Region

Columbus State University (formerly Columbus College)

The institutional name has changed, but it is the same old wine. We are currently finishing up a few old projects, upgrading collections and cataloguing, and planning for spring and summer field work on deinosuchid crocodiles. This fall, David Schwimmer received a twoyear grant from the National Geographic Society to further investigate the paleobiology of *Deinosuchus rugosus*. This will include field and museum work by David and Dent Williams to expand knowledge of its morphology, occurrences, and feeding traces (discussed in a paper presented at SVP this past fall: Abstracts p. 64A). We will be visiting museum collections at Austin (courtesy of Wann Langston), and field localities which have produced other species of *Deinosuchus* (i. e., *D. riograndensis* and *D. hatcheri*) to better understand the interrelationships (or lack of such) among these monster Cretaceous crocs.

Crocodiles aside, three papers are in press or review from our lab. These include: the *Squalicorax* shark scavenging study, coauthored by David, J. D. Stewart (LACM), and Dent, due out this February in volume 12(1) of *Palaios* ; a taxonomic note on *Xiphactinus vetus* in (hopefully final) review at *JVP* ; and a study of the taphonomy of eastern US Cretaceous dinosaurs, in review for the Dinofest Symposium volume.

Finally, there is a theme session for the Southeastern Section, Geological Society of America to be convened (and hopefully attended) by David in Auburn, Alabama, this March. The session is entitled "Recent Advances in Southeastern Vertebrate Paleontology." Hopefully, VP will have recently advanced in the Southeast. (David Schwimmer)

Florida Museum of Natural History/University of Florida

Our PaleoFest96 was a huge success! Over 350 people attended the festivities which included workshops, the unveiling of our new mounted *Equus* skeleton from Leisey (Irvingtonian), an auction of casts and paleoart, a book sale, a talk by Lou Jacobs, good food, and good company. PaleoFest96 raised enough money that we topped off endowments for graduate students (the Jerry Britt Paleobiology Award), the fossil horse club (Pony Express), and the Natural Sciences Department of the museum.

Bruce MacFadden has been appointed interim chair of the Department of Natural Sciences of the museum. He has also kept busy by teaching evolution and working on a study of the latitudinal gradient of C4 grasses by examining the stable carbon isotopes in New World Pleistocene *Equus*. He's had three papers accepted for publication, one regarding the origin of gazing guilds will be published in TREE (Trends in Ecology and Evolution), another regarding *Onohippidium* of Tarija, Bolivia, has been accepted by *JVP*, and the third (with Bruce Shockey) will be published in *Paleobiology*.

Dave Webb, and his students Bricky Way, Phil Di Girolamo, and the vertebrate paleontology class reopened Haile 7C ("the sloth site"). This locality preserves a rich Blancan fauna which includes several South American immigrants, many turtles, including an apparently new snapping turtle taxon, and at least nine avian species currently being studied by Steve Emslie. Perhaps the most intriguing of the Haile bestiary is a primitive new species of *Eremotherium*, represented by six semiarticulated skeletons. A film crew from the Discovery Channel shot some of the activities which included the flipping of a jacket of the pelvis + sacrum of this giant sloth, and riding it down a 60-foot slope of wet clay at a 60% grade (ever so gently, of course).

Dave Webb enjoyed participating in the preSVP Proboscidean Symposium, along with two former students, David Lambert and Joe Dudley. We congratulate Hezy Shoshani for providing excellent organization and leadership, and we are delighted to work with Hezy on reformulating this lively circus as a semipopular publication of elephant evolution.

In addition to his regular duties, and the tremendous workload of PaleoFest, Marc Frank has held several statewide workshops for public school teachers. The topic for these workshops was Florida fossils. (Bruce J. Shockey)

Georgia Southern University

Richard Hulbert attended NAPC-96 and the annual SVP meeting, and presented talks on Eocene protocetid whales and (with coauthor C. R. Harington) a Pliocene High Arctic horse. Along with Frank Whitmore (USNM), Richard has been studying the mammals from the Mauvilla local fauna. This Hemphillian site from coastal Alabama has been noted in the literature under various names, but its fossils have never been critically examined until now. The *Synthetoceras* turns out to be distinct from *S. tricornatus* (contra Patton and Taylor, 1971), and represents a new, smaller species. It and four equids make up the bulk of the fauna. The site's age is slightly younger than previously thought, late early rather than very early Hemphillian. The results of this study will be presented at the Southeastern Section GSA spring meeting in Auburn.

On the publishing front, a short note describing a new species of *Erethizon* from the late Pliocene Haile 7C site in Florida was submitted to *JVP*. Several other manuscripts, including the long-awaited description of the Georgia protocetid, should have been completed and submitted by the time you are reading this. Ann Pratt taught VP during the fall quarter, the first time it has been taught at GSU in over seven years! (Richard Hulbert)

LSU Museum of Natural Sciences

The Fort Polk Miocene sites from western Louisiana have now yielded remains from 24 taxa of mammals and 14 lower vertebrates, including new carnivores and artiodactyls. Funding has been received for additional research from US Army FORSCOM, on a contract via Fort Worth District, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Prewitt and Associates. Suyin Ting has taken over management of our bulk acid lab used in processing the conglomerates from Fort Polk and has reorganized and redesigned it for greater efficiency and ease of use. She is currently working on the squirrels from Fort Polk.

Judith Schiebout made a presentation on the lower vertebrates from Fort Polk at the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists 76th Annual Meeting and on how the Fort Polk microvertebrate sites compared to those from east Texas at the Texas Academy of Science meeting. A paper by Schiebout, Megan H. Jones, John H. Wrenn, and Paul R. Aharon entitled "Age of the Fort Polk Miocene terrestrial vertebrate fossil sites" has been published in the *Gulf Coast Assoc. Geol. Soc. Transactions* for 1996. David Hinds spent the summer mapping in the Miocene of Fort Polk and has made a major change in the orientation of the boundary between the Castor Creek Member (source of the western Louisiana Barstovian mammals) and the next overlying Fleming Formation member.

Julia Sankey and Judith Schiebout received funding from The Dinosaur Society for research on paleoecology and biostratigraphy of dinosaurs and associated vertebrates from Late Cretaceous calcareous conglomerates, Talley Mountain area, Big Bend National Park, Texas. Julia spent 3½ weeks of the late fall in Big Bend mapping and collecting caliche and limestone pebble conglomerates from the Upper Aguja Formation. These are yielding both marine and terrestrial Judithian vertebrates including four genera of carnivorous dinosaurs, mammals, fish, and sharks. She also collected samples for paleomag work. Julia continues to recruit and train volunteers to work on computerizing the LSU Museum of Natural Sciences vertebrate paleontology collection and in screening and picking.

We were very pleased to have had two VP visitors this fall. Dr. Ting hosted the visit of Dr. Qiu Zhanxiang (from IVPP) as a LSU Geology Department Wilbert Lecture speaker in September. His topic was the evolutionary history of mammals in the shadow of the Tibet Plateau. In November, Tim Rowe (UT Austin) also presented a Wilbert Lecture, on using CT scanning on ancient and modern skulls, and a seminar on using multimedia in research and education in the geological sciences.

Butch Dooley spoke at NAPC96 in June on his squalodont research, which he is finishing up, aiming for a spring 1997 Ph.D. Schiebout, Ting, and Sankey attended the SVP meeting in New York, took advantage of the opportunity to see the AMNH collections, and presented posters on recent research.

Joe Slowinski is interested in preMiocene elapid fossils. He hopes that anyone who has unpublished fossils will let him know via email: naslow@unix1.sncc .LSU.edu. (Judith Schiebout)

Murray State University

We have had a busy summer and fall here. Cindy Gordon is finishing her M.S. thesis on microevolutionary tendencies in the dentition of *Microtus pennsylvanicus* from Yarbrough Cave, Georgia, through a brief period of Wisconsinan time. She will move on to a Ph.D. program at the University of Oklahoma in the spring semester. New graduate student Ryan Hurt joined us this fall, and he will likely work on a thesis dealing with the Meade Basin project begun by Bob Martin and colleagues.

Undergraduates Kelly Joy and Jim Crockett have been working since last summer on a bat project funded by a small grant from NSF EPSCoR. Bob Martin and colleague Leon DuobinisGray are directing these students in an investigation of the possible use of growth rings in bat skeletal elements to infer climatic conditions. We reported some preliminary findings at the New York SVP meeting. Most of the time has been taken up to this point by the students working out the procedures to embed and section the bones. Currently we are focusing on using some dentists' composites as embedding materials. Mike Lacki at the University of Kentucky in Lexington has kindly provided us with some modern comparative material, and Bernand Sigé (CNRS, Montpellier) will join us this spring with some older material from Europe for testing.

Bob's paper on morphological and size change in the presumed muskrat phyletic squence recently appeared in the Churcher volume edited by K. Stewart and K. Seymour. He and MSU colleague Ken Fairbanks are also awaiting the reviews of a preliminary study of community stability in the rodents of the Meade Basin of Kansas through the last four million years. Bob along with Jim Honey, Rick Zakrzewski, Eric Hiatt, Tom Goodwin, June Mirecki, and Pablo Pelaez Campomanes are collaborating on a detailed examination of rodent community evolution and climatic change in southwestern Kansas. Bob, Pablo, Jim, Cindy Gordon, and Remmert Daams spent a profitable whirlwind week last summer visiting and sampling Hibbard's old sites and new ones that Jim has discovered in recent years. We were pleased to find that most of the original quarries are accessible and still fossiliferous. Most of Bob's time is spent these days writing grant proposals to support this work. (Robert A. Martin)

Southwest Region

Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Construction of the new OMNH facility is proceeding on schedule and the building is looking huge. Planning and development of exhibits for the new museum continues apace. VP exhibits staff Beth Larson, Kyle Davies, and Mike Callaghan have completed mounting skeletons of *Tenontosaurus* and *Gomphotherium* and are busy on juvenile tenontosaurs and have started on a *Smilodon* specimen. Bill May recently finished teaching his fifth introductory class in fossil preparation. We owe a debt of gratitude to a group of volunteers who put in some 400-450 hours per month helping to prepare and mold/cast specimens. In addition to the new building, a Web page for the OMNH also is under construction; for a preliminary look of what is to come, go to http://www.ou.edu/omnh/.

