# Society of Vertebrate Paleontology News Bulletin

Number 180 • Spring 2001

--- TABLE OF CONTENTS ---

- Official Business ................................... 2
- 2000 Presidential Address .......................... 2
- Thanks to Host Committee .......................... 7
- New President’s Message ............................ 8
- Annual Meeting Minutes ............................ 9
- Executive Committee Motions .......................... 14
- Election Slate ...................................... 15
- Treasurer’s Report .................................. 15
- Accountants’ Report ............................... 21
- Committee Reports ................................. 31
- Committee Chairs .................................. 52
- Award Winners ..................................... 55
- Call for Nominations ................................ 71
- New Members ....................................... 76
- News From Members ................................ 79
- Bulletin Board ...................................... 133
- Calendar of Events ................................ 134
- Publications ........................................ 136
- Positions Available ................................ 136
- Obituaries .......................................... 137
- Statement of Ethics ................................ 145
- SVP Sponsors ....................................... 146
- Sponsorship Application Form ...................... 147
- SVP Order Form ..................................... 149
- SVP Membership Application Form ............... 151
- Contributions ....................................... inside back cover
2000 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

As students of deep time, we recognize that this year’s transition to a new millennium really is insignificant relative to most other moments in earth history. Nevertheless, even in normal times, entities must evolve across changing “landscapes” or risk going extinct. Instead of simply playing it safe, SVP must blend stasis with change, by both maintaining the strengths of our past and striking out in new directions when important and affordable opportunities arise.

As I finish my final year as SVP President, I believe we have struck a good balance between stability and transformation, enabling us to adapt to and modify the professional and societal landscape within which we exist. Richard Stucky will provide exceptional guidance as SVP’s next President, as we continue evolving and building on our historic strengths.

As with last year, I think we all can be very proud of what we’ve accomplished in 2000. Our Society membership again has hit a record number of 1,932, approaching an almost unbelievable total of 2,000. The members remain incredibly active, and we continue to make research impacts on paleontology, evolutionary biology, the geological sciences, and society as a whole. All of that takes heavy volunteer commitment to our missions, and it is only because of the willingness of so many members to participate, and to contribute so intensively to things they believe in, that we are succeeding so admirably.

Assisting us in focusing on the tasks of making SVP vibrant and successful is the dedicated staff of our Business Office, run by the Sherwood Group. Greg Schultz (Administrative Director) and Liz Freyn (Meetings) are two of the three partners in the firm, so they have a lot invested in making SVP work well. But anyone who has interacted with them, or others in our office team (Sean Allen, Marti Buckley, Deb Pederson, Jim Wilkins, Jill Hronek, and others), know that they all have a deep and personal dedication to helping our members and the Society. Even with the outstanding service we have received since the transition of our business office to Sherwood one and a half years ago, the Executive Committee continues to work with Greg and his staff to determine ways to most effectively use their assistance, while minimizing the expense to SVP.

In contemplating the past year, most immediate in my mind is the 60th Annual Meeting in Mexico City. The geographic distribution of vertebrate fossils is not constrained by national boundaries, nor is the scientific expertise of our discipline—we are a rich and vibrant community of colleagues from throughout the world as clearly indicated by this year’s attendance of almost 500 attendees, from more than a dozen countries, and a fantastic set of associated field trips. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the administration and staff at the Instituto de Geología de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (Dr. Dante Moran Zentena, Director) and the Geological Museum, and for the exceptional efforts of the Host Committee, led by Oscar Carranza-Casteñeda (ably assisted by Wade Miller, Maria Del Carmen Perrilliat, Luis Espinoza-
In addition, the Mexico City scientific program had almost the same number of presentations as the other meetings of the past three years, and I thank Don Prothero for his exceptional leadership of the Program Committee for the last two years (Don has generously agreed to stay on as Chair of the Program Committee during Richard Stucky’s term). To the Host Committee, from all of us who attended the meeting: “Muchas gracias a nuestras colegas en México. Tuvimos un congreso espectacular, y saldremos con memórias especiales.”

I would also like to briefly summarize 2000 highlights from four other areas—fund-raising, public education, preservation of significant vertebrate fossils for public education and scientific research, and publications. More details about those, and other SVP initiatives, are in the business reports in this issue.

**Fund-raising**

Keynote in development efforts was the Past-President’s initiative spearheaded by Dave Krause. This initiative already has raised contributions and pledges totaling more than $32,000 from just 18 Past-Presidents and members. We expect that these initial contributions will form the core of a drive to have other SVP members and outside organizations support us in our key initiatives. We also continue to receive significant annual and endowment contributions to three awards to fund research and directly acknowledge and support the contributions of preparators and artists to our discipline. These include the Joseph Chance Award, focusing on preparator training, the Ying-Chien Chang Award for collaborative U.S.-Chinese VP research, and inauguration of the John Lanzendorf PaleoArt Award recognizing outstanding VP artwork in the past year.

**Education**

We continue our long-standing efforts in education, with the Patterson, Chang, and Predoctoral Fellowship awards for fieldwork and research, and the Romer Prize and Poster Prize specifically acknowledging and supporting students.

In addition, Ted Macrini (Graduate Student Liaison) has continued to work with other graduate students, the Executive Committee, and Business Office staff to develop the most useful annual meeting forum for our students to meet and learn from each other and more senior colleagues. This year marked the first appearance of an evening reception and roundtable format for discussing themes like Romer Prize session presentations, grants, research opportunities in Mexico, publications, and other topics.

Finally, we must also look outside our profession, to bring our science to the general public. Vertebrate paleontology clearly has a high public profile because of the amazing pace of our new fossil discoveries, but we also must use our knowledge of the fossil record to aid in public education about one of the most secure, but controversial, scientific theories—evolution.

1) At the Denver GSA annual meeting, SVP cosponsored an all-day
2) The Executive Committee sent letters of support to educators and the governors of Kansas and New Mexico, all of whom were fighting to reverse the political decision to remove the core science of evolution from school curricula.

3) SVP cosponsored the recent National Conference on the Teaching of Evolution, hosted by the Museum of Paleontology at Berkeley and supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation.

**Preservation of Significant Fossils**

This issue is of great significance to the long-term health of our discipline. Many of our recent efforts have focused on protection of vertebrate fossils on U.S. public lands, but there is no doubt that SVP must support our colleagues throughout the world as they push on similar issues of greater protection, preservation for science, and cessation of vandalism, illegal collection and export, and black-market sales. These issues will be a major focus of SVP’s work over the next year.

At last year’s business meeting, we introduced a resolution condemning the on-line auction sale of significant vertebrate fossils. While this has not stopped such sales, there are several encouraging signs over the past year that the public is becoming more aware of the negative repercussions, through:

1) Kevin Padian working with a private individual, to encourage him to purchase the *Icarosaurus* holotype at the Butterfield and Butterfield on-line auction, and donate the specimen back to the appropriate public repository—the American Museum of Natural History, where the type was named and housed for more than 30 years, before being reclaimed for sale.

2) Various SVP members, including me, Richard Stucky, Ted Vlamis, and others, have written articles for leading journals that have long ignored this issue—the journal of the American Association of Museums and AGI’s *Geotimes*.

3) SVP members have spurred writing of, or been interviewed for television shows and articles in *Scientific American*, *Nature*, national newspapers, and even *Forbes*.

4) In the spring of 2000, Richard Stucky and Ted Vlamis, representing SVP and SAFE, respectively, met with officials of Discover, Inc., following the turmoil at last year’s meeting—the outcome was extremely positive, as Richard Stucky summarizes in the 2000 Annual Business meeting report (see page 12) and in the last *News Bulletin* (179:3). SVP has contributed actively to land-management efforts to preserve fossil resources on public lands, and commentary from the SVP President, Government Liaison Committee, and many individual members, as well as SAFE, provided important information for the U.S. Department of the Interior report, released just after last year’s SVP meeting. The GLC and SAFE reports elsewhere in this *News Bulletin* discuss these efforts in more detail.
We continue working with other professional societies to develop common understandings and to generate position statements that summarize our many areas of agreement for our peers, legislators, and the public. Following last year’s Annual Meeting, the SVP Executive Committee met with the Paleontological Society’s Council, and generated a detailed and broad position statement on the protection of fossils on U.S. public lands—this is posted on the SVP Web site (www.vertpaleo.org/policy/policy_statement_uspubliclands.html). We also maintain ongoing discussions with conservation organizations and anthropological colleagues with many of the same concerns as SVP.

Clearly, we must persist in efforts at protecting important vertebrate fossils, both in the U.S. and assisting colleagues globally—this problem is real and it is not going to disappear.

Publications

Our flagship journal, *JVP*, remains exceptionally vibrant. SVP remains committed to publishing at least 800 large-format pages annually.

1) On advice from the editors and publications committee, we recently restructured the editorial system for greater efficiency, with editors for mammals (Richard Hulbert), archosaurs (Michael Parrish), and lower vertebrates (David Elliott, transitioning to Mark Wilson), plus a production editor (James Mead).

2) The *JVP Memoir* series continues strong, with a *Tyrannosaurus rex* monograph about to be submitted by Chris Brochu, following the outstanding publications of Wilson and Sereno (dinosaurs), Grande and Bemis (fishes), and Rowe et al. (crocodile).

3) SVP has not been able to afford to subsidize this series, but we are exploring possible means to do so in the future.

The *News Bulletin* has been successfully shifted to a twice-yearly schedule, with existing member mailings, e-mail notifications from the Business Office, and the SVP Web site picking up coverage of key notices requiring timely distribution.

Our cosponsored, all-electronic journal, *Palaeontologia Electronica*, remains strong, and we are about to distribute a CD-ROM version to increase its impact.

At last year’s Annual Meeting, we appointed our first Web Editor, David Polly, in recognition of the significance of the Web site as a publication venue and communication center. Dave has been joined by Mark Uhen, Associate Editor for Education and Outreach, Jason Anderson, Associate Editor for Meetings and Events, and Matt Carrano, Associate Editor for Publications. At the Annual Meeting Dave also made the exciting announcement that the SVP Web site has been completely revamped and will reside on a new server at the address www.vertpaleo.org.

Based partly on the successes of the Web site, and of *Palaeontologia Electronica* as another venue for publication of VP research that can incorporate new and evolving digital technologies for images and for distribution, the Executive and Publication committees believe that we are ready to embark on a
bold move for the *JVP*. We are entering into an agreement with BioOne, a nonprofit consortium of libraries and organizations led by the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), the University of Kansas, the Big 12 Plus Libraries Consortium (23 major research libraries), SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition of the Association of Research Libraries, representing some 180 international libraries and consortia subscribers), Allen Press (current printer of *JVP*), and a wide array of journal-publishing societies and institutions. BioOne will provide electronic access for library subscribers to more than 35 journals—even before this service is launched, it has more than 120 institutional and consortia subscribers. As all the BioOne publications will be distributed as a single package to libraries around the world, it will dramatically increase the circulation and exposure of *JVP* and our research.

Even as we begin this new service, we *will* continue the printed, paper *JVP* for our membership and library subscribers. We also are arranging for a copy of the electronic version to be available to all SVP individual members via our Web site, as another extra value for our dedicated membership and in case your library does not choose to subscribe to BioOne.

This entire electronic library project will be done at no cost to SVP, and should instead return significant new revenue to SVP, in a way that would be virtually impossible for us to achieve alone. To further minimize the risks to SVP, we retain copyright to *JVP*, BioOne will reimburse the Society for loss of revenue should any library subscribers drop *JVP*, our agreement is nonexclusive so SVP is free to pursue other electronic distribution options (if we wish) even while participating in this consortium, and we can withdraw from the project at any time if we are not satisfied with the collaboration.

Many of us in SVP have been striving for an opportunity to make *JVP* much more broadly available, and in an electronic form—but the archiving, cost, and logistic issues had always been overwhelmingly negative before. We believe now is the time to make *JVP* available to a much wider range of people around the globe. Many thanks to Nick Fraser, Rich Cifelli, David Polly, and the Publications Committee for their hard work on this exciting opportunity.

**New Initiatives and Continued Challenges**

Last year I highlighted some of the potential new initiatives and continued challenges we face. The challenges have not gone away, and we will continue to work on them. But I wanted to focus the above report on some of our many accomplishments and new initiatives over the past year, to give a sense of the remarkable fact that a distributed network of a relatively small number of committed volunteer officers and committee members can make a huge difference. Please continue to help in any way you can. Finally, in any society it is important to ask, “Where do we head next?”

Following the member survey completed earlier in 2000, the Executive Committee has embarked on a year-long strategic planning process. This is essential for us to do, so that we can:
1) determine the critical areas for us to devote our energies and resources in the coming years, and
2) maximize the impact of both our finite funds and the time of our volunteers on committee activities and SVP publications.

As this planning progresses, we’ll be presenting regular progress reports and getting additional input from all of you.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with all of you over the two years of my term as President. Our Society is in great shape due to your deep passion about our science and exceptional commitment to SVP. (John Flynn)

THANKS TO THE HOST COMMITTEE
It is such a great pleasure to be back in Mexico City after a 17-year hiatus. This meeting represents many of the things that make SVP great. We are an international organization that was founded with an original emphasis on North America—it is crucial to have met regularly throughout the continent, from:
1) Drumheller and Toronto, Canada, to
2) U.S. cities from coast to coast with exceptional museums, collections, and/or proximity to field areas that produce our primary data, to
3) the capital of Mexico with excellent collections and a wide diversity of vertebrate-producing sites nearby.

The distribution of vertebrate fossils is not constrained by national boundaries, nor is the scientific expertise in our discipline—we are a rich and vibrant community of colleagues from throughout the world as clearly indicated again by this year’s attendance.

So, in breaking with a tradition, I wish to introduce the Host Committee and simultaneously propose the following brief, and characteristically (for me) nonhumorous proclamation of thanks:

*Whereas*, although we are only part way through the 60th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, it already is clear that it will be another great success! And,

*Whereas*, the four field trips were well attended and highlighted some of the diversity in age and taxa represented within a short distance of Mexico City; and,

*Whereas*, while smaller in total attendance, the number of presentations is almost the same as the past three years, indicating an exceptionally broad and interesting scientific program; and,

*Whereas*, nothing can compare to the warmth and generosity of our hosts and the magnificent setting of this historic city, one of the oldest and most vibrant in the Western Hemisphere;

Be it proclaimed that the members of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology do hereby give our heartfelt thanks to all those who have made this wonderful meeting possible, being the:

2000 Host Committee
Oscar Carranza-Castañeda
Wade Miller
NEW PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we embark on the new millennium and begin our 61st year, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology is moving towards meeting the new challenges of today.

The Executive Committee has a full plate on its agenda for this year. Our primary and continuous service to society is to ensure that our scientific and educational goals are furthered through the annual meeting and our signature scientific publications. The Executive Committee will work directly through different committees to ensure that this happens. During 2001, we will be placing special emphasis on several projects. As John Flynn mentions in his report, we will be completing a strategic-planning process that will outline the goals and objectives for the Society. This will be the primary purpose of our midyear Executive Committee meeting which will be held 8–10 June in Washington, D.C. As part of this process, non-award committee chairs will be invited to attend the strategic-planning sessions. Importantly, the synergy engendered by development of the strategic plan in conjunction with committee chairs will give each committee clear objectives and guidance in the work to be accomplished during the coming years. We will use results from the survey of the membership on the issues that were raised by all of us.

Our choice for the site of the midyear meeting is critical. The protection of vertebrate fossils on public lands is a primary objective for the Society. Meeting in Washington will give the Executive Committee opportunities to meet with government and legislative leadership as well as societies with similar interests such as the Association of Systematics Collections to define our next steps and partnership opportunities. This is timely because of the recently published Department of Interior report on fossils from public lands.

Information technology is dramatically changing the way in which we communicate with one another. Under John Flynn’s leadership we have began the process of becoming immersed in the information age. We have signed on as a major partner with others in Palaeontologica Electronica, are finalizing an arrangement to have the JVP on-line, and will be moving towards making the News Bulletin available as an on-line publication with subscriptions available at
hard cost for a paper version. Through the leadership of our Web editor, David Polly, we will explore many new ways to improve the SVP Web page for better service to everyone.

We anticipate that our annual meeting in Bozeman will have high attendance and the annual auction should have some exceptional items. Funds from the auction have been earmarked by the Executive Committee to support our government work as well as support our move in the direction of improved electronic service. At the Bozeman meeting, we will be reviewing changes to our bylaws which need discussion and approval from the membership. We have had relatively poor participation in our elections and voting during the past several elections. In order to change our bylaws and constitution we need to have you vote. In order to approve any changes, our constitution currently requires a vote of more than 50% of our membership. We will greatly appreciate your willingness to participate.

As president of the Society, I have made the decision in consultation with the Executive Committee to simplify our committee structure.

The Executive Committee is up to the challenges for this year. We look forward to the meeting in Bozeman and a very productive year for vertebrate paleontology. (Richard K. Stucky)

MINUTES OF THE 60TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 26 OCTOBER 2000, MEXICO CITY

John Flynn, President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. and welcomed the group to the business meeting. He thanked the Business Office, Program Chair Don Prothero, and the Host Committee Co-Chairs, Oscar Carranza Castañeda and Wade Miller, for their efforts in creating a successful annual meeting. John also reviewed four areas of accomplishment for the Society under his leadership:

1) Fund-raising. New initiatives in fund-raising include the Past Presidents development campaign and three new awards to recognize different kinds of contributions to the Society.

2) Education. Activities in support of education include increases in the awards for student support, an active liaison between SVP student members and the Executive Committee, and several kinds of public education focusing on the significance of evolution.

3) Preservation and protection of fossils. These issues have been critically important to the Society for many years, but in recent years, the issues have had a higher profile within the Society and for the public. Members of the Society have written articles for national magazines and newspapers. Members of the Society have secured an agreement with executives from Discovery.com to discontinue support for selling vertebrate fossils on-line. The Society’s views and interests were well represented at the U.S. Department of Interior hearings on the status of fossils on U.S. public lands, and the final report contained guidelines consistent with the Society’s goals and practices. The SVP and Paleontological Society issued a joint statement about the protection of fossils on public lands.
The holotype of *Icarosaurus* was purchased by a donor, with encouragement from members of the SVP, who returned the fossil to the American Museum of Natural History. This outcome was consistent with the Society’s objectives regarding deposition of important vertebrate fossils.

4) Publications. The Society is vigorously represented by publications. These include the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, which continues to produce about 800 pages per year, and now has tables of content and abstracts on-line; the *Memoir* series, with new monographs moving into production; the *News Bulletin*, which is shifting into electronic publication; and sponsorship of *Palaeontologia Electronica*. Also, the Society formalized the position of SVP Web editor and associate Web editors, with David Polly appointed as the first SVP Web editor. John urged members to keep up the high energy level and mentioned that the Executive Committee is active in strategic planning for the Society’s future. (See President’s Report, page 2.)

Catherine Badgley presented the Secretary’s report. A motion to accept the minutes of the 59th Annual Meeting was moved, seconded, and passed by acclamation. Next, she reviewed highlights of the minutes of the June 2000 midyear meeting of the Executive Committee. Notable actions from this meeting included approval of the Sherwood Group (SVP Business Office) as host of the Web server for the SVP Web site, with the transition to the new server this year; the beginning of strategic planning in all areas of SVP activity; and revision of the SVP Constitution and Bylaws that has been underway for several years. She noted the motions passed by the Executive Committee via e-mail (See Motions, page 14.) since the last Business Meeting. Catherine also reported on the results of the 2000 election, in which Hans-Dieter Sues was elected as Vice President, Dale Winkler re-elected as Treasurer, and Catherine Forster as Member-at-large. Finally, she mentioned that the 2001 elections would occur earlier in the year and that a draft of the revised Constitution and Bylaws would be published in the *News Bulletin* for comment.

Dale Winkler presented the Treasurer’s report. He noted that SVP’s investments have remained fairly stable despite fluctuations in the stock market. He illustrated the distribution of investments and comparison of investment performance among different accounts. He compared the 1999 and 2000 budgets for the Society; the projected deficit for the 2000 budget is greater than that of 1999. (See Treasurer’s Report, page 15.) A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report in full was moved, seconded, and passed by acclamation.

A number of committee reports followed. (Detailed committee reports begin on page 31.) Donald Prothero, Program Committee chair, reported on this meeting’s technical program. Web-based submission of abstracts is working smoothly this year. (See report on page 44.)

Stuart Sumida presented the report of the Development Committee. He noted that over $32,000 has been generated already by the Past Presidents campaign. He mentioned the proposal to develop an SVP speakers program, modeled after the Sigma Xi speakers program. This program would highlight research in
vertebrate paleontology as well as raise money for the Society. (See report on page 31.)

Amy Davidson reported for the Chance Award Committee. Two awards were made this year. She noted that the 2001 award will be about $5,500. She encouraged researchers to submit joint proposals to the Committee. (See report on page 48.)

Tony Fiorillo, Co-Chair, presented the report for the Education Committee. He reported an increase in applicants for the predoctoral fellowship. Also, he mentioned a roundtable at this meeting to discuss bridges between the Education Committee and the Outreach Committee, as well as between the Education Committee and the Information Management Committee. Popular ideas that emerged were to profile an SVP paleontologist on the Web site on a regular basis and to develop a speakers program. (See report on page 34.)

David Fox, Co-Chair, presented the report of the Membership Committee. He noted the growth in the Society’s membership over the last decade, with 1,932 members this year. He also reviewed strategic questions under discussion in the committee. (See report on page 45.)

Jim Mead reported on the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (JVP). He described the change in editorial structure that occurred this year, in response to increased submission of manuscripts. The new structure includes three co-editors, each for a different subject, and a production editor to work with Allen Press. He noted that the number of publications is increasing, with more short notes and rapid communications than in previous years. He also mentioned that the average time from reception of a manuscript to publication has been reduced to less than one year. (See report on page 40.)

David Polly, chair of the Information Management Committee, presented the committee report. He described the new Web site at www.vertpaleo.org and mentioned some of the changes that are under development. (See report on page 39.)

Rich Cifelli, chair, presented the report of the Publications Committee. He mentioned that a special theme for all or part of a JVP issue is now a possibility. The title pages and abstracts of all issues of JVP are now on-line (www.vertpaleo.org/jvp/JVPContents.html). A provisional agreement has been approved to investigate an arrangement with an Internet service provider (BioOne) to produce the full text of JVP articles on-line. The News Bulletin is now published on-line (www.vertpaleo.org/bulletin/index.html) and in paper form. There are tentative plans to phase out the hard copy of the News Bulletin entirely by the end of 2001. The Publications Committee seeks feedback from SVP members on this plan. (See report on page 49.)

Mike Woodburne, Co-Chair, presented the report of the Government Liaison Committee (GLC). He noted that initiatives of concern to the Committee experienced a favorable climate this year. The Department of Interior report on the status of fossils on U.S. federal lands (Fossils on Federal and Indian Lands) was published; the report supported the SVP position of strong protection for
vertebrate fossils on federal lands. Jan Campbell continued her work for the GLC and SAFE on the Hill in Washington to discuss the importance of preserving and protecting fossils with legislators and to assess the climate for a stronger legislative initiative. (See report on page 35.)

Ted Vlamis, Chair, presented the report for SAFE (Save America’s Fossils for Everyone). Ted noted the importance of SVP members in contributing comments to the Department of Interior report, mentioned above in the GLC report. He thanked Jan Campbell for her continuing work to bring SVP’s concerns about protection of fossils on public lands to the attention of individuals in federal agencies and in Congress. (See report on page 37.)

Pat Leiggi invited the membership to the annual meeting of 2001 in Bozeman, Montana. The meeting will be hosted by Montana State University and the Museum of the Rockies.

President Flynn called for old business. Richard Stucky reported on the successful discussions by himself and Ted Vlamis with the leadership at the Discovery Channel about the sale of fossils on the Internet through amazon.com, formerly promoted by the Discovery Channel. Richard read the agreement reached with the leadership of the Discovery Channel; they agreed to discontinue the auction of vertebrate fossils on-line, to review the sale of vertebrate fossils in their stores, and to promote the protection of vertebrate fossils in their educational programs. (Please see News Bulletin 179:3, for the full description of the agreement.) Richard proposed that the SVP membership pass a resolution acknowledging and thanking the leadership of the Discovery Channel for changing their practices to support SVP concerns. The resolution reads,

The membership of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology wishes to acknowledge Discovery Communications, Inc., for its strong support of the scientific and educational value of vertebrate fossils. Its decision to discontinue all on-line sales and store sales of vertebrate fossils of scientific significance and its efforts to educate the public about paleontology are appreciated by the membership. The membership will continue to support the Discovery Channel in educating the public, not only about the science of paleontology, but also about the importance of vertebrate fossils to remain in the public trust.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

President Flynn called for new business. Mike Woodburne proposed that the SVP produce “short courses” in association with some of the thematic symposia on Wednesdays of the annual meeting.

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

Mr. President, members of the Executive Committee, fellow members of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, amigos de huesos antiguos de México. At the close of this business session of the 60th annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, it is my pleasure to acknowledge the efforts of our hosts.

SVP News Bulletin
Dado que—We have had an interchange of ideas on the Great American Biotic Interchange, have dealt with both practical problems and theoretical issues, have prepared ourselves to better clean and care for our fossils, and have reviewed lower vertebrates of the 20th century;
Dado que—We have had the opportunity to explore the geographic breadth and geologic depth of the fossil record of vertebrates in Mexico;
Dado que—It is appropriate in the land of the Toltecs and Aztecs, we have come together to learn about vertebrate paleontology, both Hightech and Lowtech;
Dado que—Our hosts have provided us all with an opportunity to learn a second language, even if it is limited to “una cerveza mas”;
Dado que—Our hosts have provided us not only with “La cerveza mas fina” but also with “El servicio mas fino”;
Dado que—Our colleagues in Mexico have amply demonstrated that they celebrate “Dia de los Muertos” every day;
Dado que—These meetings have truly allowed us to say, “Viva la evolución”;

I ask the members of the Host Committee to rise and be recognized: Oscar Carranza Castañeda, Wade Miller, Maria Del Carmen Perilliat, Luis Espinosa Arrubarena, Ismael Ferrúsquia Villafranca, Marisol Montellano Ballasteros, Shelton P. Applegate, and René Hernandez Rivera. I now ask the members of the SVP to rise and bring their hands together in acclamation to acknowledge the efforts of our hosts for these meetings.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. (Catherine Badgley)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOTIONS

Motions and approvals passed via e-mail:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Made by</th>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Seconded by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ME09/13/00</td>
<td>J. Flynn</td>
<td>To approve the Estes Committee recommendation of Walter Joyce of Yale University as the 2000 Estes Award recipient.</td>
<td>Z. Luo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Passed: 09/13/00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME06/20/00</td>
<td>J. Flynn</td>
<td>To approve the recommendations of the Lanzendorf PaleoArt Committee</td>
<td>C. Badgley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ME06/26/00  Made by: C. Badgley
Motion: To approve the draft legislation for a uniform management policy regarding paleontological resources on U.S. federal lands, as dated 6-1-2000, so that members of the GLC and SAFE can start discussing this draft with legislators in the U.S. Congress.
Seconded by: R. Cifelli
Passed 06/21/00

ME04/28/00  Made by: R. Cifelli
Motion: To create a theme issue of *JVP*
Seconded: C. Badgley
Passed 6/21/00

ME01/12/00  Made by: R. Cifelli
Motion: To approve the new *JVP* editorial structure as follows: lower vertebrates, Mark Wilson; archosaurs, Mike Parrish; mammals, Richard Hulbert; production, Jim Mead
Seconded by: J. Flynn
Passed: 1/12/00

ME01/21/00  Made by: C. Badgley
Motion: To accept the recommendation of the Publications Committee that copyright on images for the *JVP Memoir* series (only) be negotiable between SVP and the author or his/her institution. In the instance of the author or institution retaining copyright on images, the *Memoir* would include a statement that the images are used by permission.
ELECTION SLATE
On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I hereby present the following slate for consideration by the SVP membership:

Secretary (two-year term): Louis Taylor
 Mark Uhen
Treasurer (one-year term): J. David Archibald
 Nicholas Fraser
Member-at-Large (three-year term): Suzanne Strait
 Margaret Lewis

TREASURER’S REPORT
This budget summary was presented at the annual meeting in Mexico City and represents preliminary results of the closing figures for FY1999–2000.