Rich Cifelli has been working on numerous projects together with graduate students Randy Nydam, Dan Brinkman (Yale University), and Jim Gardner (University of Alberta), and undergraduate student Matt Wedel on various materials from the Antlers Formation in southeastern Oklahoma (for which he recently received a grant from The Dinosaur Society) and other Cretaceous projects. Rich continues his work on tooth eruption and replacement patterns in mammals, in conjunction with Pat Luckett, Tim Rowe, and a host of collaborating investigators. He is also developing a field research project in the Cloverly Formation in collaboration with Des Maxwell.

We are pleased to have Dan Brinkman continuing to work with us; Dan spent most of the fall semester here working on *Tenontosaurus* for his dissertation while also completing additional work on manuscripts with Rich on an Oklahoma *Deinonychus* and portions of a faunal paper on the Antlers Formation.

While teamteaching mammalogy this fall, Nick Czaplewski has continued working on the VP collection and database, preparing for the forthcoming move of the VP collection into the new museum building, and preparing proposals. Last summer Nick had the opportunity to make a trip to Brazil to study specimens of fossil bats at various

collections, especially that of the Pontificia Universidade Catolica-Minas Gerais amassed by Castor Cartelle (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais).

Among OU graduate students, Randy Nydam successfully completed his general exams for the Ph.D. last semester while teaching introductory zoology and herpetology labs for the Department of Zoology. He also spent a few days at the California Academy of Sciences in October collecting data from modern lizard skeletons. During the Thanksgiving weekend he accompanied a small group to Cuernavaca, Mexico, where he presented a poster on Cretaceous lizards at the Fourth National Herpetological Meeting of Mexico. The trip included two days of collecting specimens and data on *Ctenosaura pectinata* (which he says taste pretty good, too!). In addition to continuing his dissertation research on Early Cretaceous lizards of North America, Randy has been working on the fishes, turtles, crocodilians, and lizards for the Antlers faunal paper, as well as processing the recently collected lower vertebrates from the Cedar Mountain and Cloverly formations. Kent Smith continues work on his dissertation on Miocene (Barstovian) mammals from Nevada. He keeps busy teaching general biology and zoology at Oklahoma City Community College, where he is developing a course on human anatomy with cadaver dissection and preparing a summer field biology course. Meanwhile, he hopes to submit a review paper on published records of Oklahoma Pleistocene mammals together with Rich Cifelli. Cynthia Gordon will be joining us in spring 1997 as a new graduate student, having recently completed a master's degree at Murray State University under Bob Martin. (Nick Czaplewski)

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

The Museum's home page has a new address: http://www.nmmnhabq.mus.nm.us The link to Dinosaurs in New Mexico is: http://www.nmmnhabq.mus.nm.us/ nmmnh/dinosinnm.html.

Thomas Williamson continues his study of Late Cretaceous-early Paleocene vertebrate faunas of New Mexico. Tom's dissertation "The beginning of the Age of Mammals in the San Juan Basin, New Mexico: Biostratigraphy and Evolution of Paleocene mammals of the Nacimiento Formation" was published last spring as Bulletin 8 of the Museum's publication series. Tom was not able to do much field work this year because of his infant twin boys. Two of his volunteers, however, Warren Slade and Michael Tipping, found a dentary of a subadult lambeosaurine hadrosaur from the Kirtland Formation. This is the first subadult lambeoasur from New Mexico and is probably referable to *Parasaurolophus*. Tom and Robert Sullivan of the State Museum of Pennsylvania received a grant from The Dinosaur Society for their study: Revision of Lambeosaurine *Parasaurolophus* (Dinosauria: Hadrosauridae). Tom and Bob recently finished up most of their travels associated with this project (The Paleontological Museum in Uppsala, Sweden; the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; and the Field Museum, Chicago). They wish to express their thanks to all those who made their trips so productive. In Sweden, Tom was able to see the holotype of *Parasaurolophus tubicen* and was also able to examine other New Mexico fossils collected by Sternberg in 1921 including the holotype of *Pentaceratops fenestratus*, a headless ceratopsian skeleton referred to *Pentaceratops*,

and the holotype of the "mesosuchian"grade crocodylomorph *Goniopholis kirtlandicus*. At the Royal Ontario Museum, Tom and Bob examined the holotype of *Parasaurolophus walkeri* but were not able to CAT scan it; maybe in a few months. At the Field Museum they examined the holotype of *P. cyrtocristatus*. Thanks to volunteer Warren Slade, preparation is proceeding nicely on the new specimen of *Parasaurolophus* (NMMNH P-25100) collected in August 1995, and the specimen is almost ready to be flipped. Tom is also working with Ken Rose from Johns Hopkins University on describing some early Paleocene mammal postcranial material including the new "leptictid" skeleton (with Lucas), a partial skeleton of *Protoselene*, and postcranial material of various Puercan and Torrejonian arctocyonids. Tom expects to continue working on Late Cretaceous-early Paleocene rocks and fossils of the Sam Juan Basin this summer. Tom is eager to try out the museum's new field vehicle, a HMMWV (High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) purchased for the Science Division for use in field research. This is the military version of the commercially available "Hummer" or "Humvee." Our new Humvee has less than 10,000 miles on it and cost only $7,000! The supplemental armor model comes complete with bulletproof glass and body panels and a machine gun turret.

Gary Morgan is happy to report that after nearly three years of parttime contract work, he now has a permanent fulltime job as an assistant curator in paleontology at NMMNHS. Gary spent most of this past year helping pack and move the museum's paleontology and geology collections into the newly renovated Research and Education Complex, located across the street from the main museum building. The move greatly limited Gary's field work this year, but he and museum volunteers Paul Sealey and Warren Slade did make one threeday trip to southwestern New Mexico to collect Hemphillian and Blancan vertebrates in the Gila River Basin. They accomplished their primary mission which was to collect a large sample of matrix for screenwashing from the Blancan Buckhorn site, and they also spent several days excavating horses, camels, and other mammals from the late Hemphillian Walnut Canyon site. In addition to describing the vertebrate faunas from Buckhorn and Walnut Canyon and several other New Mexico Neogene sites, Gary continues to work on various projects left over from his Florida days. He recently finished papers on Florida Pleistocene pumas (with Kevin Seymour of the Royal Ontario Museum) and on the Neotropical influence in Florida Rancholabrean faunas. In November, Gary spent an enjoyable week at the Florida Museum of Natural History, participating in the Paleofest 96 activities and finishing a paper on fossil mammals from the Cayman Islands for a volume on the mammals of the West Indies being edited by Charles Woods.

Ruby Williamson was on maternity leave from January to April to take care of her newborn twin boys, Ryan and Taylor, but was back to work fulltime in May to supervise the move of the Geosciences Collections into the new Research and Education Complex across the street. After a year of preparation and anticipation, the move was completed last fall and the Geosciences Collections are now open. The new facility contains 14,302 sq ft for paleontology including the Geosciences Collections (6512 sq ft), the collection manager's office (387 sq ft), the computer/conference room (187 sq ft), an assistant curator's office (158 sq ft), and unprepared fossil storage (2700 sq ft). Construction on new curators' labs and offices (714 sq ft and 684 sq ft), and the assistant curator's lab (187

sq ft), as well as the new fossil preparation lab (2800 sq ft), is expected to be completed in early 1997. Ruby is continuing to catalogue, computerize, and organize the paleontology collection. Approximately 20% of the collection (28,000 fossil specimens) is now computerized. Ruby hopes to spend more time doing field work in 1997 and both she and proud father, Tom, are anxious for their twins to assist them with their research.

Spencer Lucas spent another 1½ months in Kazakhstan and many of you may have heard of his troubles in China.

Pete Reser and Ray Geiser completed the remounting of *Placerias* for the Petrified Forest National Monument. Pete will soon begin refurbishing the *Rutiodon* and *Desmatosuchus* mounts for the PFNM. Pete continues to buy lots of stainless steel furnishings to install in the new fossil prep lab. He continues to supervise over 40 volunteers in the FossilWorks exhibit. Excellent progress is being made on *Seismosaurus* and Pete anticipates opening our block from the famous Whitaker Quarry at Ghost Ranch this spring.

Ancheng Ma is finishing up his dissertation "The micromammals of the Early Eocene San Jose Formation, San Juan Basin, New Mexico." This year he finished curating the small fossil mammal teeth he collected from the San Jose Formation. He also spent time at the American Museum of Natural History studying their North American Wasatchian mammal faunas and made about 140 casts of selected specimens.

Andrew Heckert is finishing up his MS thesis on Late Triasssic vertebrate faunas of Fort Wingate, westcentral New Mexico. His thesis also includes lithostratigraphic correlation between several microvertebrate sites including one with three Late Triassic dinosaurs. He also collected Late Triassic vertebrates with Adrian Hunt in the area near Tucumcari, New Mexico, and in the Petrified Forest National Monument in eastern Arizona. Andrew had the opportunity to travel to Argentina in May-June to examine their Triassic aetosaurs as part of another project studying aetosaur systematics, phylogeny, and biochronology. (Tom Williamson)

Southern Methodist University

Louis Jacobs has begun his term as president of the Society, and is occasionally sighted among large stacks of email correspondences. Louis will be returning to Yemen, along with Philip Murry of Tarleton State University and Will Downs, to continue their research on Early Cretaceous dinosaurs of the Arabian peninsula. Bonnie Fine Jacobs presented some of her findings on statistical relationships between leaf form and climate at the Fifth Conference of the International Organization of Palaeobotany in Santa Barbara. She is also involved with the analysis of fossil wood from Kenya in order to supplement reconstructions of the environments of human evolution. Bonnie is currently doing a preliminary analysis of plant fossils from the Eocene Mahenge locality of Tanzania in collaboration with Terry Harrison (NYU). Dale and Alisa Winkler have seen a drop in their scientific productivity due to the birth of their second son, Dylan Nicholas, but are both still hard at work (between naps). Dale continues his field work on the central Texas *Pleurocoelus* locality, in conjunction with Jim Diffily of the Fort Worth

Museum of Science and History. In addition, Dale, Louis, and Phil have their description of a new species of *Tenontosaurus* in press in the *JVP*. Alisa is continuing her research into Neogene rodent evolution, and is also beginning an analysis of a large musk ox skull from the Pleistocene of the Sulfur River.