Review of Endowment and Investment Funds as of 9/30/2000
The SVP investment funds, managed by Merrill Lynch, posted gains for the year ending 9/30/2000 of 7.18%, well in line with comparable investment mix indices. The separately held Estes Fund grew by 5.54%.

During the fiscal year about one-fourth of the SVP’s mutual-fund investments were shifted on the advice of our investment manager and after review by the Financial Oversight Committee. This shift resulted in moving funds from several low-performing, value-oriented funds into new high-quality growth funds. Our asset allocation continues to be near the recommended mix with 57% in fixed income securities and money-market funds and 43% in equities. Our fixed-income holdings (a five-year bond ladder of CDs and investment-grade corporate bonds) provide a reliable income stream to facilitate the Society’s programs and initiatives. Turnover in the bond ladder this year (holdings mature and are reinvested) resulted in improved yields on new holdings over the previous year because of rising interest rates.

Review of FY 1999–2000
Administration. Administrative income derives mainly from member dues. Increased membership again this year added slightly more revenue than expected.

Investment and Endowment Fund. As noted the SVP investments did well, with earnings on investment coming in near expectations.
We continue to maintain an annual production of near 800 pages. The business office has become more diligent about reminding authors to remit page charges when their articles exceed the free limit. We also are encouraging voluntary payments for all papers (paying for even a portion of the pages in your articles adds support to keep the size and quality of the JVP high). It continues to cost more to produce the JVP than our membership revenue will support, however this and other programs are subsidized by our investment funds.

**Annual Meeting.** The attendance at the annual meeting in Denver exceeded even rosy projections. Unfortunately, the costs of meetings in large cities and convention hotels are high, and we were only able to approach break-even on the meeting. We had expected to do better financially so our overall budget suffered accordingly.

**Summary.** Our largest single program expense continues to be the JVP. Changes proposed for the News Bulletin should result in considerable savings to the Society in coming years. Despite lower-than-expected annual meeting results, the Society’s investment income was able to keep our FY1999–2000 budget at a sustainable level.

**Summary of Proposed FY 2000–2001 Budget**
The proposed budget assumes conservative projections for administrative income and earnings from investment funds.

**Administration.** Rising costs across the board required the first increase in membership dues in six years. This was necessary in order to maintain and improve the Society’s programs while also not exceeding the recommended draw from our endowment and investment funds.

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

**Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting will lose money this year because of projected low attendance. Registration revenue will not offset the high fixed hosting costs and the added expenses with international shipping and transfers. International meetings are a reflection of the diverse membership of the SVP and are often among the most enjoyable of annual meetings for the participants. They represent an investment in the continued diversity of the SVP, even if the Society must occasionally subsidize them. We do not anticipate such losses for annual meetings now in planning. The Host Committee and management team have organized a wonderful meeting in Mexico City for those who do attend.

We will realize some savings this year from the move to two issues of the News Bulletin and we will invest in enhanced membership service through our new Web site (vertpaleo.org). This will continue our shift of many of the
Overall, our budget draw from investments this year is expected to be somewhat larger than we would like, but looking forward our future budgets should be in better shape than they have been for some time.

**Summary of the FY 1999–2000 Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>1999-2000 Budget</th>
<th>2000 Year-End Preliminary</th>
<th>Budget–Actual Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEMBERSHIP/ADMINISTRATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>144,080</td>
<td>143,024</td>
<td>(1,056)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>118,633</td>
<td>132,820</td>
<td>(14,187)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
<td>25,447</td>
<td>10,204</td>
<td>(15,243)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEADERSHIP &amp; AWARDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>12,667</td>
<td>(1,923)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>47,798</td>
<td>42,685</td>
<td>5,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
<td>(33,198)</td>
<td>(30,008)</td>
<td>3,190</td>
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<td><strong>JOURNAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>56,830</td>
<td>78,879</td>
<td>22,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>119,870</td>
<td>109,058</td>
<td>10,812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
<td>(63,040)</td>
<td>(30,179)</td>
<td>32,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEWS BULLETIN/COMMUNICATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>2,825</td>
<td>1,411</td>
<td>(1,414)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>23,105</td>
<td>15,046</td>
<td>8,059</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
<td>(20,280)</td>
<td>(13,635)</td>
<td>6,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MERCHANDISE SALES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>5,140</td>
<td>5,528</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>4,520</td>
<td>5,583</td>
<td>(1,063)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>(55)</td>
<td>2,379</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ANNUAL MEETING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>198,325</td>
<td>178,087</td>
<td>(20,238)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>180,050</td>
<td>178,406</td>
<td>1,644</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
<td>18,275</td>
<td>(319)</td>
<td>(18,594)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL ENDOWMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>112,500</td>
<td>135,290</td>
<td>22,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
<td>112,500</td>
<td>135,290</td>
<td>22,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>2,856</td>
<td>2,528</td>
<td>(328)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No. 180 17
### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,144</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51,603</td>
<td>12,677</td>
<td>38,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44,459</td>
<td>12,677</td>
<td>31,782</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50,324</td>
<td>12,677</td>
<td>38,926</td>
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<td></td>
<td>112,752</td>
<td>12,677</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62,756</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ENDOWMENT INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>122,500</td>
<td>176,744</td>
<td>($54,244)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>176,744</td>
<td>122,500</td>
<td>54,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54,572</td>
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### INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS LESS ENDOWMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($72,176)</td>
<td>($63,992)</td>
<td>$8,184</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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</table>

### Summary of Proposed FY 2000–2001 Budget

#### 2000-2001

### MEMBERSHIP/ADMINISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>162,195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>131,203</td>
<td></td>
<td>30,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
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### LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>11,400</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>45,912</td>
<td></td>
<td>(34,512)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### JOURNAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>78,438</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>120,703</td>
<td></td>
<td>(42,265)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

### NEWS BULLETIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>1,925</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>13,929</td>
<td></td>
<td>(12,004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MERCHANDISE SALES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>5,990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>4,228</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,762</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
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</table>

### ANNUAL MEETING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Increase (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>81,140</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expense</td>
<td>120,420</td>
<td></td>
<td>(39,280)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase (Decrease)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GENERAL ENDOWMENT
Increase 162,750  
Expense 0  
Net Increase (Decrease) 162,750  

RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT  
Increase 37,535  
Expense 11,100  
Net Increase (Decrease) 26,435  

| Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets | 93,878  
| Endowment Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets | 189,185  
| Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Less Endowment | (95,308)  
| Operating Revenue | 341,088  
| Operating Expense | 436,396  

(95,308)  

Review of Investment and Endowment Funds as of 9/30/2000  
SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY  
REVIEW OF NET ASSETS  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Asset</th>
<th>9/30/00 Value</th>
<th>9/30/99 Value</th>
<th>09/30/98 Value</th>
<th>09/30/97 Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axelrod</td>
<td>156,022</td>
<td>156,022</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chance Award</td>
<td>1,220</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estes Memorial</td>
<td>45,442</td>
<td>43,247</td>
<td>39,704</td>
<td>32,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson Award</td>
<td>41,780</td>
<td>19,226</td>
<td>16,960</td>
<td>13,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chance Award</td>
<td>69,256</td>
<td>76,020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ying-Chien</td>
<td>2,120</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chang Award</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson Award</td>
<td>9,639</td>
<td>10,161</td>
<td>10,161</td>
<td>10,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romer Prize</td>
<td>13,015</td>
<td>11,858</td>
<td>8,519</td>
<td>8,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skinner Award</td>
<td>40,199</td>
<td>37,045</td>
<td>33,942</td>
<td>31,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$1,551,536</td>
<td>$1,461,293</td>
<td>$1,449,769</td>
<td>$1,233,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$1,930,229</td>
<td>$1,814,872</td>
<td>$1,559,055</td>
<td>$1,330,374</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Type of Investment</th>
<th>9/30/00 Value</th>
<th>9/30/99 Value</th>
<th>09/30/98 Value</th>
<th>09/30/97 Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money market/cash management acct.</td>
<td>$115,318</td>
<td>$356,992</td>
<td>$270,197</td>
<td>$189,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual funds</td>
<td>812,350</td>
<td>660,261</td>
<td>555,211</td>
<td>514,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate bonds</td>
<td>127,959</td>
<td>157,823</td>
<td>177,407</td>
<td>66,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certs. of deposit</td>
<td>756,922</td>
<td>671,945</td>
<td>672,242</td>
<td>536,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt. security</td>
<td>10,034</td>
<td>10,354</td>
<td>110,619</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total investments</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,812,549</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,857,055</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,685,411</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,417,490</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

November 28, 2000

Executive Committee
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
Northbrook, Illinois

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology as of September 30, 2000 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology’s management. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from the Society’s 1999 financial statements and, in our review report dated December 7, 1999, we were not aware of any material modifications that should have been made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Society personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

MARK WEITZ & ASSOCIATES L.L.C.
SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2000 WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1999
(See Accountant’s Review Report)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 70,378</td>
<td>$ 288,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>4,457</td>
<td>5,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued interest</td>
<td>16,994</td>
<td>13,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>83,989</td>
<td>41,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments - Note 3</td>
<td>930,454</td>
<td>925,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>1,107,772</td>
<td>1,280,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments - Note 3</td>
<td>882,095</td>
<td>642,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable - Note 2</td>
<td>71,284</td>
<td>73,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Other Assets</td>
<td>953,349</td>
<td>716,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$ 2,061,121</td>
<td>$ 1,996,957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS |         |         |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES |         |         |
| Accounts payable - Note 8 | $ 51,406 | $ 45,345 |
| Deferred income | 72,486 | 136,540 |
| Total Liabilities | 123,892 | 181,885 |
| NET ASSETS |         |         |
| Unrestricted general operating | 1,551,336 | 1,441,293 |
| Temporarily restricted - Note 4 | 134,229 | 135,084 |
| Permanently restricted - Note 5 | 244,464 | 218,495 |
| Total Net Assets | 1,930,229 | 1,844,872 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | $ 2,061,121 | $ 1,996,957 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1989</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>1991</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGULAR DUES AND SUPPORT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Pay</td>
<td>126,384</td>
<td>126,384</td>
<td>126,384</td>
<td>126,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual meeting</td>
<td>176,200</td>
<td>176,200</td>
<td>176,200</td>
<td>176,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance and Indemnity</td>
<td>15,127</td>
<td>15,127</td>
<td>15,127</td>
<td>15,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment/Disability des indemnities</td>
<td>7,001</td>
<td>7,001</td>
<td>7,001</td>
<td>7,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>34,400</td>
<td>34,400</td>
<td>34,400</td>
<td>34,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4,383</td>
<td>4,383</td>
<td>4,383</td>
<td>4,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Regular Dues and Support</td>
<td>281,288</td>
<td>281,288</td>
<td>281,288</td>
<td>281,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALARIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Salaries</td>
<td>217,868</td>
<td>217,868</td>
<td>217,868</td>
<td>217,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>132,600</td>
<td>132,600</td>
<td>132,600</td>
<td>132,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15,360</td>
<td>15,360</td>
<td>15,360</td>
<td>15,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Salaries</td>
<td>365,838</td>
<td>365,838</td>
<td>365,838</td>
<td>365,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPPLIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Supplies</td>
<td>17,579</td>
<td>17,579</td>
<td>17,579</td>
<td>17,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>15,219</td>
<td>15,219</td>
<td>15,219</td>
<td>15,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Supplies</td>
<td>33,298</td>
<td>33,298</td>
<td>33,298</td>
<td>33,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</td>
<td>98,204</td>
<td>98,204</td>
<td>98,204</td>
<td>98,204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CHANGE</th>
<th>REGULAR DUES</th>
<th>PROGRAM SALARIES</th>
<th>SUPPLIES</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>98,204</td>
<td>132,600</td>
<td>171,868</td>
<td>39,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>-24,023</td>
<td>-15,360</td>
<td>-33,298</td>
<td>-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>74,181</td>
<td>117,240</td>
<td>138,570</td>
<td>39,519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TRANSACTIONS OF NET ASSETS                        | 98,204 |
| Released from Dues                               | 12,683 |
| Released from Salaries                           | 33,400 |
| Released from Supplies                          | 39,919 |
| Released from Other                             | 39,519 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM ASSETS</th>
<th>REGULAR DUES</th>
<th>PROGRAM SALARIES</th>
<th>SUPPLIES</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of Year</td>
<td>151,232</td>
<td>122,248</td>
<td>157,838</td>
<td>23,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>74,181</td>
<td>117,240</td>
<td>138,570</td>
<td>39,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending of Year</td>
<td>225,413</td>
<td>239,488</td>
<td>296,408</td>
<td>62,882</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>$115,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized losses on investments</td>
<td>9,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (increase) decrease in assets</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>(1,528)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>(41,994)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>2,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (decrease) increase in liabilities</td>
<td>5,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>(57,026)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</td>
<td>35,009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of investments</td>
<td>(253,547)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NET DECREASE IN CASH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(218,561)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of year</td>
<td>288,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of year</td>
<td>$70,178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(See Accompanying Review Report)

1. NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATION

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (Society) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit membership organization with approximately 1,950 members, formed in order to advance the science of vertebrate paleontology, especially in North America. The Society serves the common interests and facilitates the cooperation of all persons concerned with the history, evolution, comparative anatomy and systematics of vertebrate animals, as well as the fossil occurrence, collection and study of fossil vertebrates and the stratigraphy of the rocks in which they are found. The Society is also concerned with the conservation and preservation of vertebrate fossil sites.

To further these goals, the Society holds an annual educational meeting and publishes a journal and news bulletin. Revenue is generated from meeting fees, dues, investment earnings and publications. The Society provides its services to members and others throughout the United States and the world.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accompanying financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Using this method, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Information regarding financial position and activities is reported into three classes of net assets: unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted. These classes of net assets are based on the existence or absence of externally imposed restrictions or contributions. Accordingly, net assets of the Society and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Unrestricted Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

General operating net assets reflect revenue earned and expenses incurred in the operation of all Society activities except for certain amounts for which a separate class of net assets has been established. Funds received in support of activities and investment income are recorded as revenue in general operating net assets unless such amounts are restricted by the donor.
SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(See Accountants' Review Report)

1. NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
   - Continued

BASIS OF PRESENTATION - Continued

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets are subject to donor-imposed stipulations that can be
removed through the passage of time (time restrictions) or actions of the Society
(gesture restrictions). As expenses are incurred or time periods are met which
satisfy the requirements of the restrictions, temporarily restricted net assets are
reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as
net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Permanently restricted net assets are subject to the restrictions imposed by donors who
require that the principal of these classes of net assets be invested in perpetuity and
only the investment income be expended.

The financial statements include certain prior-year summarized comparative information in total
but not by net asset class. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a
presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, such
information should be read in conjunction with the Society's financial statements for the year
ended September 30, 1999, from which the summarized information was derived.

CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Society considers all highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of three
months or less to be cash equivalents.

INVESTMENTS

Investments are recorded at fair value. All gains and losses are recorded in the statement of
activities.

DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue includes dues and annual meeting fees received in the current period which
are applicable to a future period.
1. NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
   - Continued

   CONTRIBUTIONS

   Contributions received, including unconditional promises to give, are recognized as revenues in
   the period received at their fair values. Accounting standards require nonprofit organizations
   to distinguish between contributions received that increase unrestricted, temporarily restricted
   and permanently restricted net assets. Contributions to grants made, including unconditional
   promises to give, are recognized as expenses in the period made at their fair values.

   USE OF ESTIMATES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

   The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting
   principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported
   amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of
   the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting
   period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

   FUNCTIONAL ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

   The costs of providing the various programs and other activities have been summarized on a
   functional basis in the statement of activities. Expenses which are easily and directly associated
   with a particular program or supporting service are charged directly to that functional area.
   Certain other costs have been allocated among the program and supporting service functions
   based on estimates of time devoted to the functional areas by the management company.

2. CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

   At September 30, 2000, the Society has unconditional promises to give as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due in 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due in 2002 through 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due in 2006 and after</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Unamortized discount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Contributions Receivable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   The Society used a discount factor of seven percent to record those pledges due in greater than one
   year at present value.
3. INVESTMENTS

The aggregate carrying amount of each major type of investment at September 30, 2000 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Investment</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Noncurrent</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money market funds</td>
<td>$114,523</td>
<td>$795</td>
<td>$115,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual funds</td>
<td>786,937</td>
<td>26,313</td>
<td>813,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate bonds</td>
<td>127,959</td>
<td></td>
<td>127,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of deposit</td>
<td>79,884</td>
<td>727,028</td>
<td>756,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Investments</td>
<td>$930,454</td>
<td>$82,095</td>
<td>$1,012,549</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certain mutual funds, corporate bonds and money market funds totaling approximately $45,000 are held in a separate account as a permanently restricted investment as required by the donor.

4. TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following purposes at September 30, 2000:

- Ying-Chen Ching: $2,320
- Patterson Award: $9,659
- Norma Prize: $13,015
- Skimmer Award: $40,399
- Chance Award: $69,256

Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: $134,229

5. PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

At September 30, 2000, the Society has permanently restricted net assets, the income from which is expendable to support the following:

- Chance Award: $1,220
- Patterson Award: $41,780
- Edwin Memorial Award: $45,842
- Any activity of the Society: $156,022

Total Permanently Restricted Net Assets: $244,464

Any temporarily restricted income designated for the Edwin Memorial Award but not utilized during the year is transferred back to the permanently restricted net assets. At September 30, 2000, a transfer of $1,027 was made.
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS

Net assets were released from donor restrictions during the year ended September 30, 2000, by incurring expenses satisfying the following restricted purposes specified by donors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ewan Memorial Award</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson Award</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boote Prize</td>
<td>2,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skinner Award</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chace Award</td>
<td>5,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yung-Chun Chang Award</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Affairs</td>
<td>2,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets Released from Restrictions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,831</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCOME TAXES

The Society is a nonprofit corporation which has been granted a tax-exempt status as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for all business income related to the organization’s tax-exempt purpose. The Society is required to pay federal and state income taxes only on its net unrelated business income arising from publication advertising, after related expenses. No tax provision was required for the year ended September 30, 2000.

COMMITMENTS

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The Society is managed by an outside management company which provides management, administrative and other services. The fee for these services, effective October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000, was $131,128. The management fee for the year ended September 30, 2001, is $127,648. The Society also reimburses the management company for various operating expenses. At September 30, 2000, the Society owes approximately $13,900 to the management company related to the management fee and reimbursed expenses.

PRODUCTION OF JOURNAL

9. **DONATED SERVICES**

A significant amount of donated services is contributed to the Society by various members to support the Society’s programs and supporting services. These volunteer activities include participating on the Executive Committee and numerous other committees. The value of these services has not been included in the financial statements.
AFFILIATED BIOLOGY SOCIETIES LIAISON
As SVP liaison to Society International Comparative Biology, I have relatively little news to report. I have been in touch with Beth Brainerd in the Division of Vertebrate Morphology of SICB, and we are working on coming up with an idea for a jointly sponsored event for the 2002 SICB meetings in Anaheim. I will keep you posted as things develop. (Blaire Van Valkenburgh, Chair)

AFFILIATED GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES LIAISON
It has been my pleasure to serve as the SVP Affiliated Geological Societies Liaison. The American Geological Institute has continued to serve as a voice in Washington for the earth sciences. AGI has been active in supporting funding for scientific research, particularly in the earth sciences.

Other issues on which AGI has been involved include preparing a statement on the importance of including earth scientists in studying climate change and advocating the inclusion of evolution in science curricula. (Ted J. Vlamis, Chair)

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
A number of initiatives were undertaken, carried forward, or brought to fruition by the SVP Development Committee in 1999–2000.

Past Presidents Bequest Initiative
The Past Presidents Bequest Initiative, started several years ago by then-SVP Business Manager Pam D’Argo, then-Executive Committee Member-at-Large Betsy Nicholls, and then-Development Committee Chair Don Lofgren was completed and launched this past spring with the able assistance of Sean Allen and the good folks at the SVP Business Office. A letter from the SVP Past Presidents was mailed to all members of the Society, along with an informational brochure that provided details on how to make such a bequest and why it is so vitally important for the future of our discipline to do so.

Twenty-three of the 27 surviving Past Presidents enthusiastically supported this initiative (namely, Donald Baird, Robert Carroll, Rufus Churcher, William Clemens, Edwin Colbert, Mary Dawson, John Flynn, Joseph Gregory, James Hopson, Louis Jacobs, Farish Jenkins, David Krause, Wann Langston, Jason Lillegraven, Ernest Lundelius, Bruce MacFadden, Malcolm McKenna, Bobb Schaeffer, William Turnbull, John Wilson, Albert Wood, Michael Woodburne, and Rainer Zangerl), either by making a substantial contribution or by making a commitment to do so upon their passing, and signed the letter. We also note, with great sadness, that one of our Past Presidents, Nick Hotton, after making such a commitment, passed away last fall. Already the Past Presidents Bequest Initiative and other donations have garnered $32,056 in revenues for the general endowment and, as stated, commitments for more in the future. We hope and trust that more SVP members will join the Past Presidents by committing to the future of
our Society in this way.

**Other Contributions**

In addition to contributions to the general endowment of the Society, approximately $20,000 has been donated by SVP members to augment the endowments of various prizes and to assist various committees in achieving their missions. Special mention must be made of the fact that Joseph Chance donated $5,300 in support of the 1999–2000 Joseph Chance Award, Ying-Chien Chang donated $2,000 for the 1999–2000 Chang Award, the late Hilmar Sallee bequeathed to the Patterson Prize fund, and the John Lanzendorf PaleoArt Award fund received $1,000 donations each from Hank Blankenship, John Lanzendorf, and Adrian Lederer.

**Proposed SVP Speakers Program**

**Introduction**

An SVP Speakers Program is proposed in a manner based on the highly successful model presented by the Sigma Xi Speakers Program.

It would be understood that when speakers are invited as members of the speaker series they would receive compensation/reimbursement for travel and (if necessary) accommodations; however, SVP members honored by selection to Annual Speaker Series would agree to donate honoraria earned at academic and public speaking engagements to the SVP. Speakers would donate honoraria generated via contact through Speakers advertising, as well as normal seminars. (It is suggested that consultation monies, which make up a significant amount of income for nonacademic members of SVP, as well as some academic members, be solicited but not demanded, as it might squelch interest from some of our more well-known members.)

The range of potential invitations would be enhanced by requesting nominated speakers to list both a “popular” presentation topic and a “profession-level” presentation topic. These may or may not be related, but the former should have broad appeal to the educated or interested general public.

**Advertising**

The program would be highlighted and emphasized via the following media:

- *SVP News Bulletin*—target: institutions with SVP members seeking entertaining and informative seminar speakers.
- SVP Web-site link—target: individuals searching the net for information and individuals in paleontology.
- Selected press releases (particularly in the annual meeting city).
- Large public lectures (A trial run for such a program was attempted at the Chicago meeting under the direction of Cathy Forster. It met with moderate success, but had severe limitations in publicity.)
- E-mail and postal summaries to selected groups—target: educational groups (K–12, community colleges, and others).
California State University–San Bernardino has pledged support for the initial two years of advertising design.

**Benefit to Nominees and Selectees**

Those selected as SVP speakers will be highlighted in the *News Bulletin*, and possibly at the Annual Banquet. It would be a distinctive award and honor to be listed in professional activities of a CV, and it will enhance the recipient’s opportunities to travel and interact with colleagues (and potential admirers).

**Proposed Selection Criteria (to Be Coordinated by the Development Committee)**

1) The exact number of annual speakers will be decided by the Development Committee, or the Development Committee in collaboration with the Executive Committee. It is suggested that the number not be high. Generalist societies like Sigma Xi can afford to have many such speakers, as they draw on a much larger body of professionals. Initially, we suggest three to four per year so as: A) not to exhaust our pool too quickly, B) emphasize that being selected is an honor, and C) allow publicity for the selectees to remain within a reasonable time and fiscal budget.

2) Recipients of the honor must be members of SVP.

3) Consideration of potential speakers would be by nomination. Self nomination is allowable, and those nominated by others must consent to nomination. In special circumstances, the Development Committee or Executive Committee may solicit the nomination of individuals they feel would represent the Society in a particularly appropriate manner. Nominees would be required to submit a CV, a statement of intent to participate in the program, abide by its guidelines, and a statement detailing why they would like to be selected.

4) Review of the nominees could be conducted either via post, e-mail, or at the Executive Committee meetings. I would volunteer to coordinate the packaging of nominations for review.

5) Announcement of the “SVP Annual Speaker Series.” Participants can be named at the Annual Banquet, or (considering the length of the program as it stands) in the *News Bulletin*.

6) SVP Speakers would designate both a “popular” and “professional-level” presentation to be listed in any publicity and/or advertisement (see above).

**Projected Cost**

We currently estimate minimal cost to SVP or the Executive Committee for initiation of the program. Announcement may come via e-mail to members, e-mail announcement of a Web site, and announcement at the annual meeting. A flyer could be included in other Society mailings. If this latter avenue is pursued, moderate mailing costs would be incurred. Cost of photocopying has been pledged by the California State University–San Bernardino Campus for the duration of co-chair Sumida’s tenure with the Development Committee.
Planned Giving Program
The Development Committee is looking into options for planned-giving programs to support the Society. (David Krause and Stuart Sumida, Co-Chairs)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
The SVP Education Committee focused its efforts in two areas during this past year: the SVP Predoctoral Fellowship and securing funding for and organizing a national conference on the teaching of evolution.