The graduate students have all submitted their research proposals, and are in various stages of work. Elizabeth Gormani continues her description of the nearly complete titanosaur from Malawi, as well as the rest of the archosaur fauna, and has added an analysis of carbon isotopes from the fossil localities to her Ph.D. dissertation. Jerry Harris has begun research on a specimen of *Acrocanthosaurus*, to emend the diagnosis of the genus, for his M.S. thesis. The thesis will also include analyses of additional theropod teeth from the Aptian/Albian of Texas. Yoshi Kobayashi is studying the archosaur fauna of the Kitadani Formation of Japan, including iguanodontians and a beautiful specimen of a crocodile that bears an uncanny resemblance to *Bernissartia*. This summer, Yoshi will be returning to the Cretaceous of Outer Mongolia as part of the China-Japan-Mongolia expedition. Jason Head presented his research on the basal hadrosaur from the Cenomanian of Texas at the annual meeting of the SVP in New York, and is finishing his M.S. thesis on the specimen. Jason is also preparing to return to Pakistan to continue research and collecting for his Ph.D. dissertation project: The reptile paleontology of the Siwalik Group.

Down in the Shuler Museum of Paleontology, Vicki Yarborough and Amal Mohammad are hard at work, finishing the preparation of the *Acrocanthosaurus* specimen. Vicki will be leaving us soon, as she is marrying Gregg Gunnell and will be moving to Ann Arbor. While we are saddened to lose Vicki, we know that our loss is Vicki and Gregg's gain, and we wish them both the best. (Jason Head)

Vertebrate Paleontology and Radiocarbon Laboratory, University of Texas, Austin

Along with routine teaching and administration of the lab, Ernie Lundelius continues his research on Quaternary mammal faunas of Texas and Australia. A manuscript on a fauna of Sangamonian age from northcentral Texas has just been finished. Preparation has started on material from a fissure fill on Barrow Island, Western Australia; this is a cooperative project with Ken Aplin and Alex Baynes of the Western Australian Museum.

Wann Langston is involved in multifarious activities (perhaps "too scattered out" would be a better description). He awaits with everincreasing hopes, but everdecreasing expectations, the completion of Bob Rainey's prep work on the *Deinosuchus* skull collected in the Big Bend National Park last summer. He had hoped that this new specimen would answer all the questions raised about the famous AMNH model, but it now appears that much of the rostrum is missing. Fortunately, the facial and cranial parts are wellenough preserved that the specimen still holds promise of furnishing muchneeded systematic information. Wann is still involved with his part of a paper with Tom Lehman on the geological occurrence and taphonomy of the big pterosaur site in the Big Bend. Work also progresses (at a snail's pace) on a description and analysis of the axial skeleton of *Quetzalcoatlus*, which is now completely known except for the free thoracic segment.

A collaboration with Sam Welles on a description of the braincase of *Acrocanthosaurus* is nearing completion.

Jack Wilson has been busy this summer and fall, unpacking the Midwestern State University Tertiary collection. Negotiations for adoption of the Texas A & M-Commerce (formerly East Texas State University) collection are now underway as well, in the wake of Joan Echols' retirement, and in the meantime we have the collection on longterm loan. Between the changes generated by adding two new collection catalogues to our database system, continuing upgrades to the lab's hardware and software, shepherding our Web pages, and the more mundane tasks of collection management, Melissa Winans has been kept extremely busy.

Among our graduate students, Brook Hall continues her research on the paleoenvironment of the Maricopa Tar Seep, Kern County, California. This summer's field work gathered data on the process of entrapment of the fauna and the subsequent deposition of completely disarticulated skeletons. The fall was spent identifying and describing the herpetofauna, the insect fauna, and the pollen recovered from the site. Brook is looking for someone interested in studying the beautiful bird fauna. David Froehlich has finished his dissertation. He presented much of it in the Romer Prize Session at SVP in New York. He is currently teaching part time at Austin Community College and looking for a job. In the remaining minutes of their time, he and Laura have been working as faunal analysts for several local archaeologists and attempting to retain a modicum of sanity. Mary Stewart Miller gave a poster at SVP about the new squamates from the Campanian Terlingua Local Fauna. She hopes to have her dissertation finished some time this spring. Pamela Owen continues her research on badger phylogenetics. She has completed some preliminary analyses, and is looking forward to "hitting the museum trail" this spring. Chris Sagebiel's master's thesis on the Pleistocene mammalian fauna of Zesch Cave, Mason County, Texas, is nearing completion. He is scheduled to deliver a technical presentation of his research to the University of Texas Geology Department in February. He is also writing up a comparison of *Hemiauchenia*, *Palaeolama*, and *Lama* skull morphology. Ron Tykoski is working on *Syntarsus kayentakatae*, describing those skeletal elements that have not been previously detailed. He is also using CT scans of the skull to observe features of the braincase and sort out the confusing mass of displaced and crushed palatal elements. At the same time, Ron is trying to make sense of the hundreds of disarticulated ceratosaurid bones collected from the "Shake 'n' Bake" locality of the Kayenta Formation. Currently he is still trying to determine if this material represents juveniles of a known taxon (as previously suggested), or is something new. (Melissa Winans)

Rocky Mountain Region

Brigham Young University

Two of our students have completed studies in paleontology at BYU, and two others are nearly there. Brian Curtice and David Smith completed a thesis and dissertation, respectively, earlier this year (we missed getting an article in for the last two issues of the

Bulletin). Brian's magnum opus, "Codex of diplodocid caudal vertebrae from the Dry Mesa Dinosaur Quarry," is of dissertation magnitude, and should be of great benefit to anyone studying sauropod caudal vertebrae. David's dissertation, "Morphometric variation in *Allosaurus*," is a statistical study of various *A. fragilis* bones, mostly from the Dry Mesa Dinosaur Quarry in western Colorado. It should be of value to those studying carnosaurs with an eye towards variation within a species.

Paul Bybee is in the final stages of rewriting his dissertation on "Histological bone structure differences in various sized elements from the Late Jurassic Dinosaur, *Allosaurus fragilis*, of central Utah." Again, it is the material from the Dry Mesa Dinosaur Quarry that provides the bulk of research specimens. While Ray Wilhite is using sauropod limb bones from this quarry for his thesis, he has visited many institutions to study similar material. Additionally, Ray has taken on the task of preparing and studying a partial *Camarasaurus* skeleton from Dinosaur National Monument here in Utah.

Wade Miller continues to work with Oscar Carranza on their joint study of Hemphillian and Blancan age vertebrates in Mexico. In mid-December they met in Baja to spend a few days exploring a promising area in the southern part of the peninsula. They discovered several new Blancan sites.

Ken Stadtman and Dee Hall continue to work on the daunting task of preparing and curating a backlog of plaster-jacketed bones, largely from the Dry Mesa Quarry. Volunteer help from Warren Van Pelt and Charlie McClellan on this project is greatly appreciated. (Wade E. Miller)

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Bureau-wide:

BLM paleontologists have been hard at work to improve management of fossils on public lands. We've made a major advance this year: the Bureau issued its uniform policy on assessment and mitigation standards for paleontology. This policy accompanies the Bureau-wide permitting policy issued in 1995.

Paleontological surveys are now required for all surface disturbance on BLM-administered lands where there is potential risk to fossils. Only qualified paleontologists will do these surveys. If you are interested in this kind of work, please contact one of us. Bureau planning documents are also required to include information about paleontological resources.

BLM gratefully received SVP's first Good Stewardship Award at the Denver Museum of Natural History in August. Our next task is to develop a Strategic Plan that will take BLM paleontology over the bridge into the 21st century.

Regional Paleontologists' Report:

Montana and Wyoming BLM helped fund and implement recovery of the only complete skeleton of *Brachylophosaurus*, collected by Museum of the Rockies (MOR) from the Judith River Formation in northern Montana. MOR staff will now prepare the specimen and return it for display at the new Phillips Company Museum in Malta.

Colorado BLM has created "Fossil Education Kits" that can be checked out by schools, clubs, and other organizations. We also completed a land exchange and acquired the historic Marsh Felch Quarry at Garden Park, formerly on private land.

Cleveland-Lloyd Quarry, Utah, was broken into in September. A large number of dinosaur bones were taken and the investigation into this theft continues.

The newly-designated Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument will be managed by Utah BLM. This monument was established, in part, because of its paleontological values.

New Mexico BLM reports discovery of a large section of hadrosaur skin impression associated with bones. The specimen will be excavated in January and studied at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History (NMMNH) in Albuquerque.

Collected by NMMNH and the State Museum of Pennsylvania, a nearly complete *Parasaurolophus* skull from near Farmington, New Mexico, includes the four-foot-long nasal crest. CAT scanned and digitized at Sandia National Laboratories, computer reconstruction of the skull will help determine what sounds the dinosaur could make, and how the crest might have functioned in thermoregulation. (Harley Armstrong, Carl Barna, Laurie Bryant, Mike O'Neill)

Denver Museum of Natural History

Russ Graham has settled in as the Department Head. Despite the surfeit of meetings, he has found time to continue research, most notably with the FAUNMAP project, which he is bringing to Denver. Once the weather passes. Russ plans to investigate a possible Blancan locality near Colorado Springs, as well as some caves near Manitou Springs. Also to be investigated is a locality in one of the subrecent dune fields in northeastern Colorado that has produced fossilized owl pellets.

Bryan Small has submitted his revised manuscript naming a new crocophon from the Upper Triassic Cockum Formation of Texas. He and a small crew had a successful time at Howard, Colorado, working one of Vaughn's Pennsylvanian localities. Numerous isolated bones were found, including *Ianthosarus* spines. Bryan is now trying to finish up several aetosaur projects and hopes to have them submitted soon.

Kenneth Carpenter has finished revision (again!) of the manuscript he coauthored with Dale Russell, Don Baird, and Bob Denton redescribing Cope's holotype *Dryptosaurus aquiluteus*. Now he is focusing his attention on a new genus of ankylosaurid from the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation. A cast of the new skull and neck armor was shown

at SVP in New York City. Also in the works, with Cliff Hiles and Karen Cleward, are several papers describing new stegosaurid material from the Morrison of Wyoming. Ken and his volunteers have begun work with Jim Kirkland in the Lower Cretaceous Cedar Mountain Formation of Utah. One of the first finds was a sauropod that will be excavated next fall and an ankylosaur found previously by Kirkland. Richard Stucky is too busy these days as the Chief Curator to do research, and Logan Ivy is busy rearranging the mineral collection. (Kenneth Carpenter and Bryan Small)

Garden Park Paleontology Society

Dinosaur Depot has joined the paleontological "big leagues." That is in terms of having repository status and a collecting permit for fossils from federal land. In October the Bureau of Land Management granted repository status to Garden Park Paleontology Society for fossils from federal land, specifically the Garden Park Fossil Area, as well as a permit for collecting.