1) The SVP Education Committee received only two applicants for the Predoctoral Fellowship. After reviewing the proposals, we recommend that the award be given to Andrew Heckert of the University of New Mexico for his project entitled “Microvertebrates from the Upper Triassic Chinle Group: The advent of modern terrestrial communities.”

2) Working with members of the Paleontological Society and the Society for the Study of Evolution, a proposal was submitted to the National Science Foundation which was successful. As a result, a National Conference on the Teaching of Evolution was held 5–8 October 2000 in Berkeley, California. The meeting was hosted by the University of California Museum of Paleontology in sponsorship with the Paleontological Society, the Society for the Study of Evolution, and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. Publication of the proceedings of the meeting will be supported by the Geological Society of America.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together a broad representation of scientific, educational, and other interested professional organizations to improve the quality of, and accessibility to materials that support the teaching of evolution. Emphasizing evolution as a unifying theme across scientific disciplines and the benefits to society of teaching evolution, discussions focused on developing recommendations that individuals and organizations can employ to support quality science education in the classroom, in museums and informal science settings, and as part of life-long learning. The participants developed a list of action items for consideration by participating societies.

The Steering Committee for the conference was composed of David Lindberg (UCMP), Irene Eckstrand (SSE), Sam Donovan (SSE and BioQuest), Cathleen May (GSA), Judy Scotchmoor (UCMP and SVP), and Dale Springer (PS). Further information about the conference can be found at www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/ncte.

ESTES AWARD COMMITTEE
The 2000 Estes Committee reviewed five applications. Walter Joyce is this year’s winner. Mr. Joyce’s proposal concerns turtle origins, specifically a reinvestigation of Proganochelys, Kayentachelys, Mongolemys, and Eurysternum. This was a well-written and carefully thought-out proposal and Mr. Joyce is to be complemented. (Mark A. Norrell, Chair)
GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The SVP continues to have a strong presence in Washington, D.C., thanks to the rehiring of Jan Campbell this year by SAFE. Ms. Campbell’s continued efforts to educate members of Congress, their staff, and many organizations in our nation’s capitol about the importance of preserving and protecting our fossil heritage is paramount. As you know, much of the work being done by the GLC involves joint activity with SAFE. Therefore, we want to thank Ted Vlamis, President of SAFE, for his unwavering efforts in promoting responsible stewardship of our public fossil resources. The GLC recognizes the importance of SAFE and asks that members give generously to its mission. We would also like to remind you to give whatever you can and check the government affairs box on your membership renewal form so that GLC can fully represent SVP governmental initiatives.

GLC has established a network of committee members who will act as regional advisors and represent the SVP membership to the extent of the SVP’s by-laws, in particular article 9, statement of ethics. All members of the GLC will continue to assist government agencies on national, regional, and local levels in the development of management policies and regulations that are pertinent to the collection of vertebrate fossils and the Society’s goals.

After a long process of meetings, hearings, comment periods, and numerous drafts, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) released its report, Fossils on Federal and Indian Lands, in May 2000. Briefly, the purpose and scope of the report was in response to Senate Report 105-227 regarding the Fiscal Year 1999 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. As a follow-up to the Senate report Senators Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson of South Dakota requested “recommendations as to how to structure a unified federal policy, including necessary legislative action.” Most of you will remember it was then-Congressman Tim Johnson who introduced the procommercial Paleontology Preservation Act of 1996.

In last year’s SAFE report, Ted Vlamis explained the process of testimony, hearings, and the importance of your participation during this process. The GLC and SAFE thank everyone who attended hearings, provided testimony, and wrote letters to the Secretary of the Interior in support of preserving and protecting our public fossil resources. The GLC is extremely pleased with the report findings, and recognizes there are many similarities with SVP’s objectives in fostering cooperation among American institutions, professional and amateur communities, and federal agencies. The following briefly characterizes the content and recommendations of the report; however, we urge all of you to read the entire report which can be accessed on the Web at www.doi.gov/fossil/fossilreport.htm.

The report includes the following sections and subsections in detail: Purpose and Scope of Report, Developing the Report to Congress, Value of Fossils, Management of Fossils on Indian Lands, Management of Fossils on Federal Lands, Collection Requirements, Storage and Preservation, Recommendations for Further Action, and Summary of Public Comments from Federal Register (and
The following are recommendations for further action as outlined in the DOI report. Please note that there is considerable text that precedes each recommendation in the report.

**Tribal Land**
The consulting agencies have no recommendations concerning the management of fossils on Indian lands, since this should appropriately be addressed by tribal governments.

**Federal Land**
As a result of this Congressionally mandated assessment of federal fossil management, the consulting agencies have concluded that a coordinated approach to the appropriate protection and management of fossil resources would greatly enhance federal stewardship of these resources. Toward that end, the agencies recommend that future Congressional and administrative actions regarding fossils on federal land be governed by the following principles.

*Principle 1. Fossils on Federal Lands Are a Part of America’s Heritage.*
*Recommendation.* Future actions should reaffirm the current use of federal fossils for their scientific, educational, and, where appropriate, recreational values.

*Principle 2. Most Vertebrate Fossils Are Rare.*
*Recommendation.* Future actions should reaffirm the restriction of vertebrate fossil collection to qualified personnel, with the fossils remaining in federal ownership in perpetuity.

*Principle 3. Some Invertebrate and Plant Fossils Are Rare.*
*Recommendation.* Future actions should reaffirm mission-specific agency approaches to the management of plant and invertebrate fossils.

*Recommendation.* Future actions should penalize the theft of fossils from federal lands in a way that maximizes the effectiveness of prosecutions and deters future thefts. Penalties should take into account, among other factors, the value of fossils themselves, as well as any damage resulting from their illegal collection. Future program strategies should emphasize education of federal managers, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, and the judiciary regarding the value of fossils and the techniques for the appropriate protection of fossil resources.

*Principle 5. Effective Stewardship Requires Accurate Information.*
*Recommendation.* Future actions should acknowledge the need for gathering and analyzing information about where fossils occur; in particular, the critical role of inventory in the effective management of fossil resources. Increased emphasis on
fossil inventory should take into consideration, where possible, regional approaches across agency lines, using modern technology such as GIS. Such work could also address specific issues, such as the impact of erosion on the loss of resources.

**Principle 6. Federal Fossil Collections Should Be Preserved and Available for Research and Public Education.**

**Recommendation.** Future actions should affirm the importance of curating scientifically valuable fossils as federal property, often in partnership with nonfederal institutions. Future program approaches should emphasize the use of modern technology to improve curation and access, as well as the sharing of information between and among government agencies and other institutions.

**Principle 7. Federal Fossil Management Should Emphasize Opportunities for Public Involvement.**

**Recommendation.** Future actions should include an emphasis on public education and participation in the stewardship of fossil resources. Future program approaches should emphasize the use of technology to increase public education and awareness of the importance and benefit of fossil resources. (Patrick Leiggi, Michael Woodburne, and Cathleen May, Co-Chairs)

**SAFE COMMITTEE**

I’m pleased to provide a brief update on SAFE activities during the past year. I believe we have made a great deal of progress in developing our ties both within federal agencies and on the Hill. Much of this has been due to the ongoing efforts of Jan Campbell. As referenced in the GLC Report, SAFE and the GLC were active in encouraging SVP members to submit comments to the Department of the Interior for consideration in the preparation of its report on Management of Fossils on Federal and Indian Lands. This report is discussed in detail in the GLC Report (above), and I would echo the comments of the GLC.

SAFE has been active in bringing the findings and recommendations of this report to the attention of appropriate Hill staff, and in working together with the GLC to formulate ways in which the principles outlined in that report can be embodied in public policy. I want to thank the GLC co-chairs for their work and cooperation in this process.

I’ve also been pleased to collaborate with SVP President John Flynn and Vice President Richard Stucky in bringing our concerns to a wider audience by writing an article for the American Association of Museums magazine, *Museum News*. The concerns of SVP regarding the Discovery Channel fossil auction last year were brought to the attention of senior Discovery Channel management, and I believe much progress was made in ensuring that they will be more responsible in the future.

The coming year promises to be one of great importance for the protection of fossils on federal lands. The DOI report gives us a sound foundation upon
which to build. I join the GLC co-chairs in encouraging your participation in the process by contributing to the SVP Government Affairs Fund, and by being ready to respond when asked to do so by the GLC. (Ted Vlamis, Chair)

GRADUATE STUDENT LIASON
At the past meeting in Mexico City, a graduate student forum was held for the first time in lieu of the traditional graduate student luncheon. This was an informal event that was held at no cost to student members of SVP with refreshments provided. Students had the opportunity to talk with a number of senior members of SVP on issues relevant to becoming a professional vertebrate paleontologist. These issues included: advice on writing a successful grant proposal, how to write a résumé, information on internships in VP available to students, how to partner with someone for fieldwork in Mexico, advice on the job application procedure for VP positions at museums, advice on giving a good Romer talk, advice on making a poster for the student poster competition, and pointers on writing abstracts and papers for *JVP*.

I thank Sean Allen for organizing this event as well as all the senior members of SVP who attended the forum. The members who attended included: Oscar Carranza Castañeda, Richard Cifelli, Margery Coombs, Robert Emry, John Flynn, Jim Mead, Wade Miller, Lyn Murray, Robert Purdy, and Richard Stucky.

The student attendance for the forum was not as high as I had hoped but I plan to expand the program for next year’s meeting in Montana. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from the students who attended and everyone who helped out and I encourage all students to attend next year. If you have any comments on the past graduate student forum or if you have suggestions for topics for next year’s forum, please e-mail me (tmacrini@hiram.edu). As usual, if you have any comments/concerns about any issues that affect student members of SVP, feel free to contact me. (Ted Macrini, Chair)

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
The Honorary Membership Committee for 2000 comprised the following people: Christine Janis (Chair), Larry Witmer, Olivier Rieppel, and Luke Holbrook.

We received two nominations this year, and both were unanimously recommended to the SVP Executive Committee for nomination.

The first was for Dr. Elaine Anderson, currently a research associate in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, nominated by Christine Janis and Jan Saysette.

The second was for Professor Zhiming Dong, who has recently retired from the IVPP at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, nominated by Zhexi Luo. (Christine Janis, Chair)

THE JOSEPH T. GREGORY AWARD COMMITTEE
The J. T. Gregory Award Committee has deliberated, unanimously selecting Brent Breithaupt as its nominee. Brent’s tireless efforts at the annual auction have
benefited the Society enormously, in addition to providing a social high point of our meetings for many years now. In our view Brent’s outstanding and sustained contribution to the Society is highly deserving of recognition. (Andre Wyss, Chair)

**INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Our main focus during the past year has been the SVP Web site. We felt that the Society should consider the site as one of its publications; it is particularly important, not only for members, but as the face of the Society to nonmembers. Accordingly, the site should be professionally presented and should have an editorial organization that provides the same continuity that *JVP* and the *News Bulletin* have. We also felt that the scope of the site must expand to meet needs of the Society, especially in the areas of public outreach and membership mechanics. Towards those ends, several significant steps were taken.

Following the initiative of Ralph Chapman, the Society has reserved a domain name: www.vertpaleo.org. Thanks to Greg Schultz in the Business Office, it is now functional and will be our permanent address on the Web.

We have also contracted server service through the Business Office. The benefits of this are threefold: 1) membership services can be managed directly by the Business Office; 2) the Society can demand technical assistance that it could not ask for from our previous volunteer hosts; and 3) there is no longer conflict of interest over our commercial and political content. We very much would like to thank our previous hosts for providing the Society with a Web home: the University of Michigan Museum of Paleontology, ETEWEB, the Illinois State Museum, and the University of East London Palaeobiology Unit. The entire site has been redesigned and significant new content added. The *JVP* area has been expanded and now includes the table of contents and, thanks to volunteer Karen Nordquist, front covers from all issues. It also has abstracts from post-1996 issues.

The *News Bulletin* is now available in PDF format, which is more convenient than the earlier HTML. Many order forms have been redesigned, making them easier to print. Also, the preparator’s group has added a section called “Materials and Methods.” In all, the site now consists of almost 600 files, roughly three times the size of the old site.

Finally, the Executive Committee created the posts of editor (with David Polly appointed as the first) and three associate editors (Mark Uhen, education and outreach editor; Jason Anderson, meetings and special events editor; and Matt Carrano, publications editor).

The maturity of the Web site has been a long time coming. The site was started six years ago in 1994 following discussion in the Information Management Committee, then chaired by Annalisa Berta. David Polly developed a prototype site at University of Michigan containing information about the Society, the latest *News Bulletin*, a directory of VRTPALEO subscribers, and SAFE pages. A year later the site was approved by the Executive Committee and,
with the help of John Damuth, moved to a temporary home at ETEWEB. In 1997 we moved the site to its most recent homes at Illinois and London. At that time it was expanded and redesigned, metamorphosing from its old red-white-and-blue motif to JVP orange. In 1998 we began on-line abstract submission. There are still some glitches in the process, but today virtually all abstracts are processed electronically. This year 325 abstracts were submitted via the Web site. In the coming years, we will provide more services, including membership renewals, credit card ordering, membership directories, and media and educational outreach components. The SVP Web site is the Society’s Web site and we encourage its use. Please don’t hesitate approaching the editor if you have ideas.

Besides the Web site, there has also been progress on the on-line version of the Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates. Currently, the database covers the years 1509–1958 and 1981–1993, and has approximately 112,000 references. It still lacks several volumes covering the intervening years. Of these, the Camp-edited volumes for 1959 and 1964 are ready to be put in and the AGI volumes covering 1972–1980 are almost ready. There are about 300 references that still need editing in the Gregory 1969 volume before it can be added. We expect that all of these will be entered into the database over the coming few months. (David Polly, Chair)

**JOURNAL OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY**

As compared to a few years ago, we are now publishing more articles per issue but keeping basically within the ~800 printed pages per year. A Note is determined to be an article that will be published at less than five pages. You will see that we are increasing the number of Notes and Papers.

As you can see, we are phasing out the unofficial category Comment/Reply. We have seen an increase in heated and endless debate (far more at the Editorial Office than reaches print), so we have elected to put this section only to the rarest use and keep the number of pages available for Papers and Notes.

Manuscript submissions for Rapid Communications are on the increase. Although these articles are deemed important, they also have a habit of pushing manuscripts already in the print line-up back—possibly to a next issue. The Editorial Office is tightening up on what warrants a true Rapid Communication.

The workload in the Editorial Office has increased, reaching a peak during volume 19. With volume 20 we began a phasing-in of a larger and hopefully faster and more efficient Editorial Office. Previously we had David Elliott and Jim Mead as the only co-editors. Actual production of each issue would rotate between each co-editor. This system worked well for previous co-editors when the number of submitted manuscripts was less than about 70 per year. With the increase in numbers of submitted manuscripts plus the managing of reviews, acceptances, and rejections, we began a new system that is in full operation as of SVP 2000. We now have a co-editor for each of the following areas: lower vertebrates (Dave Elliott, but as of 1 December 2000, Mark Wilson); archosaurs (Michael Parrish); and mammals (Richard Hulbert). Realize that these categories...
are generalizations. Multiple taxa, theoretical, and biostratigraphic manuscripts go to the co-editor who is willing to take on the topic in a case-by-case scenario. Co-editors take care of the day-to-day managing and the peer-review process—they work with the approximately 15 associate editors on the board. When an article is completely reviewed, revised, and finally accepted, the entire manuscript file goes to the production editor (Jim Mead). This new position of production editor lessens the burden on each of the co-editors and it should quicken the production and printing rate sometime in volume 21 (2001). Realize that it takes more time to get five ten-page manuscripts to press than it does one 50-page manuscript. With the increase in shorter articles (Notes), the Editorial Office work-load has increased. It appears likely that very soon *JVP* will begin to experience a publication backlog due to the increase in the number of articles/notes. SVP/*JVP* may soon have to evaluate the number of printed pages it produces each year.

The submission rate and rejection rate is harder to determine for this SVP annual report mainly due to the change in the number of editors. We estimate that we have had over 140 manuscripts submitted this past year—an increase over last year. We are hovering at about a 33% rejection rate. The time from assigning a manuscript number to the time the manuscript is printed is still typically less than a year. Items that slow the process still include: 1) some peer reviewers are excessive in the amount of time needed to produce a review, 2) some authors are slow at returning a revised manuscript, and 3) work overload at the Editorial Office (the restructuring described above should reduce this problem).

We are looking at ways to cut down on the number of author changes at the page-proof stage. Each author change per unit (one letter, one word, one paragraph) costs SVP just under $3. Some authors update their manuscripts at the page-proof stage—one recent set of changes amounted to 56 alterations. We are looking at ways to curb the number of changes at the page-proof stage (such as charging the author for excessive changes). Having an author submit the final (accepted) manuscript on computer disk saves SVP $5 per page at the production stage. Having an author submit an illustration on disk does not seem to have been overall outwardly useful for production or costs, nor has it been outwardly awkward. This system seems to be working.

The table below includes the issues for this reporting period. Total pages equals 828 for this reporting period. Volume 20(4) is in first page-proof stage at the time of SVP in Mexico City. Index, blank pages, and advertisements are not included in the numbers below.

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<th>Volume(issue)</th>
<th>19(4)</th>
<th>20(1)</th>
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Number of pages/number of articles:
LANZENDORF PALEOART AWARD COMMITTEE

We are very pleased to report on the winners of the first year of the Lanzendorf PaleoArt Award, announced at the banquet of the Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The Committee for the award consisted of Paul Sereno (Chair), Philip Currie, James Hopson, Chris Sloan, Scott Sampson, and John Lanzendorf (nonvoting member).

Awards ($500) were given in three categories: 2-D art, 3-D art, and technical illustration (for further information, see www.vertpaleo.org/awards/index.html). More than 100 pieces were submitted by 30 artists. The collection of submissions was truly impressive in quality and quantity for the first year of the award.

For 2-D art, John Gurche’s painting “Tyrannosaurus” won, with honorable mentions for Mark Hallett’s scene from Madagascar’s Cretaceous world and Michael Skrepnick’s “Tyrannosaurus and Feathered Young.” For 3-D art, Michael Tricic’s sculpting of the sauropod Jobaria in rearing pose won, with honorable mentions for David Krentz’s “Rex mundi” and Gary Staab’s elephant series. For technical art, Thomas Carr and Dino Pulera’s skull of Albertosaurus won, with an honorable mention for Carol Abraczinskas’ Stegoceras tooth.

Although virtually all of the awards were given to artwork involving dinosaurs, that reflected the content of the submissions; there is no preference for dinosaurs as subject matter.

Please note: Submission deadline for the awards in 2001 is 2 April, mailed to the Chair of the Committee, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included for the return of submitted artwork. (Paul Sereno, Chair)
coordinating and hosting the Media Press Conference. This year’s press conference in Mexico City, featuring the research of five SVP members, was a great success, receiving positive responses from virtually all media representatives present. There now appears to be a strong core of journalists that annually attend SVP meetings to report on the proceedings, and we are hopeful that this will continue long into the future.

Additionally, the Committee has been serving its role as liaison between the media community and the vertebrate paleontological community. Specifically, whenever requested, I have been providing journalists with contact information for vertebrate paleontologists who have appropriate expertise relating to a given story. Recent topics that have sparked media inquiries include a paper in *Science* describing a fossilized dinosaur “heart,” an article in *Discover Magazine* describing the link between paleontologists and paleoartists, and plans for an upcoming Nova television documentary.

The Media Liaison Committee is also investigating various avenues toward expansion of its mission. In particular, a number of members have suggested that this Committee could play an important role in publicizing issues surrounding the protection of fossil resources. There are several ways that this might be accomplished, including press releases. An initial step toward this goal was taken at the Mexico City press conference, where Ted Vlamis gave an excellent presentation dealing with the protection of fossils on public lands, and public support for this issue.

The immediate future of the Committee will be in the very capable hands of Chris Beard, who takes over as Chair. (Scott Sampson, Chair)

**MEETING PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

This is now my second year as Chair, and we welcomed Greg Buckley to the Committee, replacing former Chair Kevin Padian, who rotated off the Committee. Continuing members were former Chair Mike Parrish, plus Mark Wilson, Clare Flemming, and Ron Heinrich. This year, there were fewer new policies instituted by the Program Committee. Instead, it marked a period of consolidation of the changes we instituted last year. In November 1999, we considered proposals for premeeting symposia, and only four were submitted for the Mexico City meeting. After review by the Committee, all four were approved. Some problems did occur when certain symposium chairs failed to get all of their speakers to send in abstracts, and did not keep in contact with the Committee, but all in all, we feel that the premeeting symposia were a success.

In the past few years, we have gone increasingly to Web-based submissions of abstracts: 71% in 1998, 87% in 1999, and over 97% this year. Less than a dozen abstracts were submitted by means other than the Web, which made the editing and reviewing process much easier than in the past. Dave Polly continued to refine our Web-submission process, so it had even fewer glitches than last year, when it was already virtually problem-free. By early May, all of the abstracts had been received and were in the hands of the Program Committee for
review. In June, the abstracts were accepted or rejected, and I notified all of the authors by e-mail. In July, I took all of the abstracts, edited them for content and style, and then laid out the program in QuarkXpress as I had done last year. When Allen Press received the complete electronic file of the program volume in early August, they were able to print it quickly and at much less cost than in the past. The only change in the program design was instituted after suggestions by certain members. On the abstract form, I asked authors to submit their titles in upper and lower case, so that the less legible all-caps could be avoided. Unfortunately, so few authors followed my suggestion that I was forced to make all of the titles in all-caps. To increase legibility, the authors’ names are in upper and lower case bold face. Hopefully, the result is legible and pleasing to the eye, and an improvement on last year’s program.

Because of the venue, we thought attendance and submissions might be considerably less than at the Denver meeting. In terms of student participation, we did see a significant drop: only seven Romer Prize talks this year, compared to 18 last year. When all of the abstracts were reviewed, the total number of presentations was about 100 less than last year (329 compared to 420 in Denver last year, 408 in Snowbird in 1998). At the request of the SVP office, we shortened the program on Saturday afternoon, ending at 3:15, which eliminated another 18 talk slots. Consequently, the program was just as tight as last year, forcing us to continue our practice of beginning at 8:00 A.M. and ending at 5:45. Like last year, we ran a short plenary session on Thursday morning, but were forced to run two parallel sessions through the rest of the meeting (including during the Romer Prize session). After some discussion by the membership, plenary talks were chosen by vote of the Program Committee.

The topical breakdown of the program is as follows: fish, 18; amphibians, 18; reptiles (mostly dinosaurs), 80; birds, 13; mammals, 150; history of paleontology, 0; theoretical/geological, 49.

**Summary of Program Statistics, 1998–2000**

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<th>2000 Mexico City</th>
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SVP News Bulletin
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>SVP Membership Trends</th>
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<tr>
<td>Over the last year, the primary activity of the Membership Committee has been to check membership applications for completeness prior to approval. The co-chair (myself) also contributed to a discussion of policy toward membership applications received just prior to or at the annual meeting. A decision was made by the Business Office, in consultation with the co-chair of the Membership Committee, to allow applicants who have completed applications received by the beginning of the annual meeting to pay the member rate for attending the annual meeting. Such applications would still require approval by the Membership Committee.</td>
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**Recommendations for Improvement**

Given the relatively light responsibilities of the Membership Committee, it does not seem necessary to have co-chairs of the Committee. Either in consultation with the Business Office or with the Executive Committee, it might be worthwhile to develop specific plans to meet the Membership Committee’s stated responsibility toward member recruitment. Such plans could include attendance at other, related conferences and various forms of direct mailing or advertising in regular academic and geological publications. Given the recent history of growth in membership, these plans would not necessarily require immediate implementation, but could provide a basis for future needs in member recruitment.

(Donald Prothero, Chair)
Several changes have occurred in the production of the *SVP News Bulletin*, but the most obvious to the membership is the change in publication frequency from three per year to two. This move should result in a cost reduction for the Society.

We are now publishing a Spring issue and a Fall issue, which appear in March and September, respectively. Along with the usual member news, announcements, etc., the Spring issue contains the minutes from the annual meeting, executive committee motions, various officer and committee reports, and awards and committee listings. The Fall issue covers annual meeting information, awards applications, and the annual auction announcement.

Allen Press, who is now printing the *News Bulletin* and mailing it bundled with the March and October issues of the *JVP*, worked with us to coordinate this new setup. Formerly, the *News Bulletin* was printed in Pittsburgh by a local printer and mailings were handled in the editorial office. This new arrangement is expected to further reduce the *News Bulletin* costs.

Because of the change in mailing procedures, Managing Editor Mary Ann Schmidt arranged to close the Carnegie Museum financial account, which was used primarily as a conduit for bulk mail and regular postage charges for the *News Bulletin* mailings.

A new Membership Directory was prepared with assistance from the Business Office. It and the Fall issue of the *News Bulletin* were mailed with the September issue of the *JVP*.

Schmidt is also working with Webmaster David Polly in an effort to enable her to use FTP to transfer formatted *News Bulletin* files to him for posting on the SVP Web site. We hope to implement this process in the near future. (David Berman, Editor; Mary Ann Schmidt, Managing Editor)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee (David Krause, Bruce MacFadden, and Bill Clemens), I am glad to report that the following members of SVP have been contacted and agree to be nominated for various positions on the Executive Committee: (* indicates the election winner)

- **Vice-President:** Richard Cifelli
  - *Hans-Dieter Sues*

- **Treasurer:** *Dale Winkler (Unopposed)*

- **Member-at-Large:** *Catherine Forster,
  - Judith Scotchmoor*

The Nominating Committee expresses its sincere thanks to these members of the SVP for their willingness to make a significant commitment to the future of our Society through standing for election. (William Clemens, Chair)
The Bryan Patterson Award Committee received four applications this year, all of which are worthy of funding, but two applications were considered worthy of receiving the award. 1) Karen Samonds of SUNY Stony Brook, in her project entitled “The Origins of the Modern Malagasy Vertebrate Fauna,” proposed to explore Neogene outcrops in Madagascar never-before prospected, in the hopes of finding fossil mammals from the lengthy hiatus between the Late Cretaceous and late Pleistocene faunas now known from this enigmatic island. 2) Thomas Lipka, in his project entitled “Saving the Last Remains of an Early Cretaceous Ecosystem on North America’s East Coast: The Fauna of the Arundel Clay, Maryland,” proposed to continue screen-washing sediments that already produced Cretaceous mammals.