Dinosaur Depot is the repository of record and will be one of four federal repositories in Colorado along with the Denver Museum of Natural History, the University of Colorado Museum, and the Museum of Western Colorado. Although this will mean an increase in staff and volunteer workload, we feel very honored to be given this responsibility. It is something the community and area have sought for some time and will help us along the road to realizing the dream of The Dinosaur Discovery Center in the Garden Park Fossil Area. If you wish any information about Dinosaur Depot, please call us toll free at 1-800-987-6379. (Pat Monaco)

Idaho Museum of Natural History

The big news for the past year and a half has been a succession of small to medium-sized grants to improve the housing and curation of our collection. A total of $86,700 has been awarded by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Idaho State Board of Education, and the ISU Research Committee. We now have enough cabinets for our specimens; all of our localities and more than 20,000 specimen records have been entered into a searchable database called REGIS. The big news for the next couple of years is that the Idaho VPers will be putting together a volume on Idaho vertebrate paleontology for distribution at the 1998 meetings in Salt Lake City. If anyone we haven't yet contacted would like to contribute to this volume, please let Bill Akersten know. He would also like to hear of obscure collections made by other institutions in Idaho.

New Miocene, mostly Hemphillian, localities keep turning up in southern Idaho. One discovery south of Hagerman was made by archaeologists doing a ground survey after one of our big fires. The material would never have been seen if the cheatgrass hadn't been burned off. In addition to preparation of the Tolo Lake mammoth material, Allen Tedrow has been working a Hemphillian locality close to Pocatello, and completed a note on a mole jaw from another Hemphillian site. Bill Akersten is mostly buried under a variety of paperwork but is trying to complete a manuscript on Idaho Rancholabrean and early Holocene localities with George Jefferson, Greg McDonald, and Sue Miller. He did

find time to give a multiauthored poster on the taphonomy of the Tolo Lake mammoths at NAPC. Mary Flint has started work on most of a *Megatylopus* skeleton collected more that 30 years ago. Lots of other things going on but no time to cover them. (Bill Akersten)

Museum of Western Colorado

Our major focus is the Early Cretaceous Dalton Wells quarry near Moab, Utah. This project is a joint project of the Museum of Western Colorado and Brigham Young University's Earth Sciences Museum (Ken Stadtman). This year we hope to spend two months in the field but we have already collected over about 1300 specimens, nearly all of which are prepared. Two genera of sauropods, a titanosaurid, and a "camarasaurid" dominate the fauna and account for over 80% of the recovered elements. Last summer two more sauropod crania were recovered, bringing the total to three. Because at least six sauropod individuals are present and most of the elements are disarticulated we hope to be able to use the quarry map to determine which nonaxial elements go with the axial skeletons. Jack McIntosh and Brooks Britt are working on the sauropods. An overview of the Dalton Wells fauna will be published in David Gillette's upcoming book on Utah Paleontology and preliminary descriptions of the Dalton Wells sauropods will be submitted before the end of 1997. Don Tidwell (BYU), Brooks, and Sid Ash have a paper on plants from the Mygatt-Moore quarry coming out in the USGS Morrison Formation symposium volume.

Rod Scheetz, a Ph.D. candidate at Montana State University, who has worked with the museum the past couple of summers, has just been hired as permanent member of our staff. He will continue to help with field work, education, curation, and exhibits-all while continuing to write his dissertation, which he expects to complete this spring. In all his spare time, he works on iguanodonts from the Cedar Mountain Formation and on a recently discovered *Othnielia*, for which nearly 80% has been recovered.

We are now fully outfitted for dinosaurs both in the field and in the laboratory. Ingersoll-Rand generously donated $28,000 worth of pneumatic equipment, including a large, trailered air compressor for field work and pneumatic tools for both field and lab. We also aquired a 4×4 truck. During the past couple of years Brooks has busy designing and supervising the installation of new exhibits in the museum and is currently designing exhibits for other museums. (Brooks Britt)

Sheridan College

The late fall part of field season 1996 had Sheridan College students and faculty working within the College's Morrison Formation quarry. The sauropod quarry continues to provide disarticulated *Stegosaurus*, *Dryosaurus*, *Apatosauru* s, and *Camarasaurus* specimens. Work continues on the partial *Allosaurus* within the upper Morrison. A number of new Cloverly Formation sites have been discovered within the northern Powder River and Big Horn basins of Wyoming and Montana. Pete Wilson, Mike Flynn, and fellow field workers continue the inventory of fossil localities along the western

Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana. Plans for field season 1997 include survey and excavation of the Cloverly and Morrison formations.

A new system of mapping and field cataloguing using a geographic information system (GIS) and a global positioning system (GPS-DGPS-GeoExplorer) has been successful with new PathFinder software for the Cloverly/Morrison of the Big Horn Basin.

New grant funds have been supportive of Mike Flynn's research of the biostratigraphy and paleogeographic setting of the Morrison Formation dinosaur quarries within northern Wyoming.

Our new preparatory lab and display area have received much-needed private funds from individuals independently and two special interest groups-new space/museum planned for 1998.

As spring approaches Mike Flynn is planning on continuing his field research to locate, excavate, and examine vertebrate faunas spanning the K-T boundary in the Hell Creek Formation of southeastern Montana. (Mike Flynn)

University of Wyoming, Department of Geology and Geophysics and Geological Museum

Jay Lillegraven has been working diligently with recent Ph.D. graduate Jaelyn J. Eberle on two manuscripts concerning fossil mammals and the geologic setting of the Lancian-Puercan Ferris Formation, western Hanna Basin, Wyoming.

We have moved into the brand new Minerals Research and Reclamation Center (MRRC). The entire VP complex has been relocated, and our facilities now eclipse what we had before, including roughly 20 years' worth of high-quality storage space for collection growth. In celebration, we have gone begging to NSF for aid in total renovation of the VP research collection.

Jay, Donald W. Boyd (invertebrate paleontology), and Arthur W. Snoke (structural geology) have taken over coeditorship of our departmental journal (*Contributions to Geology*), which has suffered profound neglect in recent years. Once the unfortunate backlog of manuscripts has been cleared away, the journal will experience a name change to *Rocky Mountain Geology*, and will be accompanied by serious scientific upgrading. More detailed announcements of the projected changes will be forthcoming. Papers on the paleontology of the Rockies (broadly defined) will continue to be welcome.

Ross Secord is still gathering paleontological data for the Forest Service and University of Wyoming. Ross completed the first phase of the assessment project in December and is eager to begin phase two. He hopes to have the project completed by June.

Pennilyn Higgins continued her research toward her Ph.D. last semester at the University of Wyoming. She is optimistic that her Ph.D. will be completed in another two and a half years, right on schedule.

John Burris and Michael Webb continue to be busy with course work and their projects on Wyoming's Tertiary vertebrates. Anton Wroblewski plans to complete his thesis later this semester.

Jean-Pierre Cavigelli has been busy reorganizing the collections in the new wing of the department.

Brent Breithaupt (UW Geological Museum) plans to increase visibility of the museum in 1997, as he continues to revamp the museum's displays and develops new educational and public programs. Several papers dealing with the history of fossil collecting in Wyoming and taphonomy of various sites should be completed later this year. (Brent Breithaupt)

UNITED KINGDOM

Departments of Earth Science and Zoology, Sedgwick Museum, University of Cambridge

In the three years that have passed since we last reported in the *News Bulletin* there has been a vast amount of activity in the vertebrate paleobiology group here in Cambridge, both in Earth Sciences and in Zoology.

Laura Canning continues her valiant efforts on the taxonomy, systematics, and relationships of "megalosaurid" theropods. Having got much of the descriptive anatomy out of the way, Laura is now playing around with theropod phylogeny in an effort to find out more about the evolution of basal tetanurans. She manages to do this while looking after a new addition to the Canning household: her son Oliver.

Paul Barrett joined the group in October 1993 and is now very close to submitting his Ph.D. thesis on "The evolution of dinosaur herbivory." He has just been awarded a Research Fellowship at Trinity College which will allow another four years of research. During the course of his Ph.D. studies Paul has travelled extensively, visiting institutions in the USA, Europe, China (thanks to The Dinosaur Society), Argentina, and South Africa, in order to look at as much material as possible. Many thanks to everybody (too numerous to mention here) that made his travels so enjoyable. His thesis deals with a number of related topics including the feeding mechanisms employed by herbivorous dinosaurs and dinosaur evolution. This has involved work on the form and function of features which have a bearing on herbivory, especially crania and teeth with some (but not too much!) consideration of postcrania. This functional work is being combined with dinosaur phylogeny and paleoecology in an attempt to deduce the evolution of dinosaur herbivory. Several aspects of dinosaur macroevolution are also being addressed, and Paul is examining dinosaur diversity and trying to link it with various phylogenetic,

paleoecological, and coevolutionary arguments. Much of this work is currently being prepared for publication, and he has several papers in print, several in press, and a number in advanced stages of preparation. These include manuscripts on sauropod feeding and paleoecology (in collaboration with Paul Upchurch), the use of tooth form in deducing diet, a new ankylosaur from China (with ZM. Dong, HL. You, P. Upchurch, and Alex Burton), a systematic review of midCretaceous ankylosaurs from England (with X. Pereda Suberbiola), and a review of ornithischian feeding mechanisms (with David Norman). Current and future plans include continued work on dinosaur biogeography and macroevolution, ornithischian tooth microwear, dinosaur hip structure, the taxonomy and relationships of small Chinese ornithopods (with David Norman), and the evolution of amniote jaw joints (with Ian Jenkins). Paul has also presented papers to the Sixth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystem and Biota (Beijing, 1995) and the North American Paleontological Convention (Washington, D.C., 1996) in addition to a number of presentations in the UK and South Africa.