President Flynn asked the Committee to judge the two applications for the Ying-Chien Chang Award this year, and we recommended that the award go to Robert Scott for his proposal, “Locomotor Adaptations of the Late Neogene Lantian Hipparion Fauna.” Mr. Scott proposed to join the Finnish-Chinese Lantian project on the Chinese Loess Plateau to further his studies of Hipparion postcrania. (James Clark, Chair)

Our Committee received five applications for the Preparator’s Award this year. We recommended funding for two outstanding proposals and the Executive Committee approved our recommendations. They were: 1) A proposal from Pablo Puerta of the Museo Paleontologico Egidio Feruglio, Trelew, Argentina, to receive preparation training. Mr. Puerta will work primarily with Marilyn Fox at Yale–Peabody, with additional visits to labs at AMNH, MCZ, and FMNH as time and money allow. Mr. Puerta will be hosted by the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, Yale–Peabody, with additional funds and support provided by Guillermo Rougier, University of Louisville. 2) A proposal from Wenqing Feng of IVPP, Beijing, China, to receive preparation training. Mr. Feng will work primarily with preparators at AMNH with additional visits to labs at Yale, MCZ, and NMNH as time, money, and language skills allow. Mr. Feng will be hosted by the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, AMNH.

Dr. Chance will once again donate his own frequent-flier miles in addition to the cash award of $5,300. Dr. Chance will provide two roundtrip tickets, one for each recipient (a total value of $2,700). Thanks to Dr. Chance’s continuing and outstanding generosity, both Mr. Puerta and Mr. Feng will receive Preparator’s Awards.

Because frequent-flyer tickets have certain black-out dates, we will now require a schedule-commitment letter from the recipients upon notification of the award. Because Dr. Chance has not been able to donate his miles through the SVP Business Office, he personally will make the arrangements to transfer the tickets to the recipients.
Our Committee has made minor modifications to our guidelines which are posted on the SVP Materials and Methods page: http://www.vertpaleo.org/methods/chance.html. The changes are primarily to make the guidelines clearer.

Our Committee would like to broaden our applicant pool. We think the best way to do this is to invite researchers to sponsor or otherwise assist promising preparators in their application, especially for proposals involving training. We would like to extend this invitation to researchers through our own preparator’s mailing list, the VP ListServer, and as part of a brief oral report at the SVP business meeting in Mexico City. We welcome advice and suggestions from the Executive Committee on this or any other aspect of the Preparator’s Award.

The preparators thank Dr. Chance and the SVP Executive Committee for creating and supporting the Preparator’s Award. (Amy Davidson, Chair)

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Adherence to ICZN Rules
Several years ago, SVP followed common practice of adopting ICZN rules for its publications. There were two reasons for this: 1) to assure that types and other important specimens that are published in JVP (or presented on at the annual meetings) are deposited in institutions where they can be studied in the future; and 2) to assure some degree of uniformity in alpha-level taxonomy. One contributor has strenuously objected, citing this as an example of scientific oppression, and citing PhyloCode as a viable option. The issue has been discussed repeatedly by the Publications Committee through the year; decision has been deferred to the annual meetings.

Editorial Restructuring
Structuring of the JVP editorial staff has been changed and expanded, mainly in response to a perceived increase in submissions. Senior editors now include: Mead, production; Hulbert, mammals; Parrish, archosauria; and Elliott, lower vertebrates. Elliott was supposed to be replaced by Wilson in the summer of 2000 but the transition has been delayed. The duties of associate editors have been ramped up and formalized; associate editors now handle the bulk of manuscript processing.

JVP On-line
The Information Management Committee (i.e., David Polly) has the JVP contents back to 1981 on-line, and abstracts back to 1994. Contents and abstracts are also included, at no cost to SVP, on the Allen Press Web page (www.allenpress.com), but this was initiated in 2000 and begins with volume 20. The Publications Committee is currently investigating the possibilities for getting a full-text version of the journal on-line. News should be available by the time of the 2000 annual meetings.

Miscellaneous Electronic Media for JVP

SVP News Bulletin
Previously, a Memoir with a CD-ROM has been issued, with another in progress. There is now a regular journal article for which a CD-ROM will be issued with the hard copy of the issue itself.

Special Issues
JVP will now permit the dedication of issues, or partial issues, to special topics, depending on the length of the publication queue, ability to recover page charges, and other considerations.

Instructions to Authors
The instructions to authors have been revised. They now appear also on the Web page (www.vertpaleo.org/jvp/authors_guide.html), with links to places such as Allen Press for information on preparation of digital images. Preparation of a sample manuscript, illustrating preferred format, is underway by Editor Hulbert, and will be made available as a PDF on the Web page.

Copyright
SVP currently owns the copyright to JVP, and is a partial copyright holder to Palaeontologica Electronica. Copyright for Memoirs came up as an issue during 1999–2000; following recommendation by the Publications Committee, SVP retains copyright to scientific content, but copyright for images can be negotiated with institutions or individuals. (Richard Cifelli, Chair)

ALFRED SHERWOOD ROMER PRIZE
Year 2000’s Romer Prize Session in Mexico City had seven entrants. Top prize was awarded to J. R. Hutchinson, “Hindlimb Function in Extinct Theropod Dinosaurs,” while an honorable mention was awarded to Jason Head, “Snakes through Space and Time.” The Committee had a difficult time choosing between these two stellar talks. The remaining five students were each sent a letter providing some constructive feedback on their presentations.

All but one Romer Committee member (Stephen Gatesy) were able to attend the meeting, and the Committee currently has a good balance of researchers working in different subdisciplines and on different taxa.

In terms of the application process, this seemed vastly improved from 1999 when several abstracts did not reach the Committee Chair for some time. Please note, however, the address and title of the Committee Chair was incorrect on last year’s circulars and on the Web page. The correct address is: Laura MacLatchy, Department of Anthropology, Boston University, 232 Bay State Road, Boston MA 02215. (Laura MacLatchy, Chair)

ROMER-SIMPSON MEDAL COMMITTEE
Anna K. Behrensmeyer assumed the chairmanship of the Committee early in 2000. Audrone Biknevicius rotated off the Committee, and Maureen O’Leary of SUNY, Stony Brook, agreed to join in time to participate in this year’s medal
The Committee thus consists of: Anna K. Behrensmeyer, Chair, Ken Rose, Ted Daeschler, Dave Norman, and Maureen O’Leary.

The Chair and Committee members took a more activist role this past year in soliciting nominations and encouraging others to generate possible nominees for the Medal. The award decision was based on the input of all five of the Romer-Simpson Medal Committee, including the Chair. All members received packages containing the nominations and supporting letters and responded with their rankings and rationales via e-mail.

There were three candidates in 2000, all of whom had a strong record of “sustained and outstanding excellence and service to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology.” After careful deliberations, the Committee selected John A. Wilson as the 2000 Romer-Simpson Medal recipient, based on the depth, national and international impact, and sustained excellence of his contributions to the field. (Anna K. Behrensmeyer, Chair)

MORRIS SKINNER PRIZE COMMITTEE
The Skinner Prize Committee recommended the award for 2000 be given to James W. Kitching. The Committee unanimously selected James from a field of four nominees. Perhaps the most compelling evidence of his truly exceptional contributions to the field by the collection of important fossil specimens comes from the following statement by Cathy Forster in her letter of nomination: “James was the first staff member of the Bernard Price Foundation for Palaeontological Research at the University of Witwatersrand after its founding in 1945. He spent his long and distinguished career there amassing a truly impressive and scientifically important collection of fossils. James’ primary focus and first love were the Permo-Triassic beds of the Karoo, and through his efforts the Karoo collection at the BPI is a warehouse of Permo-Triassic fossils. But James did not limit his collecting efforts to the Karoo. The second important collection James made for the BPI was of Pliocene-Pleistocene faunas from Makapansgat, an extremely important early hominid site. His discoveries at Makapansgat include the first *Australopithecus* specimen ever found in South Africa. James was also the first person to recognize dung beetle balls and blowfly pupae at Makapansgat. In total, approximately 6,600 specimens catalogued at the BPI were collected by James.”

The Committee members agreed that James Kitching was very deserving of this award from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

In addition to selecting this year’s Skinner Prize winner, the Committee continues to discuss ways to increase our pool of nominees in the future. While this year’s pool of four was an improvement over the past few years, we feel that there are other excellent candidates who simply don’t get to us due to a lack of nominators. (William R. Hammer, Chair)

THE STUDENT POSTER PRIZE COMMITTEE
The Poster Prize Committee judged 19 student posters entered in the poster
competition at the Denver SVP meetings in October 1999. As in 1998 all the posters were judged without the students present, and the presenters of the top six posters were interviewed during the regular Poster Session to determine who would receive awards. We then voted to present the Student Poster Prize to Steven Wallace (University of Iowa). Honorable Mention ribbons went to Gerald Grellet-Tinner (University of Texas), Laura Panko (University of Chicago), and Jonathan Wynn (University of Oregon).

Criteria for the 2000 Student Poster Prize competition remained unchanged. The Committee voted in 1999 to add a statement to the guidelines that posters should be in English (consistent with JVP guidelines) and to suggest that participants proofread their poster text (a problem in some of the 1999 posters).

Eighteen posters were entered in the 2000 poster prize competition in Mexico City. During September all entered participants were sent a general instruction letter and a copy of the poster prize guidelines by e-mail and regular mail. Preliminary and final judging of the posters resulted in a single poster winner: Gerald Grellet-Tinner for his study of titanosaurid eggshells from Auca Mahuevo.

The registration process for the 2000 student poster competition resulted in some erroneous entries; for example, students presenting joint-authored posters which are not allowed by the guidelines. Further, getting the names and addresses of participants proved a somewhat cumbersome process for our Committee. We are trying to address these difficulties with the assistance of David Polly. The SVP Web site now includes the Student Poster Prize guidelines, names of recent winners, and a photo of the 2000 winning poster (www.vertpaleo.org/awards/poster.html). The registration process in 2001 should allow for quick access to the guidelines and earlier notification to the Committee concerning who the participants will be.

Two new members, Maureen O’Leary and David Eberth, were added to the Student Poster Prize Committee for the Mexico City meetings. The Committee will thus have eight members in 2001, after which some of the longer-term members will begin to rotate off. (Margery C. Coombs, Chair)

— Committee Chairs—2001 —

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Student Poster Prize
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A. S. Romer Prize
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— AWARD WINNERS —

JOSEPH F. CHANCE PREPARATOR’S AWARD
Weqing Feng
I was born in 1963 in a suburb of Beijing, which is very close to the Zhoukoudian Peking Man site. Right after I finished my high school education in 1983, I was very lucky to be taken as a staff member of the Zhoukoudian Peking Man administration office, a branch of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) in Beijing. I love bones! And I knew this was just the beginning.
The China-Canada Dinosaur Project gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream. I attended all four field seasons from 1987–1990, working in the late Mesozoic of Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang regions. Digging dinosaurs was my favorite. My enthusiasm and ability let IVPP take me as a former technician in its prep lab in 1989. I cannot stop digging; and in the following years I attended the Sino-Japanese Silk Road Dinosaur Expedition, the Sino-Japanese Mongolia Dinosaur Expedition in the Gobi Desert, the China-Swithland Project searching Tertiary mammals in Lanzhou Basin, the reconnaissance looking for mammals in north Tibet Plateau, and the exciting work in Liaoxi area collecting feathered dinosaurs. This past summer, I was very happy to join the China-America Mazongshan (Horse Mane) Dinosaur Project, and excavated lots of dinosaur bones again.

Besides fieldwork, I spend most of my time preparing fossils. I have tried to prepare both large and small fossils, and fossils preserved in different conditions. The Joseph F. Chance Preparator’s Award provides me a very good opportunity to communicate with and learn more from my colleagues in North America. I’m looking forward to that!

**Pablo Puerta**

I was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1966. After completing high school, I worked with Dr. Jose Fernando Bonaparte who was in charge of the VP Department at the Museo Argentino. I also studied paleontological techniques at the La Plata Museum during this time. Currently I am the chief of the prep lab at the “Egidio Feruglio” Museum. My fieldwork includes trips to Wyoming and Montana, Australia, and China, as well as my homeland of Argentina.
YING-CHIEN CHANG AWARD FOR USA-CHINA COLLABORATIVE FIELD RESEARCH

Robert Scott

Rob Scott was born and raised in western Montana where he grew up hiking and fishing in the Bitteroot Mountains along the Montana–Idaho border. He developed an early interest in evolution despite the fact that this was not something that was taught in the local schools. Rob completed Hamilton High School in Hamilton, Montana, in 1990. In 1994, Rob graduated with distinction from Yale after majoring in anthropology and organismal biology. He began graduate studies in physical anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin and completed an MA degree there in 1996 focusing on the late Miocene ruminant and equid fauna from the Sinap Formation in Turkey.

Rob is currently completing his dissertation on the paleoecology of late Miocene hominoids. His work focuses on the implications of locomotor adaptations of bovids and equids found at both hominoid and nonhominoid sites. The Chang Award will allow Rob to extend his studies of late Miocene Old World “Hipparion” to China where he will join the ongoing Lantian Project.

ESTES MEMORIAL AWARD

Walter Joyce

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but spent most of my life near Erlangen, Germany. My interest in paleontology was sparked when, as a small boy, I found the quite meager fragment of a trilobite. With the years my fossil collections and my interest in paleontology grew, especially during trips to the famous Lagerstätten of southern Germany, such as Solnhofen, Holzmaden, or Messel, and their associated museums.

For most of my life, I planned to become a vertebrate paleontologist, but at the end of my high school education I made an honest effort to start a career in another field with greater job perspectives. However, no other discipline promised to be as interesting as paleontology, which is why I finally enrolled in the geology/paleontology program of the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. Student exchange programs with the University of Kansas and Louisiana State University helped me broaden my education and greatly improved my English. For my Diplom-thesis (the German equivalent to the
American Master’s thesis) I received the opportunity to return to the holy grail of my childhood, the platy limestones of the Solnhofen region, from which I described a beautifully preserved turtle under the supervision of Dr. Martin Sander (University of Bonn).

For my PhD, I initially planned to explore new ground within the exciting world of unfenestrated amniotes. However, a review of the literature regarding the origin of turtles clearly illustrated the neglect of these unassuming creatures and convinced me to focus my research on the phylogeny of turtles with its implications on their origin.

I wish to thank my current main advisor at Yale University, Jacques Gauthier, for his guidance and support. Furthermore I wish to thank the many people who are making my thesis come true, among whom are (in alphabetical order) Chris Bell, Eugene Gaffney, Jenney Hall, Farish Jenkins Jr., and Tim Rowe.

JOSEPH P. GREGORY AWARD

Brent Breithaupt

I am deeply honored to receive the Joseph T. Gregory award and would like to sincerely thank the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology for this prestigious honor. I am humbled by this distinction as I look at the list of past recipients, and believe I must work even harder to live up to the reputation of those who have received it previously. As SVP is an international society, I appreciate greatly receiving this award with all of my colleagues in Mexico City. I am very pleased that in my tenure with the SVP, I have been able to make an impact on this organization. I accept this award with the understanding that my accomplishments have been a team effort and would like to thank all of the people with whom I have been associated on various committees. I have been fortunate to have provided service to the Society over the past 20 years through my involvement with the Executive Committee, Government Liaison Committee, 1983 Meeting Host Committee, Education Committee, and Auction Committee, as well as being the Advertising Editor for the Society’s publications, and News Bulletin Coordinating Editor for the Rocky Mountain Region.

As for the Annual Auction, it has definitely taken on a life of its own. In 1983, I suggested to Jay Lillegraven that we hold a fund-raising auction at the annual meeting in Laramie, Wyoming, during the evening Smoker. Enthusiastically, he agreed to the project and allowed me to start this “little snowball” in motion. The Society responded in an amazing way, and I still remember the marathon live auction (prior to the silent auction) going on until midnight. In the
next few years the auction was received less enthusiastically and I wondered if this idea was one of value to the Society and whether or not it would continue. But, with the firm belief that this activity was a financial and social benefit to the Society, I continued to push for its inclusion in the meeting. After many years of late-night hours unpacking and setting up for this event, an official committee formed. Slowly but surely the auction fell together with co-auctioneers and a small army of assistants. Although the funds from the auction have gone to a variety of causes, I am very proud that it has raised close to $30,000 over the past two years to assist vertebrate paleontology students doing fieldwork through the Bryan Patterson Award. Without question the Society has made the Annual Auction a very “interesting” activity. They have pressed me, they have stressed me, they have even dressed me. But through it all, we have been able to provide a great meeting event. As we head for the 20th year (2002) of the auction with annual proceeds approaching $20,000, I am looking forward to continuing to work hard to serve the Society and thank all of the people who help me make this idea a continual reality.

As for me, I grew up walking along the shores of Lake Michigan in Wisconsin picking up the rounded beach stones looking for invertebrate fossils. Knowing that I someday would be a paleontologist, I retained some of the best of these for teaching purposes. It is hard for me to fathom that the dream I had as a child would come true, and that these specimens would eventually be used for educational purposes in a museum. I attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and graduated with a geology degree in 1978. Working with Mac West at the Milwaukee Public Museum allowed me the opportunity for my first formal exposure to museum operations and the paleontological “wonderland” known as Wyoming. Odd that I should combine both of those events later in life, as I took the reigns of the UW Geological Museum. My first formal vertebrate paleontology field experience was in the Eocene Bridge Formation of southwestern Wyoming, where I assisted Mac in the study of Eocene microvertebrate fossils. Following Mac’s words to “Go West, young man,” I enrolled in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Wyoming to study microvertebrate faunas under Jay Lillegraven. There, I traveled back out to southwestern Wyoming to work on the slightly older fossils of the Lance Formation. Although both Mac and Jay led me to the mammals, the draw to study lower vertebrate fossils was strong and I headed in that direction.

It was serendipity that my first experiences with paleontological research were in areas of important discoveries by Cope and Marsh. Both worked on the Eocene vertebrate faunas of western Wyoming and Cope described the “marvelous dinosaur” Agathaumas from the Late Cretaceous Lance Formation. This eventually led to my interest in the history of vertebrate paleontology in the West. In 1981 I became museum curator of the UW Geological Museum. In 1994, the museum was separated from the Department of Geology and Geophysics and I took on the duties of the director at the museum. My research focus continues to be the history of vertebrate paleontology in Wyoming and the West.
and the understanding of Wyoming’s Mesozoic Era vertebrate faunas. I have been fortunate to have been able to successfully include students and volunteers in various research and museum projects. I am a strong proponent of public awareness, ethical practices, and partnerships in paleontology. In my tenure at the University of Wyoming, I have worked with students as instructor, advisor, supervisor, employer, and mentor. I believe that I can serve no greater role in vertebrate paleontology than to provide the type of experiences that Mac and Jay provided me early in my career, and to instill the enthusiasm and passion for science that I have carried with me, along with those little stones from the shores of Lake Michigan.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Elaine Anderson

Born in Salida, Colorado, in 1936, Elaine attended the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she earned her BA in 1960 and her MA in 1965. Her Master’s thesis was on the Pleistocene fauna of Little Box Elder Cave in Wyoming. She studied with Bjorn Kurten at the University of Helsinki on a Fulbright Graduate Student Fellowship and completed her PhD in 1970. Her doctoral research was on the Quaternary evolution of Martes, and carnivores, especially mustelids, have been a focal point of much of her research. In addition to the Pleistocene Elaine’s work has included faunal identifications for archaeologists in Colorado and the surrounding area.

Upon returning from Finland she worked at the National Museum of Natural History on a postdoc from 1970–1971 where she continued her research on Pleistocene mammals.

She joined the staff of the Idaho State University Museum (now Idaho Museum of Natural History) in 1971 as an assistant curator to John White. Within weeks of moving to Pocatello she received news that she and Kurten had received an NSF grant to visit Pleistocene collections across the United States. The result of this project was the publication in 1980 of what was to become the standard reference for anyone working with North American Pleistocene mammalian faunas, Pleistocene Mammals of North America. Unfortunately upon her return to Pocatello she discovered that the position of assistant curator of paleontology at the museum was discontinued due to funding problems. She then accepted a position at the Maryland Academy of Science but soon after returned west to Denver.

She is a research associate at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and has been one of the leaders in the ongoing Porcupine Cave project. Under her direction numerous volunteers at the museum have picked tons of matrix from the
cave resulting in thousands of specimens being curated and added to the museum collection. She has introduced literally hundreds of students in the Denver area to bone identification offering a class through the Denver Museum of Nature and Science that has attracted amateurs as well as academics. Perhaps the best testament to the quality of the class is that it attracts students from as far away as Fort Collins to attend the weekly sessions. Many of the former students from the class have remained at the museum as volunteers and working with Elaine have not only contributed to the paleontology collections but have aided in the preparation of modern skeletons for the zoology department. Elaine also co-teaches two classes, one on wolves, another on bears, at the Yellowstone Institute each summer.

Elaine joined the SVP in 1962. Besides the SVP she is a member of the American Quaternary Association and the American Society of Mammalogists. She has served as an editor of *Mammalian Species* since 1995.

**Zhiming Dong**

Zhiming Dong’s fascination with dinosaurs began early. In 1950, at a young age of 13, he saw dinosaurs for the first time at an exhibit in his hometown, Qingdao (Tsintao), in Shandong Province of China. On display there was a *Tsintaosaurus* (a hadrosaurid), which was discovered by Dr. C. C. Young—father of Chinese vertebrate paleontology. Dr. Young would become Dong’s supervisor 12 years later in 1962.

Since then he began to read everything about dinosaurs that was available. He knew about many dinosaur paleontologists by their names: O. C. Marsh, E. D. Cope, H. E. Osborn, and R. C. Andrews who led the exploration of Central Asia. He wanted to become a dinosaur researcher.

In 1962, Dong graduated from the Biology Department of Fudan University in Shanghai and went to Beijing to work at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) that was founded by Dr. C. C. Young. It was there for the first time that he met Dr. Young, whose discoveries of dinosaurs had inspired him as a youngster. In their first conversation, Young asked, “What do you want to study?” Dong replied, “Dinosaurs.” Young simply said, “To study dinosaurs won’t make you rich economically, but it will make you rich spiritually,” and “you have to love this work.” Dong remembers Young’s words to this day.

During Dong’s career of 38 years at IVPP, he rose from a research assistant to a full research professor. He enjoys fieldwork. His field exploration and collecting have taken him to nearly every province in China. In the 1960s he participated in the IVPP expeditions to the Junggar and Turpan basins in Xinjiang.
to collect dinosaurs. In the 1970s he and his colleagues discovered one of the world’s richest dinosaur sites of the Middle Jurassic at the Dashanpu quarry, Zigong, Sichuan Province. Dong’s team collected skeletons of more than 100 dinosaurs in Dashanpu. Most of these are sauropods, such as a 10-m-long *Shunosaurus*, a stocky *Datousaurus*, and a 20-m-long *Omeisaurus* with a long neck. Also found were five complete sauropod skulls, which are very rare worldwide. There were also 11 skeletons of the primitive stegosaur *Huayangosaurus*, plus carnivorous theropods, small ornithopods, as well as crocodiles, pterosaurs, cynodonts, amphibians, and fish. Because of this incredible finding, the Zigong Dinosaur Museum was built at the Dashanpu site. The Zigong Museum is one of the largest of field and in-situ dinosaur museums in the world.

Since the 1980s Zhiming Dong has had great pleasure to collaborate with many international colleagues and SVP members. He helped to organize the Chinese-British dinosaur expedition (with Alan Charig and Angela Milner) in 1981. This was the first joint dinosaur expedition by the Western and Chinese scientists in China after the cold war. Dong was a leader of the Sino-American (with Sankar Chatterjee) paleontological expedition in Lufeng Basin in 1985.

From 1986 to 1990, Dong was the co-leader on the Chinese side for the China-Canada Dinosaur Project (CCDP) (in collaboration with Philip Currie and Dale Russell). In this fruitful project, the scientists from both countries participated in dinosaur excavation in the Gobi Desert of China and in the western Canada and the Canadian Arctic.


In the 1980s Dong organized several exhibitions of dinosaurs from China, which traveled to Japan (1981), Hong Kong (1982), Australia (1983), Britain (1986), and Sweden (1989). He helped many museums with their scientific and exhibit programs. Dong is a science advisor of the Zigong Museum, an honorary professor and science advisor to the Shanghai Museum, Beijing Natural History Museum, the Inner Mongolian Museum, and the Fukui Prefecture Dinosaur Museum of Japan. He is always working to build the public support and
enthusiasm for paleontology, and to encourage the interest of children in dinosaurs.

Dong is still dreaming that someday he will be able to excavate a whole skeleton of Asia’s largest theropod dinosaur in China. Then he will retire to writing about hunting for dinosaurs—his lifetime passion.

LANZENDORF PALEO ART AWARD–2-D ART

*John Gurche*

LANZENDORF PALEO ART AWARD–3-D ART

*Michael Trcic*

Dinosaurs have been my passion since I was six years old. I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—the home of the famous Carnegie Museum of Natural History. I spent many a long afternoon studying the mounts in Dinosaur Hall. Ray Harryhausen and Willis O’Brien became my inspirations and heroes and from them I developed an early interest in stop-motion animation.

O’Brien’s 1933 motion picture, “King Kong,” was the catalyst that spurred my interest in both dinosaurs and special effects. I studied with the Pittsburgh Filmmakers while attending Point Park College, with the goal of a degree in filmmaking. My first taste of special-effects animation work came while working part time at Anivision, a Pittsburgh-based animation studio owned by Rick Catizone. After working on several Pittsburgh-based movies I made the move to Los Angeles in January of 1987. I gained experience creating special-effects makeup and puppeteering on many B horror movies.

The culmination of my 12-year film career in special effects was as key sculptor and puppeteer of the life-sized *Tyrannosaurus rex* for Jurassic Park. At the end of production I decided I had had my fill of the Hollywood life and that it was time to branch out on my own. My lovely and talented wife, Christine, and I built a home in Sedona, Arizona, where I began my own sculpture studio in 1992.

My current collection of limited-edition bronze sculptures ranges from 1:35 scale to life-sized and highlights Late Cretaceous North American dinosaurs. I have had the pleasure of showing my art at the annual Sedona Sculpture Walk, Sculpture in the Park Show and Sale in Loveland, Colorado, and the Tucson, Arizona, Mineral and Fossil Show. In May of this year several of my pieces were shown in a *T. rex* exhibit at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History.

My work has been published in several books including: *The Making of Terminator 2: Judgement Day*, *The Making of Jurassic Park*, *Hunting Dinosaurs*, *Dinosaur Imagery—The Lanzendorf Collection*, and *Philip Currie—25 Years in*
Vertebrate Paleontology, and in the magazines such as Cinefex, Prehistoric Times, Southwest Art, Sculpture Forum, Earth Magazine, and Amazing Figure Modeler.