Two more students joined Dave Norman's fold in the autumn of 1994. These were Ian Jenkins and Alex Burton. After a difficult summer beset by major computing problems, Ian Jenkins is now making rapid progress in the analysis of cranial dynamics in carnivorous synapsids. With the abundance of highclass studies on jaw mechanics in synapsids and across the reptile-mammal transition being produced during the last 40 years, a new approach had to be taken: analysis of the cranial architecture of Permo-Triassic synapsids from a 3D aspect. The magnificent collections in the Cambridge Museum of Zoology has provided the bulk of the fossils, as has the London Natural History Museum. In November of 1995 he paid a month-long visit to the US where, after enjoying the SVP at Pittsburgh, he examined material in the AMNH and the University of Chicago. Thanks to Charlotte Holton for access to the material in the AMNH, and to Gina Gould for looking after him so well amid the New York maelstrom. The material in Chicago proved wonderful to work on. Grateful thanks to Jim Hopson for making free his vast knowledge of synapsid taxonomy and splendid hospitality. John Bolt gave time, advice, and access to some beautiful *Dimetrodon* cranial material. Chuck Schaff at the MCZ also deserves a note of thanks for providing a quiet place to work on the wonderful *Dimetrodon* collections there. Major impetus was given to Ian's 3D work by visit to Jeff Thomason's lab at Guelph in Ontario in the summer of 1996. Here he learned how to use the remarkable Finite Element Analysis (FEA) package which Jeff is pioneering in anatomical studies. As far as Jeff or anyone else knows, Ian is the first zoologist to apply FEA to fossil material. Jeff provided huge help both technically and by his superb approach to anatomical investigations and continues to provide immeasurable help via e-mail during the computing collapse in Cambridge! Ian has made some interesting observations on the mechanical construction of the gorgonopsid skull. Gorgonopsids employed a unique means of strengthening their skulls which, in engineering terms, are theoretically weak in torsion. Curious modifications in the mechanical evolution of the synapsid pterygoid flange and the postorbital bar/braincase wall of cynodonts are also being discovered. The highlight of Ian's project is to be a lengthy visit to the fabulous South African museums. There should be enough skull material to keep even Ian satisfied. He has a paper due out in *Palaeontology* (with Gillian King) which places the use of *Lystrosaurus* as a biostratigraphic indicator in serious doubt.

Alex Burton's Ph.D. research is on "The sedimentology and taphonomy of the Wealden Beds of southern Britain." The aim of his research is to gather taphonomic and sedimentological data for the vertebratebearing sites in Sussex and on the Isle of Wight. Many of these sites are now inaccessible or simply don't exist anymore (due to land reclamation). Therefore taphonomic data is only available through the examination of museum specimens as Alex is not able to collect his own material from many of the localities in which he is interested. His work concentrates on macrovertebrates. Sedimentological data are gathered through field work and the examination of museum material. He intends to integrate this information so that the taphonomic and sedimentary environments represented at each site may be deduced and compared. This will help to fill the gaps in the records for the collected fossil material and, more importantly, will give a clearer insight into the overall sedimentary environment of the Wealden of SE England. To this end, in the last year Alex has done a great deal of work in the Sedgwick Museum, the Natural History Museum, and the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology. A further visit to the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology is required to complete his data collection. He would like to express particular gratitude to Mike Dorling, Rod Long, Niki Payton, Chris Collins, Sandra Chapman, Steve Hutt, and Martin Munt for all of their help while he was working at these museums. He has also been doing field work on the Isle of Wight and in Sussex and would like to thank Andy Ross for taking the time and trouble to show him round a couple of Sussex localities. Alex would also like to thank Liz Cook, Paul Upchurch, and Perce Allen who have been able to give so much help and advice because of their particular experience of the Wealden of SE England. Alex hopes to finish his Ph.D. in the autumn of next year and to produce some papers on his work, comparing the taphonomic and sedimentological signatures of specific sites in much the same way that he contrasted his data from Hollington and Cuckfield in his talk at the recent 44th Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy.

David Norman has been slumbering quietly in the Sedgwick Museum for the last few years while all this frantic activity has been going on around him. He has at long last given up the editorship at the Linnean Society, which was one of those singlehanded, thankless tasks that nobody should do. Several projects are getting up to speed now as things begin to settle down in the museum itself and in the department. A number of papers are beginning to appear on the ornithopods of Asia/Mongolia following a research visit to Moscow. It has been nice revisiting some of his earlier work on ornithopods. The work has included a redescription of *Iguanodon orientalis* (*Zool. J. Linn. Soc.*), the description of a new species of iguanodontian (*Zool. J. Linn. Soc.*, in press), a redescription of the enigmatic *Arstanosaurus* (*Proc. Geol. Assn.*, in press), a revision of *Probactrosaurus gobiensis*, and the description of two new early hadrosaurids from Mongolia. In addition, the redescription of the early ornithischian *Scelidosaurus* has been taking an increasing amount of Dave's time as it gets more and more interesting. Some very preliminary comments were made about this at the SVP in New York. Other involvements include the belated work in redescribing *Rhabdodon* along with Dave Weishampel and some new South African ornithischian material. A short paper (Norman and Faiers- *Geol. Mag.*) also came out this year on the first skull remains of an armoured ornithischian from the Isle of Wight. Still in the Wealden there is a chapter on the reptile

fauna of the Weald (with Alex B.) in press in the longawaited Wealden field guide. This is not to mention the work in collaboration with Paul B. (above).

One curious and slightly poignant event has been the simultaneous award of the "Golden Trilobite Award" by The Paleontological Society (Dave loves the title, when he gets the certificate he will have to show it to Harry Whittington-the doyen of trilobite workers based here in Cambridge!) and (the poignant bit) the fact that the book (Prehistoric Life: The Rise of the Vertebrates) has just been remaindered by the publisher!! Dave Norman is organizing a symposium on "Historical patterns: The evolution of morphology" at the International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology next July in Bristol and this is beginning to take shape rather nicely now and the intention is to turn this into a book following the meeting. (Dave Norman, Paul Barrett, Ian Jenkins, and Alex Burton)

University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

Over the past three years, Jenny Clack, with the talented and tireless help of her preparator Sarah Finney, has been working on the enigmatic and bizarre early tetrapod *Crassigyrinus scoticus*. Old material has been prepared anew from the daunting Gilmerton Ironstone, to reveal new insights into its palate, snout, and naris. For those interested, it is like neither *Eusthenopteron* nor other early tetrapods in the way its nose is built. She has been also working with Per Ahlberg on early tetrapod lower jaws, and they hope to finish a review on the subject in the new year. She and Per collaborated with Erwins Luksevics from Latvia on a new description of the braincase of *Panderichthys* which appeared in *Nature*. Continuing her interest in early tetrapod braincases and otic regions, Jenny has published on the fenestra vestibulae of *Acanthostega*, and has a paper in press with full details of the braincase and thoughts on the subsequent evolution of the otic region in tetrapods. Continuing this theme, she was invited to talk to the J. B. Johnston Club, which is a satellite meeting of the huge American Society of Neurosciences annual meeting, in Washington, D.C., this November. This year, the theme was the evolution of sensory systems, and she had to try to make her paper intelligible to neuroscientists. This paper outlined the evolution of ears as seen in the fossil record and was called "Evolution of tetrapod ears: What the fossils can, can't, and could one day tell us." She also gave a talk to the same group about sensory system changes across the fish-tetrapod transition as readable from the fossil record (more than you might think). Both of these will be published in *Brains, Behaviour and Evolution*. As well as this she is continuing her collaboration with Eric Lombard and John Bolt on the database project Preserve II, and accompanied them to the deepest southern Illinois for an introduction to the delights of ticks, poison ivy, and whippoorwills. They failed to find any more colosteids.

As for research students, Michael Lee completed his thesis on pareiasaurs and went back to Australia to take up a fellowship working on varanids. Elizabeth Pringle has submitted her thesis on Carboniferous anthracosaurs, and is waiting for her viva, while Jonathan Jeffery began his work on rhizodont fishes from Scotland. He was initiated into the rigors and rewards of preparing Gilmerton Ironstone, setting up the Gilmerton Ironstone support group with Sarah. However it seems to have repaid him with some good new information

on the skull roof and palate of rhizodonts. For the skeptics, they seem to be choanate! This year, we were joined by Sally Neininger, who has started a project looking at the histology, structure, and function of dermal bone across the fish-tetrapod transition, and is at present grappling with techniques for serial grinding, serial sectioning, and 3D computer reconstruction.

We were sorry to lose the companionship and services of Mike Coates and Paul Upchurch. Paul has migrated to Bristol with a Leverhulme Fellowship, while Mike departed for University College London with his BBSRC Senior Fellowship, taking his fish expertise with him and seriously depleting our teaching and research possibilities. We miss them both greatly, but wish them both the best of luck for their respective futures.

The biggest excitement recently was the discovery of a new tetrapod specimen from the Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian). It had been labelled as a rhizodont and resided in the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, so Jon brought it down to Cambridge for study. It was almost completely enclosed in a clay nodule with just the snout and sections showing. After about 15 minutes we realized it was a tetrapod, and that it had legs sticking out of the back end. It seems to be almost complete from snout to hindlimbs. But more exciting than that is that spore dating has placed it securely within the Tournaisian. It is thus the only articulated Tournaisian tetrapod, and the earliest postDevonian tetrapod known. It appears to be equipped with the earliest known pentadactyl limb. (Jenny Clack)

- **BULLETIN BOARD** -

ELECTRONIC CATALOGUE OF CRETACEOUS VERTEBRATES, OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

An electronic catalogue of Cretaceous specimens at OMNH is now available under the museum's home page at the Oklahoma Biological Survey, http://obssun02 .ou.edu/. The catalogue lists fossil vertebrates collected under the direction of Richard L. Cifelli from Cretaceous rocks of the western US, based on an ongoing, longterm field program. The entries include all specimens catalogued as of 1 August 1996; periodic updates are anticipated. The project is focused at recovery of microvertebrates, particularly mammals, and for this reason specimens of larger vertebrates commonly consist of isolated teeth, although a number of archosaurs are represented by skeletal and cranial remains. The vast majority of the specimens were obtained through underwater sieving (screenwashing) and associated recovery techniques, although some materials were collected as a result of surface prospecting or quarrying. Many specimens are currently on loan to various researchers, who in some instances have provided us with identifications of the materials in their respective areas of expertise. Identifications are rough in many cases, reflecting the facts that the collection is under active study and that many new taxa are represented; the electronic catalogue is intended mainly to advertise the availability of this research resource for study, and to provide interested researchers with an overview of the nature, extent, and scope of the holdings. Further information can be obtained by contacting Richard L. Cifelli (Oklahoma Museum of Natural History,

University of Oklahoma, Norman OK 73019 USA; ph. (405) 3254712, fax (405) 325-7699; email wa0605@uokmvsa.backbone.ou.edu) or Nicholas J. Czaplewski (same address and phone numbers; email wa0625@uokmvsa.backbone.ou.edu). Information in this catalogue is being provided, in another format, to the Evolution of Terrestrial Ecosystems (ETE) Program, based at the Smithsonian. Further information regarding ETE can be obtained from Gerry McBrinn, ETE Database Administrator, Department of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural History MRC121, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 USA (email: mnhpb027@sivm.si.edu).