Several of my pieces, including a casting of my life-sized T. rex bust, are now on permanent display at Disney World’s Dinoland Park® at the Animal Kingdom® in Florida. In 1997 I was hired by L-Squared Entertainment to sculpt six dinosaurs for computer animation for the IMAX® film T. rex, Back to the Cretaceous. In 1998 the Franklin Mint commissioned me to create a dinosaur sculpture titled T. rex: Fight for Survival. In November of 1999 I completed a 1/8-scale sculpture of the new sauropod Jobaria under the direction of Paul Sereno for an exhibit at National Geographic’s Explorer’s Hall in Washington, D.C. It can now be seen on display at the Navy Pier in Chicago at Dr. Sereno’s “Project Exploration” exhibit. Most recently I have completed three dinosaurs for use in an upcoming television film for the Discovery Channel. I am currently working on my first Public Art Commission for the Mesa Southwest Museum in Mesa, Arizona—a life-sized bronze dilophosaur.

In my artwork I strive for dynamic, museum-quality sculptures. For scientific accuracy I use the most up-to-date research findings possible and consult with numerous paleontologists. I am a member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, the National Sculpture Society, and the Screen Actor’s Guild.

LANZENDORF PALEO ART AWARD—SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATIONS
T. Carr and Dino Pulera

BRYAN PATTERSON MEMORIAL AWARD
Karen Samonds

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, I have always had a fascination with fossil bones and anatomy. I graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1996 where I earned a BS in biology and a BA in anthropology. In 1993 I participated in my first paleontological field expedition with Mary Maas in Melville, Montana, in the Crazy Mountain Basin working in Tertiary deposits. I was intrigued with the K-T boundary, and continued to pursue paleontology in 1994 by working with John Hunter in the badlands of Montana in Glendive. In 1995, I attended Indiana University Geologic Field School in Cardwell, Montana, where I was trained in field-geology techniques. After entering graduate school in 1998 as a PhD candidate in the Department of Anatomical Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, I participated in a paleontological expedition with David Krause (SUNY-Stony Brook) examining Late Cretaceous strata in the Mahajanga Basin, Madagascar, and was geologic field assistant to Joe Hartman (University of North Dakota, Grand Forks).
Through my paleontological experiences, I became interested in the origin and evolution of the extant vertebrate fauna of Madagascar, which is one of the most unique and endemic on the planet. Since vertebrate fossils are known from the Late Cretaceous and Late Pleistocene/Holocene, but not from the intervening interval of some 65 million years, one focus of my present research has been to help answer the question of how and when the basal stocks of vertebrates colonized the island. My project proposes to conduct paleontological reconnaissance of surveyed and mapped, but unexplored, Cenozoic terrestrial deposits in Madagascar for vertebrate fossil material. Filling this gap has tremendous implications for understanding the evolution and diversity of Madagascar’s biogeography. The Patterson award will help fund a summer expedition in 2001 in search of Cenozoic mammal localities.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Society for awarding me the Patterson Award, and would like to thank Bill Jungers, Laurie Godfrey, Cathy Forster, and Mitchell Irwin for their guidance in developing this Madagascar project. Special thanks to David Krause for allowing me to participate in his 1999 field season in Madagascar, and for his encouragement, support, and enthusiasm for my paleontological research.

**Thomas Lipka**

Despite a life-long passion and devotion to the study of natural history, I am a relative latecomer to the academic side of our profession. Thus, my story is a bit longer. I was born, raised, and spent most of my 38 years in Baltimore, Maryland. Unlike most of my colleagues, however, I did not go straight to college after high school and instead, I spent a couple years in the Army (1980–82) at Fort Bliss, Texas. In fact, I did not enter college until 1990, having wasted the rest of the 1980s on a failed marriage. This temporary setback provided me with the catharsis I needed to get back to school. However, by this time, I was well established in a swing-shift job with the City of Baltimore as an electronics technician; therefore, any college would be part time and generally in the evenings. Almost simultaneous with my revived academic interests I began to research the geology and paleontology of a long-neglected and, at that time, obscure early Cretaceous (Aptian) unit called the Arundel Clay (Potomac Group). This horizon literally lies in the back door of
several major universities in the Baltimore-Washington area. In 1991 I remarried, this time to my college sweetheart. In 1996, I received an AA in physical sciences from Baltimore City Community College. By this time I also had begun to make some important finds that would soon renew interest in the Arundel fauna. In May of this year, I received my BS in geosciences from Towson University. Currently, where I will conduct my graduate work has yet to be determined. Wherever I am accepted, it is imperative that I continue working with the Arundel and where I would like to incorporate the use of stable- and radioisotope geochemistry to better understand the stratigraphic, paleoecological, and paleoenvironmental context of this long-gone ecosystem. Some of the more salient results of this research from this last remaining vertebrate site of this age on the entire East Coast include several heretofore unknown genera (e.g., *Arundelconodon hottoni*, *Ceratodus* sp., *Hybodus* sp., and amiid fish). As a result we have begun to reconstruct what this ancient riparian habitat must have been like and how it fits in the intricate mosaic of a broader Early Cretaceous biogeographic framework. A second specimen of *A. hottoni* has since been recovered. These new Arundel discoveries continue to demonstrate the importance that the fauna of the Arundel Clay holds in expanding our knowledge of Early Cretaceous paleoecology and biogeography and demands that a continued comprehensive investigation focusing on the microfauna be sustained. Thanks to support from the Bryan Patterson Award, this vision is becoming reality. I am truly honored and grateful to Jim Clark, the rest of the Bryan Patterson Committee, President Flynn, and especially to Forbes Maner for recognizing the scientific importance of this fieldwork and providing support via the Bryan Patterson Award. We have achieved most of the goals I set out to accomplish and I have every expectation that we will continue to revise and extend the Arundel faunal list. I also wish to extend my eternal gratitude to the late Nicholas Hotton III for giving me this opportunity, over a decade ago, to make such an important contribution and I am dedicating this aspect of the Arundel project in his honor. Similar words of gratitude are extended to Dave Weishampel, Mike Brett-Surman, and Rich Cifelli for their mentoring, friendship, and ongoing hands-on support of my efforts.

This project is also a testament to good landowner-scientist relations. This decade of research would not be at all possible had it not been for the continued good will of Jeff Magee (and his predecessor) and General Shale Corporation’s active interest, help, and cooperation. In fact, we as a society owe them a debt of thanks for keeping this last remaining resource open and available to science! I also must thank a small but dedicated cadre of enthusiasts who recently volunteered up to a week of their time to assist me with this project: Mike McCloskey, Al Fraser, Sam (“Zenlizard”) Hogan, John Bois, Elaine Weiner-Reed, Sarah Kearsley, Scott Nieman, and Bruce Shillinglaw, who gets the long-distance award for driving from Connecticut to take part in my humble dig!

Finally, yet importantly, I wish to thank my wonderful wife, Anna, for her long-suffering, continued patience, and understanding regarding that “other”
PRE-DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Andrew Heckert

It is a distinct privilege to accept the 2000 SVP Predoctoral Fellowship. I thank Spencer Lucas, Robert Sullivan, and Barry Kues for the letters of recommendation as well as the numerous SVP committees that make these awards possible.

My dissertation project centers not on aetosaurs, as some might expect, but Upper Triassic microvertebrates. Thanks to a large cast of avocationalists and volunteers who have helped discover and excavate sites, wash matrix, and pick concentrate, I am studying seven microvertebrate faunas from the lower Chinle Group in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Now that I have finished the extensive field component, much scanning electron microscope work remains, so SVP support is most welcome. My goal is not only to document these faunas, but compare their composition, taphonomy, and other factors to tease apart details of early dinosaur diversification and mammal evolution. This is a fabulous project and I plan to have a finished product to share next year in Bozeman.

My interest in paleontology began at an early age in my home state of Ohio, where the first fossil I collected was probably an Ordovician brachiopod. Family trips to the American West and, when I was five, to the Field Museum, cemented an interest in vertebrate paleontology. After earning a BS in geology from Denison University I headed west to the University of New Mexico and began investigating dinosaurs and their biostratigraphic possibilities with Spencer Lucas. After finishing a Master’s thesis in 1997, I could not resist the siren’s song of easy access to world-class localities, and stayed at UNM to undertake my PhD project. Along the way numerous persons in my department, at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, the New Mexico Friends of Paleontology, and quite a few friends and avocationalists have helped turn these projects into reality. My sincere thanks to them and my family as well.

Those looking for an update on the Bryan Patterson Award I won last year should know that we have completed five more weeks of excavation. The award has benefited my interests in dinosaurs and aetosaurs, and has also helped Kate Zeigler, a Master’s student working on the taphonomy of the quarry as well. Our thanks again to the dozens of volunteers who have labored with us, the SVP Bryan Patterson Award Committee, and all the others who have helped in various ways.

ROMER-SIMPSON MEDAL
A sincere thank you to all who had anything to do with this presentation. I am most grateful and I owe so much to so many. First and foremost is my supervising professor, E. C. Case. I already knew I wanted to be a VPer when I went to the University of Michigan in the fall of 1933. I went to Dr. Case’s office and told him of my ambition. His first words to me were, “Son, you are a damn fool! Where are you going to get a job?” I said I didn’t know but somehow convinced him I was serious. Finally he said, “When do you want to go to work?” I swallowed and said, “Now!” He took me down to the preparation lab, where W. H. Buettner was working and listening to the World Series. They got out a chunk of *Eryops* pelvis and put me to work—for no pay!

The following summer (1934) I went in the field with Dr. Case and Mr. Buettner. We worked the Texas Permian and Triassic. For the next seven summers I did fieldwork from Montana to Texas.

Vertebrate paleontology at Michigan happened to be in the Geology Department so that became my major and Dr. Case insisted that zoology become my minor. Dr. Case was my “in loco parentis.”

Except for about two years in the Navy my first job was at the University of Idaho School of Mines. In 1946 I moved to the University of Texas at Austin. I had heard of the large collection there that had been made in the WPA days. It was stored in various building and was not readily available for study or research. With the help of Dr. John T. Lonsdale, then Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology we were able to obtain a building with enough space left over for a preparation lab, and space for staff and students. I remember Dr. Lonsdale saying while the building was still empty, “It doesn’t look like much but it has lots of possibilities.”

I am grateful to Wann Langston, Ernie Lundelius, and Tim Rowe for taking the lab and the academic program far beyond my fondest hope. And to the students, research assistants, we all learned together. And throughout it all, it would not have been possible without the support of my fellow faculty members of the Department of Geological Sciences and the support of the Geology Foundation of the University of Texas, and particularly Bill Newcomb, former director of the Texas Memorial Museum, who actively supported the publication program.

Thank you one and all. I am deeply grateful. Muchissimus gracias.

**ALFRED SHERWOOD ROMER PRIZE**

*J. R. Hutchinson*
My parents learned quickly that I had an innate interest in archosaurian reptiles, given that one of my first words was “dakadile,” referring to my alligator stuffed toy. Of course, I loved dinosaurs, too; I was a monster nut. I nurtured this passion with trips to the Milwaukee Public Museum, lots of Godzilla movies, and an unusual fascination with the monsters of mythology. Naturally, I never grew out of all that. Nor did I outgrow my love of nature. My hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, offered plenty of opportunities to appreciate the outdoors, and even on those infamous frigid nights there were always nature documentaries on PBS. In addition, my family took many visits to my maternal grandparents’ farm in rural Ohio and my paternal grandparents’ winter home in Florida, both of which were well stocked with critters.

I majored in zoology at the University of Wisconsin. I worked in my father’s molecular biology lab, a snail ecology lab, and an insect ecology lab. Although I initially planned to pursue a career studying the biology of marine invertebrates, my interests slowly shifted toward the evolutionary functional morphology of vertebrates as I took courses in this discipline. Soon enough, I was at the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of California with Kevin Padian, beginning my doctoral dissertation research on the evolution of theropod hind-limb anatomy and function.

I thank my dissertation committee members Kevin Padian, Bob Full, Rodger Kram, and Tony Keaveny for guidance, the past and present students of the Padian lab for fun interactions, and the Department of Integrative Biology and Museum of Paleontology for support. Finally, I appreciate the encouragement from my family and Betty Tzeng. I am grateful for the Romer Prize award, especially because I have long held A. S. Romer in high regard for his dissertation work on reptilian hind-limb anatomy. I sincerely thank the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology for this honor.

MORRIS SKINNER PRIZE
James Kitching

James Kitching was the first staff member of the Bernard Price Foundation for Paleontological Research at the University of Witwatersrand after its founding in 1945. He spent his long and distinguished career there amassing a truly impressive and scientifically important collection of fossils. James’ primary focus and first love were the Permo-Triassic beds of the Karoo, and through his efforts,
the Karoo collection at the BPI is a warehouse of Permo-Triassic fossils. But James did not limit his collection efforts to the Makapansgat, an extremely important early hominid site. His discoveries at Makapansgat include the first Australopithecus specimen ever found in South Africa. James was also the first person to recognize dung beetle balls and blowfly pupae at Makapansgat. In total, approximately 6,600 specimens catalogued at the BPI were collected by James. (Cathy Forster)

**STUDENT POSTER PRIZE**

_Gerald Grellet-Tinner_

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

In 1994 after a 12-year career in gemology I came back to paleontology by studying at the University of Texas under T. Rowe specializing in vertebrates and especially in vertebrate eggs. My recent fieldwork consists of two field seasons in the Kayentae Formation (Navajo Territories) where one morning while walking with C. Schaff I discovered remains of a theropod later identified as _Syntarsus kayentakatae_. The following field season was devoted to the recovery of a major bone assemblage in that same horizon. I also participated in some minor explorations in Big Bend National Park with the UT team and on my own. Recently I spent five weeks in Patagonia with L. Chiappe, L. Dingus, and R. Coria working in the Rio Colorado Formation. The work revolved around eggs and nests of sauropods, and the recovery of a complete articulated theropod. We plan further expeditions in this region and also in China. My research also consists of numerous hours spent in front of SEM, EDS probe, and other microscopes to observe and describe characters from eggshells useful to construct
evolutionary hypotheses of members of Dinosauria.

Several grants from the AMNH allowed me to study specimens recently collected by M. Norell and his team in the Gobi. Some of these observations are the subject of future publications.

Aside from the professional aspect of this field, I feel lucky in having met many wonderful paleontologists, many of whom became good friends.

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

—— CALL FOR NOMINATIONS ——

All award nominations are due by 20 April 2001.

www.vertpaleo.org/awards/index.html

You are encouraged to nominate worthy individuals for the Society’s awards and prizes by notifying the appropriate committee chair in writing. Each award nominee must be a current member in good standing. Awards will be presented at the SVP Annual Meeting in Bozeman, Montana.

YING-CHIEN CHANG SCIENCE AWARD FOR USA-CHINA COLLABORATIVE FIELD RESEARCH

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

All fossil vertebrate specimens collected as part of the fieldwork must be accessioned into appropriate Chinese or U.S. not-for-profit repositories, under relevant laws and project agreements. Awards typically will be up to $2,000, awarded annually (pending support by the donor each year). Requests for funding of special projects requiring higher levels of support will be considered under special circumstances—justification must be provided in the application, extra lead time must be given for consideration (e.g., at least one year in advance of the proposed work), and advance discussion with the committee chair will facilitate consideration of the request.
Applicants should submit a one-page application (see below) to the Chair of
the SVP Chang Award Committee, R. Ewan Fordyce, Lecturer, University of
Otago, Department of Geology, P. O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand. Tel:
+64-3-479-7510, fax: +64-3-479-7527, e-mail: ewan.fordyce@stonebow.otago
.ac.nz.

Existing letters of agreement or collaboration should be attached, if possible.
Awardees will provide a short project report to SVP and Ms. Chang upon
completion of the fieldwork.

Application deadline is 20 April 2001.

Application for Ying-chien Chang Science Award 2001
1) Applicant name and institution.
2) Project title.
3) Names of collaborating U.S. and Chinese scientists and institutions.
4) Repository(-ies) for VP specimens.
5) Brief project description (less than 1/2 page; include mention of how the
Chang Award will especially contribute to the project; attach copies of formal
agreements or letters of collaboration, if available, as separate pages).
6) Budget (include total project budget, itemization of funds already received,
funds requested from other sources, and how the Chang Award funds will
support undertaking a specific part of the project—it should be clear that the
project can be completed if the Chang Award is received).

RICHARD ESTES MEMORIAL AWARD
For graduate research in nonmammalian vertebrate paleontology.

1. Purpose. The Richard Estes Memorial Fund was established to enhance
graduate student research by providing a cash prize of $1,000 awarded at the
annual meeting of the SVP. The award is directed toward research in
nonmammalian vertebrate paleontology, with emphasis on systematics, mor-
phology, biogeography, and palcoecology.

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

3. What to Submit. A three-page maximum (single-spaced) description of the
project sufficiently detailed to be evaluated by the Estes Award Committee; a
budget showing clearly the amounts and purposes for which the award will be
used; a letter of support from the applicant’s project advisor or major professor.
Applications lacking requested information will not be reviewed.


5. Contact. Send all application materials to: Robert M. Sullivan, The State
Museum of Pennsylvania, Paleontology & Geology, 300 North Street, Harrisburg
JOSEPH T. GREGORY AWARD
For outstanding service to the welfare of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

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

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
In recognition of distinguished contribution to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology.

Committee Chair: Jaelyn J. Eberle, Research Scientist-Paleobiology, Canadian Museum of Nature, P. O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa ON K1P 6P4, Canada. Tel: (613) 364-4145; fax: (613) 364-4027; e-mail: jeberle@mus-nature.ca.

THE JOHN J. LANZENDORF PALEOART AWARD
The John J. Lanzendorf PaleoArt Award, established October 1999, was created to recognize outstanding achievements of scientific illustrations and naturalistic art in paleontology. It is intended to be an annual award, as supported through the generosity of John Lanzendorf.

PaleoArt is broadly defined as the scientific or naturalistic rendering of paleontological subject matter pertaining to vertebrate fossils. PaleoArt is one of the most important vehicles for communication of discoveries among paleontologists, and particularly for interpreting these discoveries for the lay audience.

Submissions need to be in the form of 35-mm slides sent to the Committee Chair by 2 April 2001. Multiple slides of three-dimensional art are recommended. The award is not limited to any particular group, such as dinosaurs.

Categories: 2-dimensional; 3-dimensional; technical illustrations.

A single award of $500 will be given in each of the three categories. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society.

Submissions should be sent to: Paul C. Sereno, Lanzendorf PaleoArt Award Chair, University of Chicago, Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy, 1027 E 57th Street, Chicago IL 60637 USA. E-mail: dinosaur@uchicago.edu.

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish to have your submissions returned.

BRYAN PATTERSON AWARD
This award, named in honor of Dr. Bryan Patterson, is to support student fieldwork in vertebrate paleontology. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply. Applicants and their sponsors must be SVP members or pending members. There will be one award of $2,000 or two awards of $1,000. Proposals for the Patterson Award must be for fieldwork, and particular consideration will be given to proposals for fieldwork that is innovative rather...
than routine, venturesome rather than predictable, unusual rather than run of the mill. The Patterson Award may be used to supplement other sources of funding (and vice versa); if such funding is currently available please include it in the budget section of the application form. If completion of the project depends upon securing other funding, indicate this as well.

The application consists only of the two-page form (or a copy of it) downloadable as a PDF from www.vertpaleo.org/awards/patterson.pdf or available from the Committee Chair at the address below. Do not attach letters, CVs, reprints, photos, or any other supporting documents; extra pages will be discarded. All applications must be approved and signed by a faculty (or equivalent) sponsor. By signing, the sponsor signifies that this is a worthy project in the spirit of the award. The applicant should indicate in the text of the proposal whether permits are necessary for the fieldwork, and how such permits will be obtained. The successful applicant(s) will be expected to report on his or her work at a subsequent SVP meeting and/or in the SVP News Bulletin.

Please return the original and five copies of the form to the address below postmarked no later than 20 April 2001. E-mailed or faxed applications are not acceptable. Following review of applications by the Patterson Award Committee, the winner(s) will be announced in late June 2001, and again at the banquet of the SVP Annual Meeting in Bozeman, Montana.

Committee Chair: R. Ewan Fordyce, University of Otago, Department of Geology, P. O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand. Tel: +64-3-479-7510; fax: +64-3-479-7527; e-mail: ewan.fordyce@stonebow.otago.ac.nz.

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

1. Purpose. This fellowship is intended to promote a professional career in vertebrate paleontology by allowing the recipient greater freedom to pursue research during the final stages of the doctoral program. This year the fellowship award will be $2,000.

2. Guidelines. Applicants must be within 18 months of completion of a PhD program at a recognized university. The successful applicant will be chosen on the basis of: A) Scholarly contributions to the field of vertebrate paleontology, including the dissertation project; B) Professional activity within the field of vertebrate paleontology; and C) Promise of a productive and important professional role in vertebrate paleontology.

3. What to Submit. A completed application form. Forms can be obtained from Dr. Fiorillo (address below).

4. Deadline. Fellowship applications will be due 20 April 2001, with funding to begin in the summer of 2001.

5. Contact. Judith G. Scotchmoor, Museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley CA 94720-4780; tel: (510) 642-4877, fax: (510) 642-1822, e-mail: judys@ucmp1.berkeley.edu.

THE PREPARATOR'S AWARD
To further the field of vertebrate paleontology through preparation and the study of materials and methods used to reveal and preserve fossil information.

Award amount: $5,500 for the year 2001.

Deadline for proposal submission: 20 April 2001 postmark.


Questions?: Amy Davidson, Chair, Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York NY 10024-5192. Tel.: (212) 769-5546; fax: (212) 769-5842; e-mail: davidson@amnh.org.

A. S. ROMER–G. G. SIMPSON MEDAL
For sustained and outstanding scholarly excellence and service to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology (the Society’s highest award). Nominations must include a formal nominating letter and at least two seconding letters of support; there is no limit on the number of supporting letters that can be submitted.

Nominating and supporting letters should explain how the individual being nominated fits the criteria for the award, emphasizing the nominee’s contributions to vertebrate paleontology over the span of his or her career. Nominees should not be informed by the nominator or by anyone else that they are under consideration for the award. It is the responsibility of the nominator to gather all original letters and forward these to the Committee Chair by no later than 20 April 2001. Please address questions and send complete nomination packets to: Committee Chair: Anna K. Behrensmeyer, NHB-E207 MRC 121, Department of Paleobiology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560-0121. Tel.: (202) 357-3033; fax: (202) 786-2832; e-mail: behrensmeyer.kay@nmnh.si.edu.

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

Committee Chair: Maureen O’Leary, SUNY at Stony Brook, Health Sciences Center T-8 (040), Department of Anatomical Sciences, Stony Brook NY 11794-8081. Tel.: (631) 444-3730; fax: (631) 444-3947; e-mail: moleary@mail.som.sunysb.edu.

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74 SVP News Bulletin
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76  SVP News Bulletin
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No. 180 77
Please note that there has been a change in editorship for foreign news. Zhexi Luo has turned over the editorial reins to Xiaoming Wang at Long Island University in New York. Send future foreign news items to Dr. Wang at the address listed on the inside front cover of this News Bulletin.

AUSTRALIA

La Trobe University, Melbourne
The vertebrate paleontology laboratory has expanded with three new graduate students. Jillian Garvey is working on the Tourainian fish fauna at Mansfield, Victoria, opening up the old sites excavated before the turn of the century, trying to relate the type specimens (with no recorded locality) to them and looking at the general taphonomy. The lure is the possibility of a Tourainian tetrapod! Kate Parker is studying the taphonomy of the Viséan tetrapod and fish site in the Ducabrook Formation (Queensland) and will be looking at the Gyracanthides material in particular. She is interested in studying any undescribed gyracanthid material from Australian and non-Australian sites. Kat Pawley is taking on the temnospondyl postcranial skeleton. Having prepared and described material of Lydekkerina (on loan, courtesy of Bruce Rubidge at the BPI) for her Honours thesis and discovering it to be somewhat different from her expectations (publication in preparation). She is going back into the Paleozoic as a start to determining character polarity for the Stereospondyli. Any suggestions of available prepared and unprepared temnospondyl postcranials would be welcome. Chris Gouramanos completed an interesting Honours project on the geology and suite of invertebrate trackways (one of which was previously described as possible tetrapod) from the quarry near Glenisla in the Grampians Group, Victoria. This locality is now most likely pre-Devonian, perhaps as old as Ordovician.

Anne Warren is continuing work with Sue Turner on the Ducabrook
Formation fish and tetrapod site and has manuscripts on the tetrapod cranial and postcraniaal about ready to submit. She is returning briefly to the Triassic to prepare an articulated brachyopoid with body impression from the Sydney Basin. (Anne Warren)

**CANADA**

**Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Ontario**

Several staff changes have occurred in the Palaeobiology section at the CMN since our last update. Jaelyn Eberle and Xiao-chun Wu have joined the CMN ranks, while Dick Harington has retired (but remains as Emeritus) and Mike Caldwell has returned to Edmonton.

Steve Cumbaa spent two productive weeks in Berlin in late October with host Hans-Peter Schultze at the Museum für Naturkunde. Steve and Hans-Peter worked on Early Devonian (Emans) fishes from their locality on the Anderson River, N.W.T. A description of a new acanthodian is in the works, as well as a paper on the paleoecology of the locality. Steve is also working on the description of a new Early Pleistocene whitefish from the Yukon, and is continuing work on Cenomanian marine localities in eastern Saskatchewan with J. D. Stewart from LACM, and Tim Tokaryk and Harold Bryant from the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Rob Holmes, in collaboration with Kieran Shepherd, Cathy Forster (Stony Brook), and Michael Ryan (Calgary), has finally submitted a description of the skull of a new species of *Chasmosaurus* for publication. Preparation and description of the nearly complete postcranial skeleton will begin as soon as a preparator can be hired. Plans are in the works to describe the postcranial skeletons of *Styracosaurus albertensis* and *Anchiceratops longirostris* (the types of both are on display in the dinopit of the CMN). Examination of these mounted skeletons has proven more difficult than anticipated, but fortunately both are scheduled to be taken apart for conservation and remounting (they have been on display for about 30 years), providing us with an opportunity to complete the study.

In collaboration with Kirk Johnson, Bob Raynolds, and others at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science involved with the Denver Basin Project, Jaelyn Eberle revisited the South Table Mountain locality in 2000. If anybody can offer information on the whereabouts of mammalian specimens collected from South Table Mountain over the last 60 years (besides those housed in Denver, UC Boulder, and the Smithsonian), Jaelyn would greatly appreciate it!

Xiao-chun Wu, with Jun Liu and Professor Jin-ling Li of the IVPP (Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Academia Sinica) at Beijing, is working on an early Late Triassic archosauriform from northern China. This is the first tetrapod collected from the terrestrial Upper Triassic of China. A manuscript on the stratigraphy of the archosauriform has been accepted by *Vertebrata PalAsiatica* and a manuscript on the anatomy and relationships of the archosauriform will be finished soon.

Wu, with Professor Zheng-Wu Cheng of the Institute of Geology, Chinese
Academy of Geological Sciences at Beijing, is also working on a crocodyliform from the lower Upper Cretaceous of northeastern China. They finished a manuscript on the cranial anatomy of this crocodyliform and are going to work on the postcranial skeleton and the phylogenetic relationships of this new form soon. Wu visited the vertebrate fossil localities in the Late Cretaceous–Early Tertiary basins in Qinling Mountains during his two-month visit to China last fall. Collaborating with colleagues from Northwest University at Xi’an, Wu plans to do further investigations in these basins this year.

Wu, with Tony Russell (University of Calgary), finally finished the revision of a manuscript on a further study of *Turfanosuchus dabanensis* Young, 1973. This paper will be published in *JVP* soon. Wu, with Tony Russell and Steve Cumbaa (Canadian Museum of Nature), is going to finish the revision of the manuscript on the new material of *Terminonaris* (*Teleorhinus* in previous publications).

Alison Murray, at the time of writing, has almost finished her PhD program (under Robert Carroll, Redpath Museum, McGill University)—just waiting for the defense! Her descriptions of Eocene cichlids from Tanzania were recently published in *JVP*. She also recently reviewed the Paleozoic through Paleogene fossil fishes of Africa (published in *Fish and Fisheries*), and submitted a paper (with Kathy Stewart) on a Pliocene fish fauna from Malawi. In the trend of moving up the time scale, she has submitted a paper on the osteology of a Recent characoid fish—however, she plans to return to the Eocene as soon as possible. (Alison Murray)

**Heritage Branch, Dept. of Tourism, Yukon Government, Whitehorse, Yukon**

With Roland Gangloff and Kevin May (University of Alaska-Fairbanks), John Storer continued work on dinosaur footprints near Ross River. They mapped and measured nearly 200 prints at the main locality, and started work at nearby sites. They collected many natural casts from mining spoil piles and road grade. Geological work in progress indicates a probable age of about 85 million years.

John began reconnaissance of latest Cretaceous beds of the Bonnet Plume Formation along the Peel River. More intensive work is planned for 2001. Early Pleistocene deposits at Fort Selkirk yielded 400+ small mammal teeth. Collecting at various Early Pleistocene localities near Dawson City will continue.

In 2002, John plans to collaborate with Charlie Schweger (University of Alberta) in collecting the Pliocene (?) fauna of Locality CRH-94, along the Old Crow River. (John Storer)

**Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario**

Chris McGowan and Ryosuke Motani have finished the text of their ichthyosaur monograph for the Encyclopedia of Paleoherpetology. All that remains is to finish off a few more illustrations and take care of some last-minute things, and the job will be complete. It should be off to the editor early in the new year, to their considerable relief. They would like to thank their colleagues for their help,
with particular thanks to those in England who helped them so much during their visit last summer: Sandra Chapman, Angela Milner, Phil Manning, Stephen Howe, Phil Powell, Peter Thornton and Alan Dawn.

Kevin Seymour has started work on a partial felid skeleton from the Pliocene San Diego Formation, the first skeleton known for a North American Pliocene felid.

We welcome Sean Modesto, who joined the department as a postdoc in October. This follows a two-year (+) postdoctoral appointment in South Africa, where he worked on Late Permian synapsids and reptiles. He is now starting work with Hans Sues on the Early Triassic archosauromorph *Prolacerta broomi*. This work will be based on on two new skulls in addition to previously described materials. Sean continues to work with South African paleontologists Bruce Rubidge and Ross Damiani on Late Permian synapsids and Early Triassic reptiles. He participated in fieldwork earlier this year in South Africa with Ross and company, where they prospected for tetrapods at various localities in the Lower Triassic *Lystrosaurus* Assemblage Zone.

Postdoc Axel Hungerbühler spent most of last year visiting collections of phytosaurs all over the U.S. Now he is busy making sense of the enormous bulk of data amassed, starting with the interrelationships among the most derived phytosaurs, the Pseudopalatinae (with Hans-Dieter Sues). Meanwhile, a paper dealing with aspects of the ontogeny of phytosaurs (with Emanuel Fara, Bristol) is scheduled for to be published this spring.

Doctoral student Thomas Carr, in collaboration with David Schwimmer (CSU) and Tom Williamson (NMMNH), has polished off a manuscript on basal North American tyrannosaurids. This project took Carr to the Academy of Natural Sciences and the American Museum of Natural History to study the type specimens of *Dryptosaurus* and *Alectrosaurus*. Carr and Williamson’s work on tyrannosaurid interrelationships and the connected issues of the status of the taxon *Aublysodon*, and late Maastrichtian tyrannosaurid diversity, is drawing to a close. Carr and Williamson have also submitted a manuscript describing a new pachycephalosaurian from the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. Amidst the flurry of fossil work, Carr has run extant archosaur heads through CAT scan and MRI machines at the Toronto Western and Sunnybrook hospitals, respectively. (Kevin Seymour)

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Drumheller, Alberta

In September, Betsy Nicholls received the Rolex Award for Enterprise for the excavation of a giant ichthyosaur in northern British Columbia. The three-year excavation was done in conjunction with Makoto Manabe (National Science Museum, Tokyo). The award came as a surprise, as all field paleontology is enterprising! There was a big, splashy ceremony in New York, followed by a smaller one at Rolex headquarters in Geneva. The money from the award is being used to help prepare the specimen, but Betsy is keeping the watch. Other paleontologists should consider applying for this award. Information for the 2002
Phil Currie is looking forward to a month working with Rodolfo Coria in Neuquén Province in Argentina this February and continuing the excavation of the *Albertosaurus* bonebed in Dry Island north of Drumheller this summer. Erik Snively defended his Master’s thesis on the biomechanics of locomotion in tyrannosaurs. Matt Vickaryous will be defending his thesis on the cranial anatomy of ankylosaurs in late January.

Don Brinkman is completing a redescription of the turtle *Plesiobaena antiqua* based on a large series of specimens collected from Dinosaur Provincial Park over the course of the past 15 years.

Jim Gardner began working in April as the Collections Manager and in September defended his PhD thesis, entitled “Systematics of Albanerpetontids and Other Lissamphibians from the Late Cretaceous of Western North America,” at the University of Alberta. Papers based on the albanerpetontid portion of his thesis have been published recently or are in press; manuscripts detailing his findings on salamanders and frogs are being prepared for submission.

Dave Eberth is working with Ray Rogers and Tony Fiorillo on a Bonebeds book for the University of Chicago Press, and is processing the data from this summer’s study of the *Albertosaurus* bonebed in the upper Horseshoe Canyon Formation. The bonebed appears to have formed as a result of a log jam in a small paleochannel following a major destructive event that resulted in thousands of trees being uprooted and/or knocked down. Related studies from this past summer also include palynological and sedimentological analyses of the Horseshoe Canyon Formation that indicate numerous changes in paleoclimate through the Maastrichtian nonmarine section of southern Alberta. Work is now underway to assess the relationship between these patterns, and changes in the composition of fossil vertebrate assemblages and their taphonomic parameters.

*University of Alberta Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology, Edmonton*

The University of Alberta Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology has undergone some major changes since 1 July 2000. Following the retirement of Richard Fox in August 1999, Michael Caldwell, formerly of the Canadian Museum of Nature (Ottawa), was hired as Assistant Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Biological Sciences, and Curator of Fossil Tetrapods in the UALVP collections.

Mike is staying on as associate editor with JVP, has his first graduate student (Stephanie Pierce), and is continuing his research and fieldwork projects on Cretaceous squamates and squamate phylogeny. Mosasaur specimens collected in New Zealand (1999) have finally been wrestled from their concretionary resting places by the expert preparation of Al Mannering (Canterbury Museum, Christchurch) with assistance from Norton Hiller. Casts made of the very complete skull traveled safely to Canada and are now under study. Here’s to a fine afternoon at the “Duck” and a good “Sou’wester.”
Mike and a field team are preparing for a month of National Geographic-supported fieldwork hunting for Cretaceous vertebrates in Argentina (April–May 2001). In collaboration with Adriana Albino and Jorge Calvo, Mike will return to Neuquén to prospect new and extremely productive terrestrial vertebrate localities that include spectacular fossils of the snake *Dinilysia patagonica*. Mike has recently initiated collaborations with researchers at the new CT scan facility here at the University of Alberta. The “insights” into the brain case and otic capsule of *Dinilysia* are spectacular.

Mike and Tim Tokaryk are finishing up the description of a partially articulated varanoid lizard from the Maastrichtian of southern Saskatchewan. Together, Mike and Tim have put together a student project that, if funded, will send Jeff Greenius out in the field with Tim collecting squamate microfaunal remains from Maastrichtian localities around Eastend, Saskatchewan. This material, in association with the new Saskatchewan varanoid, and new microfaunal material from the Foremost Formation of Alberta, will temporally bracket the Upper Campanian fauna described by Gao Keqin (former student of Dick Fox).

Mike’s first graduate student, Stephanie Pierce (MSc candidate), has begun preparation of the poorly known dolichosaur *Pontosaurus lesinensis*, relocated after 130 years of obscurity in the collections of the Austrian Geological Survey in Vienna. Her thesis will include a redescription of this animal and the first cladistic analysis of all squamate taxa currently included in the Dolichosauridae with the goal of determining whether or not the family is a monophyletic assemblage of squamates. Mike is also supervising two undergraduate theses: Alex Dutchak (Otic capsule anatomy of fossil and extant snakes), and Timon Bullard (A new pachycephalosaur from the Foremost Formation, Upper Cretaceous, Alberta).

Mark Wilson is pleased to say that his coleadership of IGCP 406 (Circum-Arctic Palaeozoic Vertebrates) has concluded successfully with a scientific and field meeting in Syktyvkar, Ukhta, and the Kozhym River of far northern European Russia. Mark has recently taken over from Dave Elliott as lower vertebrates editor of *JVP*—keep those manuscripts coming! Mark is currently collaborating with Tiiu Marss and Ray Thorsteinsson on a large study of Arctic thelodonts, and continuing various projects relating to Silurian and Devonian vertebrates from the Mackenzie Mountains, N.W.T. Mark is supervising undergraduate theses by: Lesley George (Redescription of *Gladiobranchus*), Lisa Budney (Gut shape in MOTH heterostracans), and Jeff Greenias (Possible juvenile heterostracans). Mark’s two graduate students are Gavin Hanke and Chelsea Hermus.

Gavin Hanke is writing up his PhD thesis on scales, spines, taxonomy, and phylogeny of some Early Devonian acanthodians and putative chondrichthians from the Mackenzies. Gavin has several manuscripts in press and submitted, such as one on *Tetanopsyrus*, one on *Brochoadmones*, and one on a putative chondrichthyan.

Chelsea Hermus has just begun her MSc, which will focus on diversity and
growth of *Ischnacanthus* spp. in the Early Devonian MOTH assemblage from the Mackenzies. Chelsea is working at publishing part of her undergraduate thesis on some Cretaceous teleosts from Axel Heiberg Island, and is also looking at *Rumundina* skull material in the MOTH assemblage.

Alan Lindoe continues to work as our preparator and collector. He is currently preparing MOTH vertebrates for Mark Wilson and trilobites for Brian Chatterton. In April–May he will accompany Mike Caldwell to Argentina and lend his expert field skills to that project. The expectation is that Al will employ his fossil-witching talents to the discovery and recovery of some spectacular snake fossils.

Dick Fox is currently Professor Emeritus and is continuing his supervision of two graduate students: Jonathan Perry (Functional morphology of feeding in Paleocene primates) and Craig Scott (Faunal study of a Paleocene assemblage, Calgary, Alberta). Craig and Jonathan will be submitting their Master’s theses shortly. Jim Gardner successfully defended his PhD thesis on the systematics and paleobiology of albanerpetontids and other amphibians during the fall of 2000, and is now employed full time at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller. (Mike Caldwell and Mark Wilson)

**University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario**

Jeff Thomason and student Heather McClinchey are applying computer models of the digit of *Equus* to study hoof and limb mechanics in extinct equids. Andrew Drake is beginning his doctoral research into dental and cranial design in sabertooths. (Jeff Thomason)

**FRANCE**

Philippe Janvier was in the field in Colombia in July, with Carlos Villarroel (Bogota) and found a new sarcopterygian- and bothriolepid-bearing horizon in the Floresta area. In August, he will be in the field in Gotland (Sweden) with Per Ahlberg (London) and Henning Blom (Uppsala), looking for the elusive Silurian actinopterygian *Andreolepis*. He plans a field trip on a new galeaspid locality in Vietnam in October.

Nathalie Bardet carries on her work on Late Cretaceous marine reptiles from the southern Tethyan margin, with focus on faunas of Morocco. After successful fieldwork in spring in the Maastrichtian phosphates, several papers on mosasaurs are currently in progress. The first results were presented during the Fifth European Workshop on Vertebrate Palaeontology at Karlsruhe (June 2000). The study of marine vertebrates from the Late Cretaceous of Syria is now available (Bardet et al., Geol. Mag., 2000, 137, 3), and the review of Maastrichtian elasmosaurids is in press (Mulder et al., Bull. Inst. Roy. Sci. Nat. Belgique, Sci. Terre, 2000, 70). A new ophthalmosaurian ichthyosaur from the Late Jurassic of Solnhofen was published with M. Fernández (J. Paleont., 2000, 74, 3). The study of plesiosaurs from the Late Jurassic of Cuba (with Z. Gasparini and M. Iturralde-Vinent), the Late Cretaceous of Argentina, and Antarctic Peninsula (with Z. Gasparini and J. E. Martin) has been submitted.

Vera Eisenmann is still involved with equids, and has also studied the endemic canid of Sardinia in a contribution to Papers in Honour of Paul Y. Sondaar (Deinsea 7). Other published works include primitive nonsthenoid horses in the Pliocene and Lower Pleistocene (Orce Congress); a morphometric definition of the subgenus Equus as opposed to plesippine and stenonine forms (Zoologica Scripta); a database for teeth and limb bones of modern hemiones; and a study of hipparions from the Late Miocene Baynunah Formation, Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Trips to South Africa, and congresses in Namibia, at Lesbos, and in Jordan have left wonderful memories: thanks to all organizers and colleagues!


France de Lapparent de Broin continues her collaboration with Pr. Astibia on the reptiles of Las Bardenas Reales de Navarra (early Miocene), with E. Gheerbrant on the Calcaires de Rona (late Paleocene of Romania; field trip in July), with M. T. Antunes on the Quaternary chelonians from Portugal, with M. de la Fuente on the Cretaceous turtles from Argentina, and with several researchers on material of turtles, particularly with her student Sophie Hervet (revision of the genus Palaochelys s.l.).

Christian de Muizon is still actively working on the Paleocene mammal fauna from Tiupampa (Bolivia). His monograph on condylarths (with R. Cifelli) was out this year at Geodiversitas. Monographs on Andinodelphys and new specimens of pantodonts are planned for the near future. Christian also worked on new specimens of Odobenocetops (the walruslike dolphins from the Pliocene of Peru) and started a long-term study (with G. McDonald) on the endemic
marine sloth of the Sacaco area (Neogene of Peru): *Thalssocnus* is now represented by four different species from different stratigraphic horizons of vertebrates. Fieldwork in Bolivia and Peru was very successful, in great part thanks to the efficient help of his Bolivian and Peruvian colleagues.

Martin Pikford and Brigitte Senut together with French, Spanish, and Namibian colleagues continued excavations in Namibia’s Spergebiet. Several new taxa have been identified, including the world’s earliest known bovid, *Namibiomeryx* (aged about 21 Ma). Auchas yielded a primitive gomphothere and a complete skull of *Eozygodon morotoensis*. Higher in the succession there is yet another new gomphothere which emphasizes the diversity of proboscideans in southern Africa during the early and middle Miocene. The skull cap of an archaic *Homo sapiens* has recently been published in CRAS. In eastern Africa, Brigitte and Martin continued with their surveys in Uganda and Kenya. New faunas continue to turn up in Uganda: an extremely primitive barbourofeline from Napak (ca. 19 Ma) is being studied in collaboration with Jorge Morales and his team in Madrid. Other finds include creodonts, carnivores, suoids, and rodents that were lacking from previous collections. At Napak (19 Ma) a complete aceratherium rhino skeleton was excavated, several fossils of apes were found, including the head of a large primate femur which fits precisely onto a diaphysis collected by Bill Bishop in 1964. This and other newly collected specimens reveal a great deal about the behavior of *Proconsul*. At Moroto, screening yielded abundant micromammals useful for settling the age of this site. A new paleontology display was erected in Windhoek, Namibia, and the building of the first Community Museum of Kenya is going ahead well with the encouragement of the government and the local communities.


For Denise Sigogneau-Russell the last year was not as productive as she would like: a paper on triconodonts, finished and polished (or so she thought) at long last, was sent to *Acta Pal Pol*; it came back with harsh criticism by one anonymous reviewer, and has been ever since sulking in its “totally unacceptable state.” A paper on kuehneotheriids (with P. Godefroit) is in press for a considerable time and so is the Purbeck paper (with Z. Kielan-Jaworowska). The
symmetrodont paper (with P. Ensom) should be out soon in *Cretaceous Research*. She is now working on the Kirtlington material. After battling for months with the “therians,” she hopes to produce a paper by the end of the year. The variety and state of evolution of this Bathonian mammalian fauna is quite remarkable and the conclusions may turn out to be unexpected (like *Cyrtatherium* being a docodont for example). In the spring we had the pleasure of a several weeks’ stay by J. H. R. Prasad, from Jammu (India), and of sharing with him our “isolated mammalian teeth” problems.

Pascal Tassy’s fieldwork included excavation (in 1999 and with Francis Duranthon from Toulouse Museum) in the well-known Miocene locality of Sansan, Gers, an outcrop not touched for a century since the previous work by Lartet and followers. In 1999–2000, Pascal excavated a new locality of Paleogene age in southern France (Tarn district). His work on elephantids from Abu Dhabi was published in fall 1999 in a splendid book, *Fossil Vertebrates of Arabia*, edited by P. J. Whybrow and A. Hill. He co-organized at the Museum the exhibition called “Comics Park,” an exhibition on comics devoted to paleontology, so that original plates and large-sized fully colored pictures were associated with big skeletons. The exhibit has turned out to be very popular. Last message to colleagues: due to collection reorganization, several mammal faunas from North Africa, Malagasy, Pikermi, and other late Miocene localities may not be easily accessible for study in the next two years (or not available at all).

Christine Argot is working on her PhD on locomotory evolution of borhyaenoids. She completed a detailed model analysis of the adaptive features of the postcranial skeleton of *Mayulestes ferox*, the oldest known borhyaenoid (Early Paleocene, Bolivia). She is now studying the locomotory adaptations of other taxa of the group, using extant placental and marsupial carnivores for comparison.

Adeline Aumont is studying for her PhD on European Early Eocene Paromomyidae and multituberculates (Mammalia). The study is to review the teeth of European species and to work out the phylogeny of the two families and their American relatives. Her thesis is aimed to contribute to the understanding of the mammalian fauna turnover of the Paleocene/Eocene boundary.

Gael Clement is finishing his PhD on the Devonian porolepiforms from Spitsbergen and described two large tetrapodomorph fishes from the Famennian of Belgium. Arnaud Filleul is finishing his PhD on elopomorphs and discovered some remarkable early acanthomorphs in the Lower Cretaceous of Morocco. As a fanatic angler, he attended Deep Sea Rodeo in Alabama in July, along with American and European fish anatomists.

Didier Dutheil passed his EPHE diploma on the Cretaceous fishes of a new locality he had discovered in Morocco, and which yields the first articulated fossil bichirs. In April, he revisited this locality with Arnaud Filleul and found more bichirs, some with complete skull. Fabien Knoll (knoll@mnhn.fr) continues his thesis on the “fabrosaurs.” In September 1999, at the First Jornadas internacionales sobre Paleontología de dinosaurios y su entorno, in Spain, he
presented the results on the functional analysis of the masticatory apparatus of *Lesothosaurus*. In June, he presented, in collaboration with P. Galton, a communication on the “putative” trunk of *Diplodocus* at the Fifth European Workshop on Vertebrate Palaeontology (in Karlsruhe, Germany). Besides the Stormberg’s dinosaurs, he also works on a sauropod from north-eastern France and pterosaurs from Morocco. His austral winter has been devoted to a trip in southern Africa, where he did fieldwork in Lesotho, with B. Battail, and visited the main South African collections. François Pujos has been in Peru (granted by the French Institute of Andean Studies) since early 2000, where he is completing fieldwork for his PhD on Pliocene and Pleistocene gound sloths. He is concentrating on the Scelidotheriinae, Nothrotheriinae, and Megatheriidae. He is presently describing several new genera of Pleistocene gravigrades, among others a new giant megatheriid. François will return to France in early 2001.

J. Sébastien Steyer is describing some new temnospondyls from France, and is extending his work in Africa, after a revision of the capitosaur from Madagascar (JVP), he is currently working on paleohistology of the Moroccan metoposaurs. His work offers some new information on ontogeny and paleoecology of these extinct groups, as well as on their debated phylogeny. He also went to Laos to look for Upper Permian amphibians.

**GERMANY**

*Institut für Paläontologie und Historische Geologie, Munich*

Although we’ve not reported in some time, it is not due to lack of activity or productivity here in Munich.

Volker Fahlbusch retired about two years ago and has decided not to get stressed out by anyone or anything. It seems to be working well. Although he is no longer a member of SVP, he still feels part of the SVP community and maintains active involvement at the institute. Although most of his former responsibilities have been transferred to Kurt Heissig, Volker still has a small office and is busy with the excavation and investigations of the Molasse site Sandelzhausen (MN 5, north of Munich). Further projects to be completed deal with some rodents from Ertemte and Oligocene cricetids from Ulan Tatal (localities in Inner Mongolia and China, respectively) as well as Late Oligocene/Early Miocene small mammals from the Subalpine Molasse in Upper Bavaria.

After dealing with Miocene proboscideans, Ursula Göhlich will be continuing a four-year post-doc project concentrating on birds from the Neogene of southern Germany, which is supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Herein studies regarding systematics, biostratigraphy, and paleoecology of different avifaunas are planned as well as phylogenetic investigations. She is currently standing in as Assistant Professor for Gertrud Rössner during her maternity leave and is occupied with teaching invertebrate paleontology and historical geology. Additionally, she is participating in the on-going excavation in Sandelzhausen and continues some smaller studies on proboscideans.

Kurt Heissig is currently involved with small mammal stratigraphy of the
Oligocene and Middle Miocene in Europe, paleogeography of the Eocene/Oligocene transition, and the ecology of mammal communities. Under his supervision, Ioannis Giaourtsakis is studying rhinos from Greece and Jerôme Prieto is investigating rodent faunas from the Miocene of southern Germany.

Markus Moser is preparing his PhD thesis on prosauropods from Ellingen (Bavaria).

New to the institute is Bettina Reichenbacher, who has taken up the position of Volker Fahlbusch. She teaches courses on vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology. Her research interests focus on Tertiary and Recent fish faunas (Teleostei) from brackish and freshwater environments of middle and southern Europe, and studying paleoecology, biogeography, and biostratigraphy. In most cases, her investigations are based on otoliths (sagittae), although she is also working with complete skeletons, e.g., of cyprinodontids.

Gertrud Rössner spent the last few years collecting data of Miocene Ruminantia from southern Germany, which should be published in 2001 and 2002. Additionally, she edited “The Miocene Land Mammals of Europe” in cooperation with Kurt Heissig (publisher Dr. F. Pfeil, Munich), took part periodically in the excavations for Miocene vertebrates from Sandelzhausen, and worked on several ruminant faunas from Austria and middle Germany. At the end of March, she will finish a 16-month maternity leave and plans to habilitate during the year.

Student Laura Schulz is gearing up for her Master’s thesis with a possible morphological-molecular investigation of European galliforms, under the supervision of Ursula Göhlich.

Madeline Böhme’s research interests are taxonomy, biogeography, ecology of Cenozoic lower vertebrates (fishes, amphibians, and reptiles), and the paleoecology of terrestrial ecosystems. (Ursula Göhlich)

Institute of Paleontology, University of Bonn

The highlight for vertebrate paleontology at Bonn was an excursion to Patagonia (participants: Dany Kalthoff, Wighart von Koenigswald, Thomas Mörs) led by Francisco Goin from La Plata. Many of the classical Tertiary sites were visited and material for enamel research was collected. What time Wighart von Koenigswald could spare from administrative work, he spent on the Pleistocene again. He is fascinated by the repetitive faunal exchanges and local extinction in western and central Europe. In his new model, the glacial and interglacial faunas in this area were controlled by the shift from a continental to a maritime climate and this is, therefore, a regional effect. Now Wighart wants to study more stable areas for comparison. Once his book on the upper Pleistocene mammalian fauna from central Europe is finished, he will return to the enamel investigation and hopes to see many of you at the enamel symposium at ICVM-6 in Jena.

Martin Sander is reporting that he still is dividing his research time between dinosaur biology and ichthyosaurs (or what he believes to be ichthyosaurs) including Omphalosaurus. With Christiane Faber from Austria, Martin is
working on a detailed description of the best skeleton of this beast from the German Alps. This will include the preparing out of the “bone of contention,” an elongate bone believed by some to be the humerus.

As dinomania is sweeping Germany again, albeit in a milder strain than after “Jurassic Park,” Martin is busy explaining his student’s and his own research on sauropod biology to the media. Dinomania coincided with the publication of Martin’s paper on the histology of the Tendaguru sauropods in *Paleobiology*, which was followed by a healthy flow of reprint requests.

The Y2K also saw the publication of some papers that languished with editors and printers for a considerable time, including two review papers in German (on ichthyosaurs and on sauropod biology) and Martin’s contribution on reptilian tooth enamel to the Teaford et al. volume on teeth (Cambridge University Press).

The biggest news from Thomas Mörs is that he obtained a position as curator for vertebrate paleontology at the Natural History Museum in Stockholm, Sweden. Congratulations! Thomas still spends most of his research time with the vertebrates of the Hambach coal mine. Together with Dany, he is studying some cricetids from the middle Miocene Hambach 6C fauna. The castorids of this fauna are being co-investigated with Clara Stefen. Recently, Thomas discovered and excavated two new vertebrate sites at the mine: Hambach 13, a late Pliocene fauna, and Hambach 14, an early Pleistocene small vertebrate fauna. A paper about the paleoecology of the Tertiary vertebrate sites in the Lower Rhine Basin has has been submitted (*Geol. en Mijnbouw*), and a review article on the stratigraphy of this region with Andreas Schäfer and Torsten Utescher from the Geological Institute of the University of Bonn is in the works.

Mammals from the upper Oligocene oil shales of Enspel in the Westerwald area represent a second field of Thomas’ research: the oldest record of *Potamotherium* showing unusual taphonomic features was published by him and Wighart (*Senckenbergiana lethaea* 80), and a lagomorph skeleton is under study by him and Dany. Together with the Geological Survey of Hesse and the University of Frankfurt, Thomas has started a new project on the middle Miocene vertebrate-bearing oil shale locality Homberg in the volcanic Vogelsberg area.