The holdings span Aptian/Albian through Maastrichtian ages, and were collected from three main areas: central and southern Utah (Cedar Mountain and North Horn formations; Dakota, Straight Cliffs, Wahweap, and Kaiparowits formations, respectively), northern Wyoming and southern Montana (Cloverly Formation), and southern Texas (Agjua Formation). Brief accounts and selected references for each of these areas and rock units are given in the introductory notes which accompany the electronic catalogue; where known, information on the existence of other collections from these units is also provided. The collection includes a number of type and figured specimens; further information on many of these can be found in Czaplewski et al. (Special Publication 94-1, Oklahoma Geological Survey, 1994). We gratefully acknowledge financial support for this research program from the following sources: National Geographic Society (grants 288184, 476192, 502193), National Science Foundation (grants BSR 8507598, 8906992; DEB 9401094), and the American Chemical Society (grant 20311G8). (Richard L. Cifelli)

CALL FOR PAPERS-ASPECTS OF THEROPOD PALEOBIOLOGY

In June 1998, the Museu Nacional de História Natural of the Lisbon University (Portugal) will publish a special issue of *Gaia* geosciences journal dedicated to "Aspects of Theropod Paleobiology," edited by Bernardino Pérez-Moreno, Thomas R. Holtz, José L. Sanz, Joaquin Moratalla, Vanda Santos, and Carlos Marques da Silva. This forthcoming special issue has been developed as a result of a significant number of contributions arising from ongoing studies of the avian and nonavian theropod fossil record all around the world.

We encourage authors to emphasize the general paleobiological significance of their work and avoid excessive detail. The volume will have an emphasis on the European fossil record and the global track record, but contributions on **all** aspects of theropod paleobiology from **all** the world are welcome.

The papers should be submitted in accordance with *Gaia* 's format. For a copy of the "Notice to Contributors" and further information, please contact: Carlos Marques da Silva, *Gaia* Editorial Board, Museu Nacional de História Natural (Geologia), Rua da Escola Politécnica, 58, P-1294 Lisboa Codex, Portugal; telefax: ++351-1-60 58 50; e-mail: paleo.carlos@cc.fc.ul.pt. The deadline is 30 June 1997. (Tom Holtz)

- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** -

NEW MEXICO FRIENDS OF PALEONTOLOGY

The New Mexico Friends of Paleontology (NMFP) is announcing the First Annual Fossils of New Mexico Symposium on Saturday, September 20, 1997. If you wish to attend the symposium or need NMFP membership information, please contact Ruby Williamson at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque NM 87104. Please visit our website at its new address: http://www.nmmnhabq.mus.nm.us/nmfp/nmfp.html.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGISTS

The annual meeting of the Western Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists will be held on February 15-17 (Presidents' Weekend) in Tucson, Arizona. It will be hosted by the Department of Geosciences of the University of Arizona. Presentations of research will be given Saturday and Sunday on the campus of the University of Arizona. An informal group dinner is planned for Saturday evening, and a field trip to the San Pedro Valley (Benson and Curtis Ranch faunas) is planned for Monday. All individuals interested in attending the meeting should contact Everett Lindsay for more information about registration, events, and lodging. Contact: Everett Lindsay, Department of Geosciences, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85721; phone (520) 621-5086; fax (520) 621-2672; e-mail: ehlind@geo.arizona.edu.

CAVEPS-CONFERENCE ON AUSTRALASIAN VERTEBRATE EVOLUTION, PALAEONTOLOGY AND SYSTEMATICS

Western Australian Museum, Perth, Australia, July 7-11, including special Extinctions conference (July 10-11). Many overseas participants are now attending. Field trips to Gogo fish sites and Kimberely district, June 27-July 4, Margaret River Caves, (and wineries) July 12-16. Abstracts and expressions of interest need to be in very soon (ASAP). E-mail organizers John Long and Alex Baynes at: long@muswa.dialix.oz.au, or fax (Australia 09328 8686). (John Long)

- **PUBLICATIONS** -

NEW GEOCALENDAR AND BOOKLET DEPICT LIFE IN OKLAHOMA-10,000 YEARS AGO

If you could look back into time some 10,000 years ago in Oklahoma, you might see a landscape that is very similar to that of today, although the climate and animal life would be quite different. As the last great ice sheets were melting just to the north of what is now Oklahoma, Paleoindians began to come into the area and hunt the huge, herd-dwelling mammoths that lived here.

This period of time is the subject of *Oklahoma's Ice Age*, the 1997 Geocalendar just released by the Oklahoma Geological Survey. The poster-sized calendar features a full-color drawing of a Columbian mammoth and a hunter confronting the enormous animal.

The calendar comes with an eight-page booklet that describes the Great Ice Age, the mammoths and other animals, and some of the geology of this region. Being a state agency for research and public service, the OGS is selling this educational poster and booklet on a "cost" basis of $4 for the set. The booklets are $1 if sold separately.

This picture of life late in the Great Ice Age is taken from bones, tools, and other artifacts buried in the sediments of this region. Information gathered by paleontologists, archaeologists, geologists, and other researchers is examined together to confirm information about humans, animals, plants, and the climate of this era. Science advice and booklet text for the Geocalendar were provided by Nicholas J. Czaplewski and Don G. Wyckoff of the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, and Kenneth S. Johnson of the OGS. Both organizations are located on the Norman campus of the University of Oklahoma.

The authors tell us that during the last 15 million years, a number of large, tusked mammals related to elephants lived in central North America. These creatures originated in Africa but much later travelled to North America over a land bridge exposed between Siberia and Alaska. This group included gomphotheres, shoveltuskers, and four-tusked mastodonts. Bones from some of the mammoths and mastodons that roamed most of the continent have been discovered in many parts of Oklahoma, especially the western section. These animals were the size of modern elephants (which range from eight to 12 feet) and larger, with some measuring 14 feet tall at the shoulder.

The booklet discusses two Oklahoma sites (the Cooperton site in Kiowa County and the Domebo site in Caddo County) that show evidence that mammoths were hunted by Oklahoma's earliest occupants, the Paleoindians. At the 11,000-year-old Domebo site, chipped-stone spear points, scrapers, and knives made from flakes of chert were found among the bones of a Columbian mammoth. It is believed that hunters trapped the animal in a steep-walled ravine and killed it with spears hurled with a spear thrower or atlatl.

About that same time, mammoths, American lions and cheetahs, saber-toothed cats, horses, camels, mastodons, and a number of other species died out in North America, most likely due to some major climatic changes occurring between 11,500 and 10,000 years ago.

The painting featured on *Oklahoma's Ice Age* is by artist Karen Carr, who also did the painting of the large meat-eating dinosaur *Acrocanthosaurus atokensis* on last year's Geocalendar. The 20" × 30" poster is printed in full color on heavy paper, and is designed so that the calendar portion can be removed after 1997, leaving a poster suitable for framing. the eight-page booklet also is printed in color, and is available separately for $1 each, making it an economical teaching tool for large groups. A few copies of last year's dinosaur calendar with booklet are available for $2 each. Postage is $2 for one to ten calendars and booklets, and $2 for 11-25. Orders for 25 or more calendars or booklets are available at a 20% discount. For more information, contact the OGS at (405) 360-2886; or write to 100 E. Boyd, Rm. N-131, Norman, OK 73019-0628. Calendars also are available over the counter at OGS publication sales, 1218-B, W. Rock Creek Rd.,

Norman, OK, or at the Geological Survey main office, Rm. N-131 in the Sarkeys Energy Center on the OU campus in Norman. (Connie Smith)

DEVONIAN FISHES AND PLANTS OF MIGUASHA, QUEBEC, CANADA (Hans-Peter Schultze and Richard Cloutier, eds.). Verlag Dr. Pfiel, München 1996, 374 pp., 259 figures, 33 tables. ISBN 3-931516-03-2. Price US $50.00.

This book provides a complete coverage of the Escuminac fossils and their paleoenvironments. A historian, a sedimentologist, a geochemist, a palynologist, a paleobotanist, and paleozoologists from five countries contributed to reviving this 365-million-year-old ecosystem. Every species of plants, invertebrates, and fishes (articles by Janvier, Arsenault, Vézina, Gagnier, Arratia, Cloutier, Schultze, and Jarvik) of the Escuminac Formation are described and abundantly illustrated.

CONTRIBUTION OF SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA TO VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY (Gloria Arratia, ed.). Special issue of Müncher Geowissenschaftliche Abhandlungen, A: Geol. Paläont. vol. 30. Verlag Dr. Pfiel, München 1996, 340 pp., 222 figures. ISBN 3-931516-05-9. Price US $125.00.

This book includes nine contributions on specific subjects of vertebrate paleontology in southern South America. The subjects covered are fishes, amphibians, dinosaurs, snakes, crocodiles, birds, and mammals. The content of the volume introduces the reader to more than 800 records of fossil vertebrates of southern South America, their localities, and the literature. It provides more than 2000 literature references. The volume provides new information on vertebrate faunas and new interpretations of phylogenetic relationships of certain groups and their biogeography.

MESOZOIC FISHES-SYSTEMATICS AND PALEOECOLOGY (Gloria Arratia and Günter Viohl, eds.). Verlag Dr. Pfeil, München 1996, 576 pp., 278 figures. ISBN 3-923871-90-2. Price US $160.00.

This book presents the results of the First International Symposium held in Eichstätt, Germany, 1993. It reflects the current state of knowledge on Mesozoic fishes. Phylogenetic relationships of different groups (e.g., chondrichthyans, pycnodontiforms, basal teleosts, osteoglossomorphs, gonorhnchiforms) are the central themes. Attention is given also to questions of biostratigraphy, functional anatomy, and evolution of certain morphological structures. New findings and disagreements among authors concerning phylogenetic relationships are an invitation to further research.

The above three volumes may be ordered from: Verlag Dr. Pfiel, Wolfratshauser Straße 27, D-81379 München, Germany. Fax: (49) 89 72 42 772; e-mail: 100417.1722@compuserve.com.

TAXONOMY AND EVOLUTION OF LATE CRETACEOUS LIZARDS (REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: LACERTILA) FROM WESTERN CANADA (Gao

Keqin and Richard C. Fox). *Bulletin of Carnegie Museum of Natural History,* no. 33 (1996); 107 pp., softbound; $25.00 plus $1.50 s/h (foreign addresses $2.00 additional).

Upper Cretaceous nonmarine deposits of western Canada have yielded fossil lizards representing about 40 species in some 30 genera and ten families. Hundreds of specimens from three geological formations reveal previously unknown aspects of the evolutionary history of several lizard families during the last 19 Myr of the Cretaceous Period in western Canada. In Taxonomy and Evolution of Late Cretaceous Lizards from Western Canada, Gao and Fox use taxonomic composition and geological age to recognize three chronological assemblages. They document an early diversification of several families of lizards, and describe several new taxa to significantly improve our knowledge of the evolutionary history of the relevant lizard families. This work contains detailed descriptions and numerous new taxa and has the potential to become an essential reference in paleoherpetology. Available from Office of Scientific Publications, Dept. NB, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213-4080; e-mail: scipubs@ clpgh.org. Checks, money orders, MasterCard, and Visa accepted.