Daniela Kalthoff is still addicted to rodent enamel analysis. For the comparison of incisor microstructure of North and South American sciurognathous rodents, she traveled a lot last fall and winter to obtain/collect specimens. Dany is greatly indebted to all colleagues and institutions for their generous support of her project. Together with Wighart and Conny she is currently working on a new apatemyid specimen (very likely *Heterohyus*) from Messel which shows unexpected features in the soft-part preservation. Dany is involved in the analysis of the rich Pleistocene vertebrate remains coming from the original Neandertal cave. Recently, two archaeologists were able to relocate the cave sediments which, apart from lots of animal bones, yielded additional early human fossils and artifacts.

Cornelia Kurz continued her PhD work on the osteology and functional
morphology of opossum-like marsupials from the famous Messel locality. As a
part of a DAAD project, Conny spent two months in Argentina in the fall of
1999. Conny and Francisco Goin, La Plata, are preparing a paper on tooth and
skull morphology of the European marsupial Amphiperatherium. Together with
Sofia Heinonen Fortabat (Administración de Parques Nacionales Delegación
NEA), Conny gathered ecological data on Recent opossums in the Misiones
subtropical rainforest for comparison with the fossil material.

Ingo Raufuss is finishing his PhD thesis on a computer-based analysis of the
distribution of upper Pleistocene mammals in central Europe based on the
EUQUAM database. The so-called “areas of equivalence” for selected taxa are
compiled for Eemian as well as middle and late Weichselian associations. Talking
about EUQUAM, Ingo is working on Version 2.0 of the database. This
implies that EUQUAM will be moved from Paradox under Windows to mysql
on Linux. Feel free to try the EUQUAM link at: http://www.uni-bonn.de/
Paleontology/index.htm.

Oliver Wings, a new PhD student, came from the University of Erlangen and
strengthened our dinosaur section. His project titled “Identification and
function of gastroliths” focuses on gastroliths of Upper Jurassic sauropods, but
Oliver also considers further fossil and Recent finds associated with terrestrial
and marine Vertebrae. Oliver will try to sort out the confused terminology and
is expecting interesting implications for the paleobiology of various reptiles.
Christian Peitz has also finished his PhD thesis on the sauropod nesting sites in
northern Spain, with impressive documentation of site fidelity and clutch
morphology in the resident presumptive titanosauras.

Carmen Houben has just finished her diploma thesis on the revision of the
Eemian vertebrate fauna of Lehringen, Lower Saxony, Germany. The fish,
reptiles, and birds were described for the first time, and a cat was added to the
mammalian faunal list.

Christa Lindenau also finished the diploma thesis. Her topic was the chiro-
pterans from the middle Pleistocene of Yarimburgaz Cave in Turkey. Studying
the morphology of skulls, jaws, and humeri, she was able to identify 16 species
from four genera. The composition of the fauna indicates an open landscape.

Lars Schmitz studies fish teeth from the lower Barremian of northwestern
Germany, focusing on well-preserved teeth of the lamnid neoselachians
Leptostyrax and Protolamna. On the fish front, Lars also is trying to turn the
supposed cephalopod Triadoteuthis from Muschelkalk into a fish by studying its
histology (and seeing unquestionable bone in the thin sections). Soon Lars will
start his diploma thesis on a skull and postcranium of the ichthyosaur Phalarodon
which was collected by Martin and Glenn Storrs (Cincinnati Museum of Natural
History) from Middle Triassic sediments of Nevada. (Daniela C. Kalthoff and P.
Martin Sander)

Lehreinheit Paläontologie, Institut für Geowissenschaften, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

No. 180 91
Norbert Schmidt-Kittler in a long-term project is investigating the correlation of various feeding habits of plantivorous mammals to the structural parameters of their dentitions. The studies are based on the parameters of the occlusal surfaces of the teeth from two-dimensional image processing. This project also involves two doctoral students. Nicole Herrmann is quantifying the variation of the functionally relevant parameters in Recent and fossil voles (Arvicolidae) and Oliver Kamm is going to analyze the group-specific differences of these parameters in small and large plantivores more generally.

The research group Continental Ecosystems at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz consists of Jürgen Boy, Michael Fastnacht, Thomas Laven, Michael Maus, Johannes Müller, and Beatrix Spahn. Isabella Dikhoff left after finishing her Master’s thesis about *Acentrophorus* (Neopterygii) from the Upper Permian of northern Germany. Also Nicola Lillich (*Keichosaurus* (Sauopterygia) from the Middle Triassic of southern China) and Rabea Lillich (Niederkirchen-Morphotype of *Micromelerpeton* from the basal Permian of western Germany) have both finished their Master’s theses.

Jürgen Boy, Michael Fastnacht, Johannes Müller, and Rainer Schoch (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart) spent four weeks in New Mexico, USA, doing fieldwork in cooperation with Spencer Lucas and Pete Reser (New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, Albuquerque). They were prospecting for tetrapods in the Middle Triassic Moenkopi Formation from north-central New Mexico. Publications by Jürgen, Michael, Johannes, Rainer, and Spencer on the fauna and geological setting are currently in preparation.

Jürgen Boy is currently working on three different projects: 1) Revision of the Micromelerpetontidae. The description of *Micromelerpeton (?)* boyi Heyler and *Micromelerpeton ulmelense* n. sp. are in press in the *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie*. The redescription of “*Pelosaurus*” *guembeli* Reis will be finished by the end of the year 2000. After this Jürgen will go for the cladistic analyses of the Micromelerpetontidae. Unfortunately, the description of *Archegosaurus* has to wait until this project is finished. 2) Paleoecology of the Rotliegend-Lakes (Uppermost Pennsylvanian–Lower Permian): The taphonomic analyses of the “deeper” lakes (with completely preserved vertebrates), especially the food webs, is in progress. 3) Vertebrate Lagerstätten of the Moenkopi Formation (Upper Scythian–Lower Anisian) in north-central New Mexico: A preliminary analysis of the fieldwork of the year 2000 campaign with a lithostratigraphic correlation of the deposits and differentiation of the Lagerstätten types. The results will be published in an excursion guide together with Rainer Schoch and Spencer Lucas.

Michael Fastnacht is busy with his PhD thesis on the constructional morphology of pterosaur skulls together with Dino Frey (Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe) and two engineers, Natascha Hess and Hans-Peter Weiser (both Fachhochschule für Technik und Gestaltung Mannheim). The joint venture of paleontology and engineering involves the simulation of pterosaur skulls and their mechanical behavior by using finite element analyses. The project, which
is financed by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, aims to compare the different skull morphologies of pterosaurs and their mechanical behavior. The project was presented at SVPCA poster session in Portsmouth in September 2000. Preliminary results will be presented next year at the Arbeitskreis Wirbeltierpaläontologie meeting, the Palherp2001, ICVM, and the pterosaur meeting in Toulouse.

Meanwhile, Michael is eagerly waiting for his revision of the pterosaur genus *Tropeognathus* to be published in the *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*. He could demonstrate that both species of this genus belong to some existing genera by describing a new pterosaur fossil from the Santana Formation of Brazil. Hopefully this will begin to clarify the rather dubious taxonomy of the pterosaur from the Santana Formation of Brazil by considering the variation of morphology, rather than assigning each new fossil to a new species.

Furthermore, Michael and Natascha Hess are working on a finite element model, to be added to a detailed paper about tooth replacement in pterosaur patterns and hopefully will be submitted by the summer of 2001. As a result of his finite element analysis (FEA), Michael and his coworkers are preparing an article about the use of FEA in paleontology and the nature of models for a special volume of *Senckenbergiana Lethaea* in 2001.

After the field trip to New Mexico and the work in the Moenkopi Formation (see above) this summer, Michael spent three weeks in Texas and visited the pterosaur collections of Lubbock and the Texas Tech University in Austin (many thanks to Wann Langston, Tim Rowe, and Sankar Chatterjee). He also fell in love with the CT lab in Austin, and now has his head full of crazy ideas.

Apart from this, Michael organized the fourth meeting of German-speaking paleoherpetologists in Mainz in May 2000 (Palherp 2000). About 60 people attended this meeting and the evening discussion about the future of paleontology in Germany. Andrew Milner (London) and Jakob Hallermann (Hamburg) joined the meeting as invited speakers. The attendants enjoyed the very relaxed atmosphere at this meeting and the hospitality of our department. Apart from being the Webmaster of our department’s Internet pages, Michael is building a permanent Web site for this annual meeting, which should be on-line by the time this is published (http://www.alettra.de/palherp/).

Johannes Müller is currently working on his PhD project about European thalattosaurs, with special emphasis on *Askeptosaurus italicus* from the middle Triassic of Monte San Giorgio. He discovered several formerly unknown skeletal features of *Askeptosaurus* that may shed new light on the relationships of the group. This project will also investigate other possibly related taxa like *Endemmasaurus* from the Norian of Italy. Moreover, Johannes’ diploma thesis on the Eocene lizard *Eolacerta robusta* from Messel and Geiseltal has now been accepted for publication by JVP. Johannes recently visited Marc Augé and Jean-Claude Rage at the Museum national d’Histoire naturelle in Paris and investigated more fossils of *Eolacerta* from the Eocene locality Prémontré. These new finds clarify some anatomical problems being so far unresolved and will be
Johannes’ further work concentrates on the evolution and paleobiogeography of modern squamates. A new record of European leaf-toed geckos (*Euleptes*) from the Miocene of Oppenheim is in press in the *Journal of Herpetology* (with Clemens Mödden as co-author). The description of a new extant lacertid lizard from ancient Petra in Jordan has recently been published in *Salamandra* (with Wolfgang Bischoff, Museum Koenig Bonn, as senior author). Johannes is also studying a crocodilian, together with Markus Forst and Torsten Rossmann (Naturkunde-Museum Karlsruhe), so the first record of an alligatorid from the Eocene of Africa has been published in the December 2000 issue of *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, Monatshefte*. Other studies include: the description of a new gekkonid from the Miocene of France (submitted); skull osteology and heterochrony in the extant lacertid *Parvilacerta parva*; the skull structure of the durophagous lacertid *Dracoenasaurus* from the Oligocene of France; and the examination of a giant tortoise from the Miocene of Maragheh, Iran (together with Michael Maus). Johannes is also planning to investigate the postnatal ontogeny of the skull of the extant sea snake *Pelamis platurus* on the basis of material from the Field Museum in Chicago. Together with Ulrich Kuch (Universität Frankfurt), the functional morphology of the vertebral column of the elapid snake genus *Bungarus* will be examined.

For her Master’s thesis Beatrix Spahn has worked on the lateral line system of the Temnospondyli (Amphibia), mostly from the Carboniferous and Permian, but also from the Triassic and Jurassic. In some of the early Temnospondyli she was able to discover pit lines for the first time. Some of the species had strongly varying lateral lines, like *Sclerocephalus* and *Micromelerpeton*, whereas others didn’t show any variability. A second aspect of her work was the ontogeny and phylogenetic evolution of the lateral line system.

It could be shown that after metamorphosis terrestrial species lost their lateral line system completely. Species that have remained in the water after metamorphosis show a more differentiated ontogeny, e.g., between *Archegosaurus* as an adult fish hunter or neotenic genera like *Micromelerpeton*. Now Beatrix is working for her PhD thesis on the *Aeduellidae*, a group of paleonisciform fishes from the Permocarbon of central Europe.

Thomas A. Laven will soon start his Master’s thesis on recently discovered sauropod remains from northern Germany. There, among others, a huge amount of extraordinarily well-preserved cranial and postcranial bones of several juvenile sauropod individuals were discovered in marine carbonate sediments of Kimmeridgian age. The work will focus on cranial bones, still under preparation, which were found closely together and presumably belonged to one single (brachiosaurid) individual. The material will be described and compared with other related sauropods, finally resulting in a reconstruction of the skull. The exceptionally well-preserved bone surfaces will allow the description of delicate surface structures like growth patterns, muscle scars, small foramina, etc.

As our new preparator, Michael Maus started in 2000. He also has worked
in vertebrate paleontology, especially tadpoles from various Tertiary lakes in Germany. Currently he is rebuilding the whole preparation lab and shows us every day a new technique of using epoxy resin and other things that we have never seen before. (Michael Fastnacht)

INDIA

Geological Studies Unit, Indian Statistical Institute

The Geological Studies Unit held a three-day workshop entitled “The Geology of the Pranhita-Godavari (PG) Valley: Current Status and Future Directions” during November 1999. It was well attended by specialists of almost all disciplines of geosciences. Tapan Roy Chowdhury, being one of the founding members of the Geological Studies Unit, gave the welcome address. He also talked on the vertebrate succession of the PG Valley. David Gillette of the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, and Kristina Curry Rogers of the Bell Museum of Natural History, Minnesota, attended the workshop from abroad. Dr. Gillette gave a special lecture on the “Origin of the Late Jurassic dinosaurs of North America—A paleogeographic enigma.” Ms. Rogers gave a paper on the “Fossil vertebrates from the Late Cretaceous of Madagascar: New taxa and their biogeographic implications.” Some selected papers of the workshop will come out in a special volume of the Journal of Asian Earth Sciences this year.

In this workshop, Saswati Bandyopadhyay gave a paper with Tapan Roy Chowdhury and Kasturi Sen on the “Recent discoveries of fossil vertebrates from the PG Valley” which included some interesting finds of Middle Triassic diapsids. Her paper jointly with Dhurjati P. Sengupta on the “Middle Triassic vertebrate faunas of India” appeared in the Journal of African Earth Sciences. Another paper on “Gondwana vertebrates of India” was published in “Gondwana-land Assembly: Current Issues and Problems” by the Indian National Science Academy.

Dhurjati P. Sengupta went on a fossil-hunting trip to the Satpura Gondwana basin in central India and uncovered an exceptionally rich graveyard of capitosaurids from the Triassic Denwa Formation. The capitosaurid skulls are stacked within a small area (about 2 × 6 m). He gave a paper on the “Review of the Triassic temnospondyls of the PG Valley” in the workshop. Dhurjati is now working with Adam M. Yates (presently at Bristol) on a lapillopsid mandible from the Early Triassic Panchet Formation of eastern India.

Sanghamitra Ray has been awarded a PhD degree by Calcutta University. Her paper on Indian endothiodont dicynodonts from the PG Valley will appear soon in Palaeontology. Within a few weeks, she is going to Cape Town to work with Anusuya Chinsamy in a postdoctoral program at the South African Museum; right now, she is busy putting the final touches to her pending manuscripts. Her paper on the “Permian reptilian fauna from the Kundaram Formation, PG Valley, India” appeared in the Journal of African Earth Sciences. She gave a paper on the “Permian faunal signatures in India” in the above workshop.

Zhexi Luo of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History visited the Unit in
May 1999 and gave a seminar entitled “The evolution of Mesozoic mammals: New evidence from China.” David Gillette also gave an excellent talk on the feathered dinosaurs of China during his visit to the Unit. (Saswati Bandyopadhyay)

**Geological Survey of India, Hyderabad**

The Geological Survey of India unveiled a new dinosaur exhibit at the “Dinosaurium” of the B. M. Birla Science Centre in Hyderabad on 25 July 2000. The exhibit was inaugurated by Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of the Andhra Pradesh State. The primary attraction of this dinosaur exhibit at the Birla Science Centre is a fully mounted skeleton of *Kotasaurus yamanpalliensis*, a sauropod from the Early Jurassic Kota Formation of the Pranhita-Godavari Valley. This is only the second dinosaur skeleton mounted for public exhibition for all of India, after *Barapasaurus* at the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta.

From 1974 to 1980, the GSI Hyderabad staff collected about 840 skeletal elements that belong to at least 12 individuals of this sauropod species. P. Yadagiri (Senior Geologist at GSI) has been involved in the field collecting and research on this dinosaur since the 1970s. He is very pleased with the successful completion of this seven-year exhibit project, a reward for much of his effort and time on the restoration and installation, and for the support of Dr. S. K. Mazumder (Deputy Director, GSI), Dr. A. K. Moitra (Director of Palaeontology, GSI Hyderabad), and other colleagues of GSI. P. Yadagiri has recently submitted a manuscript on the *Kotasaurus* material to *JVP*, based on research supported by GSI and by a grant from The Dinosaur Society. (P. Yadagiri and Z. Luo)

**JAPAN**

**Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum**

In the summer of 2000, Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum (FPDM) was opened in Katsuyama City, Fukui Prefecture, Japan. The museum is located close
to a Lower Cretaceous dinosaur locality, yielding dinosaur footprints and remains of theropods, ornithopods, and sauropods as well as other vertebrates. Our museum exhibit is one of the largest paleontological museums (15,000 m² total) in the world and has more than 50 dinosaur skeletons, mainly focused on Asian dinosaurs. Our research facility is still improving, but we already have a medical CT scanner, 3D scanner, XRD, SEM (plus EDX) and others. The museum has ten paleontological researchers, including four vertebrate paleontologists.

Senior curator Yoichi Azuma is studying Asian dinosaurs and has just described a new carnosaur, *Fukuiraptor kitadaniensis*, from the Katsuyama site with Philip Currie (Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Canada) in the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*. He continues the research with Phil on ontogenetic variation of *Fukuiraptor* and is completing the manuscript of an iguanodontian from the same site. An excavation by a collaboration of researchers from China, Mongolia, and Japan was completed in 1998, and he is preparing reports on discovered dinosaurs with Zhiming Dong (IVPP) and Rinchen Barsbold (Mongolian Academy of Science). His interest is extending to the evolution and paleobiogeography of Asian dinosaurs.

Michiharu Goto is working mainly on the systematics of ammonites from Japan and is interested in the chronology of sediments of the Tetori Group by using ammonites. He also studies dinosaur and bird footprints from the Early Cretaceous of Toyama Prefecture, Japan. His materials are theropod and ornithopod footprints, found in 1992, and more than 300 footprints of dinosaurs and birds from a single locality in Toyama Prefecture. He approaches this material from morphological and paleoecological points of view.

Hiroto Ichishima finished his PhD at Otago University, New Zealand, and became a curator at FPDM in 1998. He focuses on fossil marine mammals, especially cetaceans. He has just completed a study of the Early Pliocene porpoise *Numataphocoena yamashitai* from Numata Town, Hokkaido, published in *JVP*. A couple of other fossil phocoenids from the Early Pliocene in Hokkaido are awaiting his studies. He is also working on a fossil physeteroid skull from the Middle Miocene, and a gray whale skeleton from the Late Pliocene.

Kazunori Miyata works continuously on the early Middle Eocene mammals, including three esthonychid tillodonts, two coryphodontid pantodons, an archaic tapiroid perissodactyl, and a ctenodactyloid rodent from the Akasaki Formation in Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan. The locality is rich in vertebrate fossils, and he is trying to compare the chronology of the Asian mammal ages with NALMA. He is also interested in Mesozoic mammals and has started fieldwork in Katsuyama City to look for Mesozoic mammals.

Yoshitsugu Kobayashi has moved from Southern Methodist University in Dallas to this museum as a curator. He continues to do research on the paleobiology of an ornithomimid dinosaur from the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. Recently he obtained new material of a primitive ornithomimosaur from the Early Cretaceous of Mongolia and has started working on this dinosaur with Rinchen Barsbold. He is studying both the primitive and derived...
The director of FPDM is Takashi Hamada, who is studying the trilobites and brachiopods of the Paleozoic. Among four other paleontologists at FPDM, Yoshikazu Noda focuses on the paleobiogeography of the northwestern Pacific region based on Cenozoic molluscs. Kazuo Terada is working on the phylogeny and anatomy of fossil plants of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic. Atsushi Yabe has research projects on the taphonomy, systematics, and paleoclimatology based on Cenozoic plants from Japan and other Asian countries. Shin-ichi Sano studies Mesozoic carbonates of the Hokkaido Island, attempting to reconstruct the paleoclimatology and paleogeography.

The Nature Section of the Fukui Prefectural Museum (FPM) was separated as a new museum (FPDM) from FPM, and FPDM is now the only institute of natural history in Fukui Prefecture. The address of FPDM is 51-11, Terao, Muroko, Katsuyama, Fukui 911-8601. (Yoshitsugu Kobayashi)

THE NETHERLANDS

Natuurhistorisch Museum Maastricht

Needless to say, the partial mosasaur skeleton discovered at the ENCI-Maastricht bv quarry south of Maastricht in August 1998, has been keeping us busy during recent months. The preparation of the skull and the anterior portion of the vertebral column has been progressing nicely, with evermore important features of the skull revealed. We are certain now that this specimen cannot be assigned to *Mosasaurus hoffmanni*. Rather, it appears closely related to species of *Prognathodon*, described from the Lower Maastrichtian of the Mons Basin (southern Belgium). We have just consulted the collections of the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique at Brussels (Belgium), and convinced ourselves that none of the three taxa described from there is conspecific with our find. More candidates for comparison include species described from the Campanian of northern America and the late Cretaceous of New Zealand—our feeling is that our beast represents an undescribed species, and maybe even a new genus. The discussion continues.

A few months ago, the ENCI-Maastricht bv quarry yielded another interesting mosasaur find from the Emael Member (Maastricht Formation) of early Late Maastrichtian age. A private collector, Frans Fonken, came to us with a fragmentary jaw with three teeth (among which are two anterior ones) preserved of the durophagous mosasaur *Carinodens belgicus* (= C. fraasi). It shows that Lingham-Soliar was almost right when he reconstructed the anterior dentition of this species of which so far but a single fragmentary lower jaw and a dozen or so isolated teeth were known. A description of this new find is in preparation. (John W. M. Jagt and Anne S. Schulp).

UNITED KINGDOM

University of Portsmouth and the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology
Swamped as we are by students, administration, and the extremes of the English climate and its effects on transport and architecture (throughout the latter part of 2000 we were battered by floods and gales), I sometimes wonder how we find the time to do any research. At least we managed to get rid of someone: Paul Davis left us for a curatorial position starting in April 2000 at the Natural History Museum in London. Good luck, Paul.

Portsmouth was the venue for the 48th Symposium on Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy, so a lot of our time over the summer was taken up with administration and organization. Mostly thanks to hard work from Stig, the meeting was a great success, however, and well worth the effort. It was the first SVPCA to produce an abstract volume, meaning that the contents of the respective presentations will be more widely disseminated than has been the case for previous SVPCA meetings. Talks and posters were dominated by archosaurs and other Mesozoic reptiles.

Julian Hume has recently returned from fieldwork on the Mascarenes. He collected tortoise material and several arthropods, among which are at least one new species. Despite commitment to his academic research, Julian continues to produce artwork featuring recently extinct birds and other animals—his piece on *Psittacula exsul* appeared in the new BOC volume of type specimens kept at Cambridge. His *Osteodontornis* painting has been exhibited alongside the actual specimen in South Carolina and was also published in the June 2000 issue of *Birdwatch Magazine*. Julian’s paper on the metamorphosis of dodos and other Mauritian birds in antiquarian art has been submitted.

Dave Martill’s work on pterosaur paleobiology continues. With Dino Frey, Guillermo Chong, and Mike Bell he has recently reported (in *Geol. Mag.*) South America’s first dsungaripterid pterosaur: the new genus *Domeykodactylus*. Together with Mike Barker, Dave has also recently described a polished ammonite that appears to have been used as a dinosaur gastrolith! Curiously, this is not the only instance of ecological interaction between molluscs and dinosaurs—Dave and Mike have another project in the pipeline. The small (compsognathid?) Santana Formation theropod has just been described in a *Can. J. Earth Sci.* paper by Dave, Dino Frey, Hans-Dieter Sues, and Arthur Cruickshank. The specimen forms the basis of another paper (by Dave, Darren, and Dino Frey), currently in preparation. Dave is collaborating with Darren on the description of a new turtle and some sauropod material and Dave’s work with Sam Davis on *Dastilbe* has now been published in *Palaeontology*. Another of Dave’s *Palaeontology* papers, this time on new soft-tissue-bearing material of *Scelidosaurus*, was written together with David Loydell and Dave Batten. If you weren’t called Dave you weren’t allowed in on the authorship.

Together with Darren Naish, Dave has been working around the clock on the Pal. Assn. guide to Isle of Wight dinosaurs—as of this writing (late 2000) the text has been completed and the volume should see publication in 2001. It includes substantial taxonomic review (of the Isle of Wight pterosaurs as well as the dinosaurs) and much information on new finds, much of it previously unpub-
Early in 2000, Darren published a *Neues Jahrbuch* paper on a small theropod femur that had some similarities to the femora of the basal oviraptorosaur *Microvenator*. This proved somewhat prophetic as Darren now thinks he has a definite Isle of Wight oviraptorosaur. This manuscript (written with Dave) has been submitted. Darren is still working on the systematics and affinities of the other small Lower Cretaceous English theropods, though at least now his manuscript on *Aristosuchus* and *Calamospondylus* is nearing completion. Most of Darren’s time has been taken up with popular writing, specifically for the new BBC Walking with Dinosaurs book (which appeared in September 2000). Because of the way the media works, Dave is senior author. Grrrr. Together with Stig Walsh, Darren hopes to publish the results of his actualistic taphonomy project on the Itchen River, Southampton. Nonavian dinosaurs do not form part of the dataset, but there are plenty of artiodactyls, carnivorans, and waterbirds.

Lorna Steel has been writing up her studies on pterosaur bone histology.

Stig Walsh has been working on his taphonomy PhD but has been whittling away the days on the diagrams for the Isle of Wight book. The seals, gannets, and penguins of the Chilean site have been taking up Stig’s time most recently and detailed comparisons have revealed several new species that will be written up in due course.

Work at the new Isle of Wight dinosaur museum (“Dinosaur Isle”) has stepped up a pace—the building is now pretty much complete, with a roof, and work is underway on the exhibits. Work has also leapt ahead on the new gracile Isle of Wight coelurosaur dug out of the Wessex Formation by Steve Hutt and Penny Newbury. At the time of writing, a paper on this animal is in review. (Darren Naish)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Northeast Region
*Carnegie Museum of Natural History*

Even if not technically the beginning of the new millennium, 2000 was a banner year at CMNH. The single biggest event of our year (although John Wible, as a brand-new father, might dispute this) was the selection of Chris Beard as a MacArthur Fellow. Our jubilation was probably audible on the West Coast. Based on his many contributions to our field, and especially his contributions to primate paleontology, we strongly feel that this singular honor accorded Chris was richly deserved. We laud the MacArthur Foundation for making such a superb choice.

Chris pursued two principal field projects during the year. The first, funded by NSF and The Leakey Foundation, was a major reconnaissance effort to search for late Mesozoic and early Cenozoic vertebrates in Tibet. Chris was joined in the Tibetan project by Zhexi Luo of CMNH, Dan Gebo of Northern Illinois University, and Wang Yuanqing, Qi Tao, and Guo Jianwei of the IVPP. Although the team left for Tibet with very high hopes, the end result was...
frustratingly disappointing and only a few vertebrates were recovered from Neogene strata near the border with Nepal.