- **POSITIONS AVAILABLE** -

HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument has received funding for excavations in the Hagerman Horse Quarry during the summer of 1997. The field season is from approximately May 15 to September 15 but there is some flexibility in when individuals begin and end work. The following positions are available to be filled by qualified applicants. All interested parties are invited to send a letter of interest, copy of their CV, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references to: Greg McDonald, Hagerman Horse Quarry Project, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, P. O. Box 570, Hagerman ID 83332. Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument is an equal opportunity employer.

Quarry Foreman (GS-7), one position

Individual would oversee daily activities of quarry excavation and reports directly to the monument paleontologist. This person is responsible for proper data collection and continuation of project during the absence of monument paleontologist. In addition to supervisory responsibility, individual will be involved with daily excavation at quarry and mapping and data collection. We are looking for an individual with previous field experience in excavating and mapping fossil vertebrates. Course work in geology (sedimentology and stratigraphy) and paleontology (vertebrate) at both graduate and undergraduate level preferred. Individual should demonstrate leadership and organizational abilities.

These duties involve physical exertion outside in extremes of weather conditions, often involving severe heat and sometimes strong winds and blowing sand. Good physical

condition is needed. Housing is the responsibility of the applicant and is available in the community of Hagerman and surrounding area. Own transportation is advised.

Paleontologic Field Crew (GS-5), multiple positions

Incumbents would aid in excavation and data collection at the Hagerman Horse Quarry. Data collecting would include mapping and other information gathering relevant to understanding the taphonomy and depositional environment of the Horse Quarry. Daily duties include removal of sediments by either power or hand equipment and will involve physical labor. Responsibilities include providing limited supervision of volunteers who will aid in excavation and mapping at the quarry. Removal of bones will follow standard paleontological field techniques. Classes in geology and paleontology at least at the undergraduate level and some previous experience in paleontological field work would be helpful. Members of the field crew will be responsible for rotating shifts at the quarry to provide security.

These duties involve physical exertion outside in extremes of weather conditions, often involving severe heat and sometimes strong winds and blowing sand. Good physical condition is needed. Course work or experience with paleontology, geology, surveying is helpful but not mandatory. Housing is the responsibility of the applicant and is available in the community of Hagerman and surrounding area. Own transportation is advised. (Greg McDonald)

1997 PALEONTOLOGY INTERN PROGRAM AT PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK

Multiple paleontology intern positions will be available at Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona, during the summer of 1997 (May-August). Graduate students or advanced undergraduate students in paleontology or geology programs will be considered for this field-related opportunity. Interns will be provided housing and a stipend of $200 per week. Students will have the opportunity to work in the fossiliferous Triassic units as part of a professional research team. This program provides an excellent means for students to gain valuable field experience and possibly lead to a graduate thesis project. Interested candidates should send a résumé and cover letter of interest to Mark DePoy, Resource Management Specialist, Box 2246, Petrified Forest National Park AZ 86028, or call 1-520-524-6228, ext. 263. (Mark DePoy)

PREPARATOR

Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences (office for the establishment of new museum with the same name) is planning to employ one preparator of vertebrate paleontology by the middle of next summer (1997); however, additional preparators will be employed in the near future for the same purpose. The preparator will have specialized skills and experience in the preparation of vertebrate fossils, knowledge of preparation techniques including acid preparation, and casting. The material to be prepared is a vast collection of vertebrate fossils, ranging from dinosaurs to Mesozoic mammals, but mainly dinosaurs,

which was collected from the Upper Cretaceous deposits in the Gobi Desert by the joint paleontological expedition between the HMNS and the Geological Institute, Academy of Science of Mongolia. People who are interested in this position should contact the following person by mail, email, and/or fax as soon as possible: Mahito Watabe, Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences & Hayashibara Co. Ltd., Shimoishii 123, Okayama 700, Japan; phone: 81862244311, fax: 81862333363, email: pde02637@ niftyserve.or.jp. (Mahito Watabe)

- **POSITIONS WANTED** -

FIELD ASSISTANCESHIP WANTED

Graduate student studying New World primate evolution is looking for experience in paleontological field work as a field assistant. I have some experience working with fossils in the lab and I am a teaching assistant for human and nonhuman primate fossil evolution courses.

I would prefer to work with primate or other mammalian fossils, but would consider other vertebrates. I can provide transportation within the continental US. I would need room and board (and transportation if outside the US). I am available from late June until mid-September. I can provide a CV and letters of recommendation. Please contact: Andrea Jones, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Davis CA 95616; e-mail: awjones@ucdavis.edu.

- **OBITUARIES** -

PROFESSOR DR. RICHARD DEHM, 1907-1996

On March 20, 1996 our colleague Professor Dr. Richard Dehm passed away. His contributions to our profession were manifold. Particularly important are the more than 25 years of his long and productive career when he provided outstanding leadership for Munich's two major paleontological institutions, the Institut für Paläontologie und historische Geologie der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and the Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und historische Geologie. He is to be particularly remembered for his successful direction of these institutions in the tremendous task of rebuilding during the years following the devastation of World War II. At the same time he instructed and guided an impressive coterie of students as well as carrying on his own research in both vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology.

Richard Dehm was born in Nürnberg. Here his natural curiosity about the sciences grew, first on walks with his mother and then at school. Among his circle of schoolmates was Florian Heller, later to become Professor for Geology and Paleontology at Erlangen. In April 1922 these two young men set out to study the Nördlinger Ries and Hesselberg; this was Dehm's first scientific collecting trip. They collected rock samples and fossils from the Triassic and Jurassic as well as terrestrial and freshwater mollusks from the postglacial Kalktuff. For Richard Dehm this was a momentous trip. Not only did the field

work vividly sharpen his interests in geology and paleontology, but it also provided an introduction to areas that would be the focus of much of his later work.

In 1926 he began his university studies in Erlangen but soon moved to Munich to work with Professor Ferdinand Broili. At Broili's suggestion Dehm pursued his earlier scientific interests in the area of the Nördlinger Ries, which resulted in his first published work, "Geologische Untersuchungen im Ries: Das Gebeit des Blattes Monheim" (1931). Discovery of Tertiary (late Oligocene) vertebrates and mollusks in fissure fillings provided the focus of his Habilitation Dissertation, "Über tertiäre Spaltenfüllungen im Fränkischen und Schwäbischen Jura" (1936). These studies of the geology of the Nördlinger Ries and Tertiary mammals of southern Germany set the stage for what were to become two areas of great research significance for him, his colleagues, and students.

Richard Dehm's association with paleontology in Munich continued through the 1930s with his appointments as Assistant at the Institute (1932-36) and then Konservator of the State Collections (1938-41). In the early 1940s he and his wife, the former Frl. Antonia Maria Grill of Vienna, moved to Straßbourg where he undertook the responsibilities of Director of the newly founded Institute of Paleontology. During the war years his personal concern for the collections in Munich continued unabated. He was able, shortly before the devastating bombing in April 1944, to return to Munich and find safe storage outside the center of the city for some but, unfortunately, not all of its important collections. In 1946 Dehm moved to Tübingen and, in 1947, followed Professor Dr. Friedrich von Huene as Hauptkonservator of the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut der Universität Tübingen.

In the spring of 1950 Richard Dehm returned to the University in Munich to take the chair of the Professor of Paleontology and Historical Geology and the directorships of the Institute and the Bavarian State Collections. Having gained from the academic excellence of Munich's prewar programs in the fields of paleontology and historical geology, he was determined that those high standards would again be embodied in its research and teaching. By the fall of 1950 the library of the Institute had been reassembled and some laboratories outfitted in the former Kunstgewerbeschule on Richard-Wagner-Strasse. Courses in paleontology and historical geology were offered again, field programs organized, and soon the Institute and State Collections were regaining their status as centers of learning in these fields. During his tenure the academic programs in Munich were expanded to include paleobotany and micropaleontology. Also he contributed to the work of a number of important committees and commissions both within the university and in professional organizations.

Professor Dehm's research interests were diverse, including studies in physical and historical geology as well as invertebrate and vertebrate paleontology. His return to Munich favored development of his studies of the Tertiary faunas of the fissure fillings and other deposits in and about the Nördlinger Ries. In addition to fostering his own research this area became a teaching laboratory in which he saw to the education of over 30 of the almost 90 Diplom and Doctoral students he supervised. An official appreciation for his work came with award of the "Rieser Kulturpreis" in 1983. Also he undertook

research projects with his students and colleagues on the Tertiary vertebrate faunas of the Süßwassermolasse and the geology of the northern Kalkalpen.

Professor Dehm made two notable overseas research expeditions. For nine months in 1939, he and colleagues worked in the Siwalik deposits of Pakistan and northwestern India. He was able to return to this area in 1955-56 and make collections including those that were the basis of an analysis of the Eocene fauna of Ganda Kas. The 1939 trip continued from Asia to Australia where field work was undertaken in the Wellington and Wombeyan caves. All his notes and the greater part of collections made on this trip were destroyed during the war, but all was not lost. Many years later in 1986, with Australian colleagues M. Augee and L. Dawson, he coauthored a paper on "The Munich Collections of Wellington Cave Fossil Marsupials" that recounted the remarkable history of his trip and catalogued the surviving fossils (*Aust. Zool*., 22:3-5). This was the last of Professor Dehm's many scientific publications. (A bibliography of his publications from 1931 through 1974 can be found in the *Mitteilungen Bayerische Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und historische Geologie, München*, 1977, 17:5-13. A bibliography of papers appearing after 1974 is in press in the same journal.)

Professor Dehm retired from his administrative positions in 1975. Although he continued to maintain a great interest in the work of his colleagues and new generations of students, he focused his energies on development and expansion of his research interests. He became especially intrigued with analysis of climatic changes during the Pleistocene recorded in deposits preserved in the area between the Alps and the Danube River.

During his career Professor Dehm was accorded many academic honors. He was elected a member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences in 1962 and, ten years later, a corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In 1991 he was elected an Honorary Member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The greatest monuments to his many accomplishments are the Institute and State Collections in Munich. Through his research and teaching as well as his dedication to these institutions, which he first served and then led, Professor Richard Dehm contributed to the strong prewar position of paleontology in Munich and then nurtured the rapid restoration of its high standards in the postwar years. (W. A. and D. T. Clemens, V. Fahlbusch)

PROFESSOR THOMAS STANLEY WESTOLL Ph.D., D.Sc., Hon. LL.D., F.G.S., F.L.S., F.R.S.E., F.R.S., 19121995

On the morning of Tuesday, 19 September 1995, in Newcastle, Emeritus Professor Westoll of the University of NewcastleuponTyne died peacefully after suffering a stroke in early August. He was hoping that very evening to attend the 43rd SVPCA symposium to hear talks about Paleozoic fishes and had been discussing the program with interest with Mrs Westoll during the previous week.

Born in West Hartlepool, he was a keen naturalist as a child-an accident in the swimming baths left him with a pronounced disability but in later life he was always ahead on field trips. As a teenager he won the Hancock Museum Junior Essay Prize in 1929: title-The

Geology of the District around West Hartlepool-prize £1, with which he obtained a copy of E. Neaverson's 1928 Stratigraphical Palaeontology. He went on to enter Armstrong College (later King's College, originally University of Durham and then University of Newcastle-uponTyne) in that year. In the next five years he obtained First Class Honours in Geology (with subsidiary Zoology and Metallurgy) and completed his Ph.D. on the Permian fishes of the north of England.

Professor Edwin Sherbon Hills (pioneer Devonian fish worker in Australia) spoke with affection of sharing a room with Stanley when he went to London in 1936 when they were both students of D. M. S. Watson's at University College. Stanley was then recipient of a DSIR Senior Research Award which he had taken up in 1934. Here he began in earnest the researches on Old Red Sandstone fishes which were to be the focus of much of his professional life. In the next 40 years he dedicated much of his time to elucidating the nature and use of Paleozoic fishes in biostratigraphy and became an expert on the Devonian fish localities of Scotland and the north of England, leading part of the International Geological Congress Excursion in 1948. As the late Humphrey Greenwood, then President of the Linnean Society of London, noted in his forward to Westoll's Festschrift (1977), "there was not a single major group of fishlike vertebrates, gnathous or agnathous, which he had not investigated at some time or another." His early work on the cosmine covering of dermal bones and scales of *Osteolepis* and *Dipterus* (1936) spurred later studies on cosmine resorption in dipnoans and osteolepids and clarified former taxonomic difficulties. Westoll brought a biological background to solve paleontological problems. Eventually he was to be honored scientifically with the term "WestollLines" (undulating concentric zones separating areas of growth in cosmine [Westoll, 1936; Bystrow 1942]). Westoll's major monograph on haplolepid fishes (1943) Greenwood (1977) thought was a model of taxonomic work and it gained Stanley an honorable mention in the New York Academy of Science's A. Cressy Morrison Prize competition of 1942.

He initiated close associations with North America after gaining the Geological Society of London's J. B. Tyrrell Fund in 1937, and then the Daniel Pidgeon Fund in 1939 to study fish localities in eastern Canada; he worked on the Late Devonian (Frasnian) Escuminac fauna of Québec and collected in several key sites. Elected to SVP in 1946, he crossed the Atlantic again to attend the international conference on genetics, paleontology, and evolution held during Princeton's Bicentennial Celebration in January 1947. One aim of this meeting was to "stimulate young scientists to explore new areas and methods of research"; here he talked on the origin of the Dipnoi. His long association with the SVP culminated in his election as an Honorary Life Member in 1976. He was able to attend several SVP meetings: at Cambridge in 1952 while Visiting Professor at Harvard University, in 1959, Los Angeles 1977, and Toronto in 1978.

After a period as lecturer at the University of Aberdeen, in 1948 Westoll became J. B. Simpson Professor of Geology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (formerly King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, University of Durham). At this time he cooperated with Rex Parrington in work on the evolution of the ear, enlisting the support also of an Aberdeen ear surgeon, John Gerrie. During his professorship he initiated extremely

important work on the nature of coal which was carried out in his department and fostered during the 13th InterUniversity Geological Congress in January 1965 (Murchison and Westoll, 1968). During his 29 years as Head of Department he delighted and inspired students with his lectures. He nurtured several vertebrate paleontologists: Alick D. Walker, S. Mahala Andrews, Roger S. Miles, Peter Zaborski, Paul Rose, D. Mike Pearson, Angela Brown (née Swonnell), Bobbie Paton who was originally Stanley's research assistant and became Alick Walker's student, Maggie Rowlands, and Susan Turner.

Another key event in Stanley Westoll's life was the acquisition in 1972 of a specimen of the extant coelacanth, *Latimeria chalumnae*, through the good offices and with the aid of the Royal Society. This specimen is housed at the Hancock Museum in Newcastle and was destined for dissection by Stanley's student, Peter Zaborski; it was cast by Stuart Baldwin and that cast was on display until quite recently with the new renovation of the Geology Gallery-NB. this specimen was not listed in the recent book on coelacanth biology.

Stanley was a keen collector. He met his second wife Barbara in the quarry at Achanarras, a fitting place to meet a future helpmate. Dr. Alick Walker (University of NewcastleuponTyne) recollects, "He was an excellent companion on field trips, and I remember several very enjoyable field weeks with him. In 1955, I think it was, soon after I got the job here, I went on a 'fishing trip' to Scotland with the Westolls and the Romers-the first time I met Al Romer. That was a great trip (see also Ro[a]mer report in SVP Bulletin no. 45). We assembled at Forfar and then spent three weeks touring most of the classic fossil fishyielding localities in that area and to the north, ending up in Caithness of course. We made a detour to the northwest coast, mainly for scenic interest, and round the NW corner by Durness and along the 'top' to Thurso. I remember Stanley trying to interest Al in the tectonics of the Moine Thrust zone at the classic Knockan Cliff near Inchnadamph, and Al trying his best to look interested but failing dismally. He wanted to collect vertebrates and that was about it. I can hear Al grumbling about only being able to find some 'bum *Dipterus* ' in Holburn Head Quarry, and bivalves would move him to growl 'GRRRR, CLAMS!' We stayed at the Gordon Arms Hotel in Elgin, and of course had a look at the Permo-Triassic localities as well as the Old Red ones. At dinner one night, Stanley proposed the toast of 'The Old and the New Red Sandstone,' which was drunk with enthusiasm!"

Stanley is survived by his son, Dr. Neil Westoll, and his family, as well as by Barbara Westoll. He and Barbara were important in the life of the paleontological community of Britain-particularly helping and giving their hospitality to itinerant expatriots roaming around in search of fossil fish fodder. In the brief ceremony at Newcastle West End Crematorium on Tuesday, 26 September, Neil and Prof. Duncan Murchison (one-time student and now Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of NewcastleuponTyne) remembered Stanley for his love of travel, breadth of knowledge, and scholarship. Above all, his sense of humor and ability to relate a fund of anecdotal stories-all this will be missed. A classic story which was related during the 43rd symposium week was how on the British scientific visit to China in the early 1980s, with Mahala Andrews, Alan

Charig, and Barry Cox, the Chinese were delighted when Stanley announced that they were the "Gang of Four."

He was a man of considerable influence and held in high regard by the scientific community of zoologists and paleontologists. Many contributed to the Festschrift volume edited by his students, Andrews, Miles, and Walker (with the help of Kim Dennis) entitled "Problems in Vertebrate Evolution." The associated symposium was held at the Linnean Society of London to commemorate Professor Westoll's retirement from the J. B. Simpson Chair. Duncan Murchison, in his address, however, mentioned Stanley's anger at Thatcher's closure of his department, destroying over a century of research tradition. The Department of Geology was one of the foundation departments in 1871, of the Newcastle College of Physical Science of the University of Durham, later Armstrong College (1906) and subsequently part of King's College (1937) which became a University in its own right in 1963. How ironic that having destroyed one of the most economically based geology departments (based on coal studies and spawning the Geotechnology/Engineering Geology Department, that Stanley should live to see the creation in recent years of many new geology departments which must now start from scratch to build up expertise, libraries, collections, and research commitment from almost nothing.

Greenwood (1977) listed some of Stanley Westoll's accomplishments and claimed him as one of the century's foremost paleoichthyologists. His authoritative work on Devonian to Carboniferous fishes covered topics which are now incorporated into the aims of UNESCO-IUGS IGCP 328: Palaeozoic Microvertebrates, especially the need for fishes to elucidate marine/nonmarine correlation. His body of work is not voluminous by today's standards, yet each thoughtprovoking paper can be regarded as a milestone in its field.

References and acknowledgements: With thanks to Mrs. Barbara Westoll, Dr. Alick D. Walker, Dr. Roger S. Miles, and Mr. A. M. Tynan for their help in preparing this brief memorial.

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS-ROMER-SIMPSON MEDAL

The Romer-Simpson Medal Committee wilil soon begin considering nominations for the next award. The Medal, given for "sustained and outstanding scholarly excellence and service to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology," is the highest honor that our Society can bestow on a vertebrate paleontologist. A complete description of the award can be found in the October 1987 *SVP News Bulletin* ; past recipients are listed below.

Nominations must include a formal nominating letter and at least two seconding letters of support. Nominating and supporting letters should explain how the individual being nominated fits the criteria for the award, emphasizing the nominee's contributions to vertebrate paleontology over the span of his or her career. There is no limit on the number of supporting letters that can be submitted. Nominees should not be informed by the nominator nor by anyone else that they are under consideration for the award. It is the responsibility of the nominator to gather and forward **all** letters to the committee chair, at the address below, by no later than **April 15, 1997**.

Past recipients: 1987 Everett C. Olson

1988 Bobb Schaeffer

1989 Edwin H. Colbert

1990 Richard Estes

1992 Loris S. Russell

1993 Zhou Ming-zhen

1994 John H. Ostrom

1995 Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska

1996 Percy Butler

Please address questions and send nominations by April 15, 1997, to: Michael Gottfried, Calvert Marine Museum, P. O. Box 97, Solomons MD 20688, USA; phone (410) 326-2042, fax (410) 326-6691. (Michael Gottfried)

BRYAN PATTERSON AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are now being accepted for the 1997 Bryan Patterson Award for student field work in vertebrate paleontology. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply. Applicants and their sponsors must be SVP members or pending members.

There will be one award of $1,200 or two awards of $600. Proposals for the Patterson Award must be for field work, and particular consideration will be given to proposals for

field work that is innovative rather than routine, venturesome rather than predictable, unusual rather than run of the mill.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is April 15, 1997 ; the winner will be decided in late May 1997. For application materials please write to: Dr. James M. Clark, Patterson Award Committee Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, George Washington University, Washington DC 20052.