In November, Chris, accompanied by Alan Tabrum, Ilona Weyers, and Yvonne Wilson, returned to the early Wasatchian of the Gulf Coastal Plain of Mississippi, which had produced a significant number of mammals on CMNH trips in the early 1990s. They were joined in the field by Howard Hutchison and University of Michigan paleobotanist Peter Wilf. Peter was thrilled to sample the first megaflora known from the early Wasatchian of the Gulf Coastal Plain. Our screen-washed concentrate is only beginning to be sorted but has already produced one of the best-preserved omomyid teeth yet known from the Gulf Coast Wasatchian. Complementary studies of the plants and vertebrates promise to provide a broader perspective on regional endemism in North America during this interval of “greenhouse” climatic conditions.

Chris was able to spend a few weeks in December in France, where he enjoyed visiting the famous group of mammalian paleontologists in Montpellier. He later worked in Paris with Marc Godinot on some Chinese and European adapiforms. Chris published three papers in 2000: a description of the oldest-known postcranial elements of anthropoid primates (in *Nature*, with Dan Gebo and others); a description of the smallest-known primates from the Eocene Shanghuang fissure-fills of east-central China (*Journal of Human Evolution*, also with Dan Gebo and others); and a description of a new carpolestid from the Bison Basin of Wyoming (*Annals of Carnegie Museum*).

Following the project in Tibet, Zhexi Luo, along with Justin Georgi, and collaborators You Hailu of Penn and Tang Zhilu, Feng Wenqing, and Tang Feng of the IVPP, continued their explorations of the fossiliferous Lower Cretaceous outcrops of Gansu Province, northwestern China. Their work yielded diverse dinosaur materials, including a well-preserved iguanodontid (or very primitive hadrosaurid) skull and associated partial skeleton. Further study of this specimen should shed new light on iguanodontid-hadrosaurid phylogeny. A paper documenting the stratigraphy and major fossil sites of the Mazongshan area of Gansu Province has been accepted by *Cretaceous Research.*

Luo, Rich Cifelli, and Zofia Kielan-Jaworoska recently published a study in *Nature* comparing 165 Ma tribosphenic mammal teeth from Madagascar and some 110 Ma teeth from Australia with those of fossil monotremes. They concluded that tribosphenic molars evolved separately on northern and southern landmasses. The previous mainstream hypothesis would suggest that these specialized molars evolved only once. This new study should stimulate further research on Mesozoic mammals from the southern continents, and may lead to a reevaluation of their relationships.

Mary Dawson worked on several projects last year. Her study of the Eocene rodents of the high Arctic should not come as much of a surprise to anyone; however, less expected may be her delving into the intricacies of early selenodont artiodactyl systematics. She, Chris, and Guo Jianwei teamed up to try to make some sense of the earliest-known iophiomerycid, collected from the Yuanqu
Basin of Shanxi Province in central China. Results of both studies should soon be available at your supermarket checkout counter.

Dave Berman and Amy Henrici, together with Stuart Sumida and Richard Kissel, returned to Germany last summer to continue work with Thomas Martens of the Gotha Museum on the Lower Permian Bromaker Quarry. Despite cold and rainy weather, they did well. New discoveries included the partial skeleton of a pelycosaur, a possible sphenacodontid, and several small skeletons that are probably captorhinids. Dave and Amy, with co-authors Robert Reisz, Diane Scott, Stuart Sumida, and Thomas Martens, recently published a description of *Eudibamus cursoris*, by far the earliest-known bipedal vertebrate, in *Science*. Dave is currently working on the Bromaker pelycosaurs and on a detailed description of the ankle of *Diadectes*.

Amy continues her studies of fossil frogs. She and Ana Baez recently submitted a paper to the *Journal of Paleontology* describing a new species of *Xenopus* from Yemen. The Yemeni specimens are not only the earliest record of *Xenopus*, but also the only record of the genus outside Africa. Amy is also making good progress on the revision of *Eopelobates grandis*.

A heavy load of administrative duties while CMNH searches for a new director combined with the joys and duties of new fatherhood have occupied most of John Wible’s time for the past year. Nevertheless, John has somehow found the time to continue his work with colleagues at the AMNH on *Zalambdalestes*, as well as on various neontological projects.

Alan Tabrum was forced to postpone his annual trip to southwestern Montana because of last summer’s raging forest fires, but arrived just in time for the first heavy snows. Despite marginal weather and muddy conditions, the trip was a success. The usual exquisite specimens were recovered from Pipestone Springs, including the first set of uppers of *Oligoryctes altitalonidus* and only the second specimen (a pair of lower jaws) of *O. cameronensis* known from the Main Pocket exposures. Alan also obtained the anterior part of a juvenile *Niglarodon* skull from the early Arikareean Mill Point locality. He eagerly looks forward to leading (with Ralph Nichols) the Tertiary Basins field trip at this year’s SVP meeting in Bozeman. (Alan Tabrum)

**Johns Hopkins University**

It’s been a while since our last contribution. This is a busy time of year here in Baltimore, as almost everyone is either teaching or taking anatomy. Hopefully, we’ll have a more extensive report in the next *News Bulletin*.

We have two new students this fall, Shawn Zack and Tonya Penkrot. Shawn will probably be working with fossil mammals and Tonya is leaning towards dinosaurs. Shawn has, however, found time to begin the daunting task of sorting through Bighorn Basin hyaenodontid specimens collected by Hopkins field crews over the years. Tonya will be starting one project this spring, focusing on dental wear patterns in hadrosaurs.

Ken Rose’s field crew had yet another successful field season in the
Willwood Formation of the Bighorn Basin this past July. Among the more notable finds were a well-preserved, associated hyaenodontid and an accumulation of articulated *Hyracotherium* material.

Mary T. Silcox is finishing up her dissertation on plesiadapiform and archontan systematics, and is in the process of turning various parts of the project into papers. She is working as a research assistant to Alan Walker at Penn State, teaching courses and learning about the other end of primate evolution. (Shawn Zack)

**The New York Paleontological Society**

Anwar Janoo is working on a number of projects in the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He is completing a work on the Phylogeny of the Columbiformes based on morphological characters of whole specimens. He is also working on a monograph on the Dodo and Solitaire, and another work on avian osteology. He is also quite busy on some smaller projects, including the study of a Miocene flamingo from Bardenas, Spain.

Henry Galiano has returned to South Dakota to continue excavation of a new dinosaur find in the Hell Creek Formation (Late Cretaceous) on the William’s Ranch near Faith, South Dakota. During a visit there in 1999, as he was about to leave the site, he discovered a few toe fragments on the surface. Some further excavation revealed more toe bones and skull fragments. On return to New York, Henry concluded that the skull bones appear to be from a pachycephalosaur. He suspected that much more of the skeleton is still in the formation, which would indeed be a rare find. The skull bones studied so far seem to suggest that the specimen is more similar to Asian pachycephalosaurs than North American ones.

The site, which was backfilled, was reopened in late July and early August 2000. After much exploratory work by Henry and Nelson Meniscalco (and some help from Don Phillips) to decide on how to proceed with recovery, some careful excavation on the last day (isn’t that how it always is) exposed four vertebrae, two possible phalanges, two large, as-yet-unidentified bones, and numerous unidentified small bones. With what remains in the formation, this may prove to be the most complete pachycephalosaur skeleton yet recovered. Some slabs were jacketed and removed to shelter, and the rest carefully backfilled. Henry will continue his excavation work in September.

Carl Mehling is continuing his work on the Cretaceous of New Jersey, focusing on microvertebrate material. He has been curating a fairly extensive collection of specimens from New Jersey, especially those found along the “brooks” such as Big Brook.

Carl Mehling has also been busy working up some new online educational material at AMNH, including Sciences, a resource for teachers. He is also the content specialist in paleontology for the museum’s children’s Web site, OLOGY.

Erich Rose, our Field Guide Editor, has produced a number of superlative
guides to some of the classic fossil sites/formations/areas visited by our members over the years. These include one on the Ordovician of Ohio, and also the Kalkberg of New York. He has just completed a 60-page guide to Big Brook, a classic Late Cretaceous site in New Jersey. This guide is well referenced and contains many pages of plates not before seen. Jason Pedersen, an artist and also a member of NYPS, has provided drawings of restorations of vertebrate life in the Cretaceous for the guide. Hopefully, we’ll be able to offer many of our publications for sale at or near cost in the future.

Donald Phillips has just completed a new course offering at Polytechnic University in New York entitled “Dinosaurs: Resurrecting an Extinct Species,” a study of how history, psychology, social attitudes, and economics can shape science’s view of the natural world, in this case, the nature of dinosaurs. Among other ancillaries to the course was a Dinosaur Film Festival (from Gertie to Jurassic Park) and a rare book exhibit of many of the original illustrated works in natural history and paleontology. Despite the fact that the University has no geology or earth science department, and that the biology programs are heavily weighted toward laboratory molecular biology, this elective course drew almost 50 students—more evidence that there is still tremendous interest among the public in paleontology, especially dinosaurs.

The New York Paleontological Society meets on the third Sunday of every month from September to May. A monthly newsletter is also published, as well as an annual publication, the Spirifer, and periodic monographs on various topics. (D. Phillips)

National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

An NSF-funded project, Computed Tomography of Endocranial Morphology in Fossil Cetacea, with Lori Marino, Principal Investigator/Project Director (Emory University), and Mark D. Uhen, Principal Investigator (Cranbrook Institute, Michigan), begins in February with the involvement of a number of the NMNH crew. CT-scanning technology will be used to image and measure endocranial morphology of cetacean specimens from the NMNH collections, ranging in age from the mid-Eocene to the present. David Bohaska (NMNH Paleobiology) will coordinate the study of NMNH fossil cetacean skulls, while Jim Mead and Charley Potter (NMNH Vertebrate Zoology) will coordinate the use of modern cetacean specimens. Bruno Frohlich (NMNH Anthropology) will provide collaboration on the CT scanning.

Bob Purdy notes that by the time you read this, the fishes-to-birds volume of the Lee Creek opus should be ready for distribution. The page proofs have been corrected and returned to the SI Press editor. If no problems arise with the printing, it should be off the presses by March or April. The Lee Creek mammal manuscripts should also be submitted to the Press before winter is over.

Just before SVP, Bob Purdy stopped over in Dallas to give a talk on fossil sharks to the Dallas Paleontological Society at SMU and then spend a couple of
days collecting in the Lower Cretaceous and examining the collections of amateur collectors. He did manage to spend half a day at SMU with Lou Jacobs and Dale Winkler. The members of DPS and the VPers at SMU showed him great hospitality.

In November Bob, Dave Bohaska, and Fred Grady made their annual pilgrimage to the Carolinas and Georgia to collect fossil vertebrates and to participate in two fossil fairs: one sponsored by the Myrtle Beach and Grand Strand fossil clubs at Ocean Lakes Campground in Myrtle Beach, and the other sponsored by the North Carolina Fossil Club at the NCMNH in Raleigh. In between the two Saturday fossil fairs they had a great time collecting at various localities, finding many specimens of marine vertebrates for the National Collections. At one locality near Harleyville, South Carolina, they recovered the remains of a partial archaeocete skeleton, including one or two hind-limb elements; unfortunately, someone had snuck into the quarry and hacked the specimen to pieces for the teeth. They also spent time working with Al Sanders of the Charleston Museum and Jim Knight of the South Carolina State Museum on continuing projects.

The moving of some collections to the Silver Hill support center continues with the mysticetes and sauropods being completed, we hope, by the end of winter. Tracks and Tails and Dunkle’s study collection should follow them. If you wish to study specimens in these collections, please let us know 2–4 weeks in advance; we have to arrange for personnel to assist you, including a forklift operator. This cannot be done on short notice.

Recent visitors included Donna Engard and Pat Monaco of the Garden Park Paleontology Society, out to look at Marsh Quarry material for loan and preparation. (Bob Purdy, David Bohaska, Sally Shelton)

Southeast Region

Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa

The ALMNH is pleased to make, what is to our knowledge, our first contribution to the SVP News Bulletin. The year 2000 was marked by many initiatives aimed at increasing activity in the paleontology collections. Ed Hooks was named as our first Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology. Although he still retains the title of Collections Manager, most of the management duties will be supervised by our incomparable Registrar, Judy Hamilton, and her staff, leaving Ed free to concentrate on paleontology. Also for the first time, a budget, admittedly a meager one, has been set aside for VP.

The ALMNH VP Collection consists of over 3,400 specimens from Alabama and adjoining areas with primary emphasis on Late Cretaceous marine vertebrates and secondary emphasis on Eocene marine vertebrates. We strongly encourage use of the collection by outside researchers.

With funding for only one VP staff member, we are currently relying on work-study student Neil Pollan for much of our lab work. We also now have a small-scale, structured VP volunteer program which has thus far trained eight
active volunteers who help out in the lab and field. Our lab work for the last year has centered on preparing a Tylosaurus, consisting of a nearly complete skull and significant postcranial material, and the most complete specimen of Chelosphargis advena known. Both specimens are from the Mooreville Chalk (Campanian).

With most of the year devoted to planning, time for fieldwork was limited. Many of the 11 days spent in the field were focused on training volunteers. However, we did manage to recover several specimens from the Mooreville Chalk, including a specimen of the turtle Bothremys with portions of skull, shell, and limb elements preserved.

In August the ALMNH hosted the “Track Meet,” a collaborative effort of the ALMNH, the Geological Survey of Alabama, and the Birmingham Paleontological Society, to label and photograph over 200 tetrapod trackways preserved in Pennsylvanian shale. Some 600 pieces of fossiliferous shale have been recovered from a single site, mainly by members of the BPS, and include vertebrate and invertebrate trackways and plants. The trackways are currently being studied by Tony Martin (Emory University). Future plans are to photograph all specimens and to include them in a BPS monograph. Copies of the photos will be kept by the ALMNH and made available to interested researchers. A small fraction of the trackways has been donated to the collections of the ALMNH and Geological Survey of Alabama.

In addition to Track Meet donations and specimens recovered in the field, several specimens of importance were donated to the ALMNH. These include the skull of an Eocene cheloniid turtle from Mississippi, donated by Jeff Roseman, and a complete, articulated, juvenile Clidastes skull, donated by Tad Rust.

Although bogged down with the bureaucratic tasks of implementing some type of paleo program, Ed Hooks has resumed research on chelonioid turtles. Last fall he made several paleo-related visits. During a one-day visit to Berkeley, he was able to examine turtles in the University of California Museum of Paleontology collections and, among other things, participate in a brainstorming/beer-drinking/pizza-eating session. Thanks to Howard Hutchinson, James Parham, Pat Holroyd, and the other UCMP folks for a most pleasant and productive day. He was also able to spend a week in Japan, visiting with fellow paleocheloneologist Ren Hirayama and examining specimens of Japanese chelonioids as well as the only specimen of Santanachelys gaffneyi. Special thanks to Ren for being such a superb host. During a third trip he was sent to the Florida Museum of Natural History to get an idea how a fully functioning natural history museum operates. Of course, he could not resist a peek at few of their turtles. Thanks to Bruce MacFadden, Richard Hulbert, Russell McCarty, and the FLMNH staff for a most enlightening visit. Ed is currently working on preparation and description of the Roseman Eocene cheloniid skull and making his first foray into the world of pleurodire turtles by attempting to reconstruct the Bothremys recovered during the summer, the former task being significantly aided by the pleurodire guru, Gene Gaffney. (Ed Hooks)
Florida Museum of Natural History

When not involved in exhibits and public program administration, Bruce MacFadden spent the fall working on a description of a cranium of *Dinohippus mexicanus* from Ocote, Mexico, (with Oscar Carranza), isotopes of fossil manatees from Florida (with postdoc Penny Higgins), and a pilot study of isotopes and heterochrony in fossil sharks. Bruce would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of fossil shark dentitions with definite associations of calcified vertebral centra in your collections. Along with Betty Camp, Bruce recently had a paper accepted to *Curator* describing the “Fossil Horses in Cyberspace” virtual exhibit. This fall our museum was fortunate to be the first venue of a traveling exhibit, “Manatees: The Edge of Extinction,” which features some of our fossil collections and has some dioramas produced by our exhibits staff.

David Webb and Andy Hemmings continue to puzzle over their harvest of worked bones from the bottom of the Aucilla River (north-central Florida). Of late they have concentrated on two kinds of finds. One consists of *Equus* metatarsals that have been ground through the plantar face well into the marrow, then pointed at the proximal end and drilled near the distal end. Tune in again to learn how these daggerlike objects may have functioned in the PaleoIndian economy. Dave and Andy’s discussion will appear in a chapter contributed to Sandra Olsen’s forthcoming book entitled “Horses and Humans.” The other favorite tool consists of ivory shafts made from the tusks of *Mammut americanum*. An exquisitely preserved one has just been dated by Tom Stafford at just over 11,000 radiocarbon years BP. The Aucilla River Project was featured in the December issue of *National Geographic* as one of the sites bearing on the peopling of the Americas.

Richard Hulbert’s book, “The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida,” was published in early 2001 by the University Press of Florida (www.upf.com). Richard spearheaded a six-week-long field session in October and November 2000 to finish collecting at Haile 7C which will soon be unaccessable due to mining activities. This late Pliocene site is notable for producing many articulated or associated skeletons. To maximize production, we experimented with using volunteer help from the community to assist museum staff and graduate students. This proved to be very successful, as over 170 volunteers donated about 300 total days of work. We recovered most of three skeletons of *Eremotherium eomigrans*, including the first complete, uncrushed skull of this species, and three skeletons with skulls of the undescribed Haile 7C *Tapirus*. This brings the total number of tapir skeletons with skulls from this single site to six, far exceeding any other fossil locality in the world. Richard’s manuscript on the new tapir species, almost completed prior to the new discoveries, will have to go on hold as the new specimens are prepared. He hopes his diagnostic characters will turn up on the new specimens!

The prep lab is filled to bursting with jackets from the recent dig at Haile 7C. Russ McCarty is currently working on the fine, articulated skull and mandible of
the recently described Haile sloth. Calcite concretions on the bones slow down the process somewhat, but weak HCl seems to loosen most of them. We also have the mandible of another sloth individual under preparation, as well as an articulated sloth manus, a sloth pes, several turtles, and one of the tapir skulls. We successfully used a new jacketing material at the Haile dig, inexpensive and easy to use, which Russ hopes to describe soon.

Jay O’Sullivan will complete his dissertation on *Archaeohippus* this year, and is busy with chapter submissions and job applications. He enjoyed participating in the Romer presentation session and seeing friends at the meetings in Mexico City in October, although he found the lack of danishes and bagels for breakfast at the meetings unforgivable. However, it was not for this reason that Jay left Mexico one day early. His hasty departure was the consequence of the early arrival of his third child, Quinn Jeremiah. (Jay O’Sullivan)

*LSU Museum of Natural Science*

Judith Schiebout has finished teaching three courses and an independent study project this fall, an unusual teaching load as she is budgeted for one-quarter time teaching, and she now can devote more time to study of the Fort Polk Miocene material. Heavy rains have kept us away from an exciting site which has yielded camel, horse, and whale material to quarrying, but spring should allow more work and yield new material. Suyin Ting is continuing work on her *Matutinia* paper and preparing for more Fort Polk fieldwork when weather permits. Ray Wilhite is currently beginning work on the main body of his dissertation on sauropod biomechanics, and will soon be finishing up rewriting his Master’s work on sauropod ontogeny.

Paul White spent most of the summer of 2000 teaching field camp in Colorado. He did manage to get out to the Paleocene and Eocene of Big Bend National Park for a few weeks to get familiarized with his study area and to collect paleosol samples for various analyses. Presently Paul is working on completing stable isotope analyses on paleosol carbonate samples for stratigraphic purposes. Mike Williams made his first trip to the Miocene of Toledo Bend, Texas, this semester. Although he collected many large vertebrate fossils including a nice vertebra from *Alligator olseni*, his main objective was to collect matrix to pick for microvertebrates. He plans to expand this research to a comparison of Miocene lower vertebrate faunas from the Gulf Coast. Michael Thyre will be attending the University of Montana, Missoula, for the spring semester through the National Student Exchange Program. He will serve as a student worker for the resident paleontologist, George Stanley, and has also begun to make arrangements with Jack Horner concerning possible summer fieldwork opportunities.

We all enjoyed the visit of Jim Martin from South Dakota, and the chance to show him some of our fossils. (Judith A. Schiebout)

*Paleontologist at Large, Birmingham, Alabama*
Caitlin Kiernan and crew spent much of late September and early October prospecting outcrops just below and just above the Bluffport Marl’s contact with the lower Demopolis Chalk (Middle Campanian), and discovered several very productive, new vertebrate localities, one of which has yielded a large specimen of the toxochelyid turtle *Peritresius*. Work on these outcrops will resume in January, following deer season. Additionally, fragmentary remains of what appears to be a small champsosaur, perhaps the first from the eastern U.S., were recovered from the Tombigbee Sand Member of the Eutaw Formation (Late Santonian).

Also in October, Caitlin at last submitted “Biostratigraphy and habitat segregation of mosasaurs in the Upper Cretaceous of western and central Alabama” to *JVP*, and continues her work on *Globidens alabamaensis*, *Clidastes moorevillensis,* and the Mooreville dromaeosaurid. The latter has now been identified as cf. *Saurornitholestes* and will be described in a paper co-authored with David Schwimmer (Columbus State). Caitlin’s second novel, “Trilobite,” will be released by Penguin Putnam sometime this fall. (Caitlin R. Kiernan)

**Midwest Region**

**Cincinnati Museum Center**

The summer’s field season saw crews from Cincinnati Museum Center travel to Wyoming and Montana in search of denizens of the Mesozoic. A day and a half of reconnaissance in the Alcova Limestone around Casper (thanks, Jessie Scott!) produced five new *Corosaurus* specimens (Glenn Storrs’ old dissertation animal), including a partial articulated pectoral girdle showing the natural coracoid/scapula relationship. From Casper, we headed north to the foot of the Beartooth Mountains to collect at a Morrison site located last summer. A week’s worth of effort by Glenn Storrs, Dale Gnidovec (Orton Museum), and Bill Garcia yielded parts of *Torvosaurus* and *Haplocanthosaurus* and some as-yet-unidentified dinosaur cranial material. Invigorated by our success, we proceeded north to our quarry at the Mother’s Day Site to open field school and collect young sauropods. Five weeks of collecting met with great success and the recovery of nearly 250 *Diplodocus* elements ranging from articulated feet to the distalmost six caudal vertebrae of a single individual. The field school was also a smashing success, with 25 enthusiastic participants learning field techniques on-site. We made good use of our new Dinowheel Mark IV, assembled by museum volunteer Jim Clark. We concluded the season by attending the ritual July 4th gathering at the Churchill farm in Powell. Great to see all the old friends in attendance.

Bill Garcia presented a preliminary look at his Mississippian tetrapod locality at SVP and continues to collect in Kentucky. The site has proven to be a rich deposit containing rhizodonts, acanthodians, lungfish, and an assortment of tetrapod remains. Two large specimens, seemingly an embolomere and a temnospondyl, are of particular interest because of the large percentage of articulated elements recovered. Bill has begun preparing the embolomere, while Pete Kroehler (USNM) is doing contract work on the temnospondyl. Bill is
investigating the phylogeny of lower tetrapods, and embolomeres in particular.

Alan Turner is currently completing the mapping of a Famenian arthrodire bonebed from central Kentucky as part of his senior thesis. He will continue with a taphonomic and faunal description of the site, which appears to contain a number of individuals and species. It’s significant because Kentucky arthrodires have been generally ignored for nearly 100 years.

Glenn Storrs continues to direct the VP program in Cincinnati and along with his many managerial duties has succeeded in producing several papers on plesiosaurs, crocodiles, and even dinosaurs! An exciting new project has been the stereolithographic reproduction of a new *Apatosaurus* skull using the CT and rapid prototyping facilities of GE and Hasbro, respectively, here in Cincinnati. Thanks also to Dwayne Stone and John Bishop (Marietta College) and to the BLM for partnering on this important work. We will ultimately be producing a retrodeformed version through the use of morphing software. John, Jack McIntosh (Weslyan), and Jim Madsen (Western Paleo Lab) will be describing the fossil.

Of particular note is the move of CMC’s collection and research labs into new, purpose-built facilities closer to the exhibit museum. This $8 million project is now underway and will result in improved facilities with increased storage space. The downside is that most collection materials will be inaccessible for approximately one year. Current research specimens, the volunteer and field programs, and our exhibit lab facilities are unaffected. New accessions are also proceeding. Paula Work is directing the move but hopes to get back to the Pleistocene “in the near future(?!).” Correspondence should now be directed to our 1301 Western Avenue (45203) address. (Bill Garcia and Glenn Storrs)

**Fort Hays State University**

Mike Everhart hosted Dr. Usami and staff from Kanagawa University in Japan on a ten-day tour of paleontological collections in the Midwest. Dr. Usami specializes in computer animations of marine life and currently is working on a project to animate marine reptiles for an exhibit in a new science center being built in Tokyo. The purpose of the visit was to collect information on the sizes, proportions, and swimming abilities of various mosasaurs and plesiosaurs. In addition to visiting the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, stops were made at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Museum of Geology. Mike also reports that his work on mosasaurs continues with a general article on mosasaurs being published in *Prehistoric Times*, and articles on mosasaur biostratigraphy and plesiosaur stomach contents being accepted by the *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Sciences*. He plans to describe a *Globidens* jaw and a *Tylosaurus* specimen in the near future.

Cinda Timperley defended her thesis on a new Irvingtonian shrew from Nebraska and moved to Austin, where she is doing consulting work. Gabe Bever has entered the PhD program at UT-Austin. Rob Richards is working as a
curatorial assistant at Sternberg. Michelle Darnell will have defended her thesis by the time this is published. Trisha VonLintel and Takehito Ikejiri continue with their respective projects. We have been joined this year by David Schmidt from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Brian Steffen from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In addition to his administrative duties Greg Liggett continues to work on various projects including mammoths and survey work for the National Forest Service.

Most of Rick Zakrzewski’s time has been taken up with finding specimens and preparing signage for some paleontological and geological exhibits. Work continues on Meade County woodrats and other Late Cenozoic projects. (Rick Zakrzewski)

**Indiana-Purdue University, Fort Wayne**

Jim Farlow continues to plug away at his two big research projects. In ichnological news, during 2000 Jim visited several museums around the U.S., measuring foot skeletons of dinosaurs, ground birds, and crocodilians. He also went to Florida to measure the feet of alligators culled during the state’s annual hunt, somehow managing to avoid the attention of those more vicious denizens of the Sunshine State, chad (or is that chads)? Jim did more fieldwork on dinosaur footprints in Texas, and continued his statistical analyses of intraspecific and interspecific variability in the shape of footprints of ground birds. He really hopes to wrap up all of this in another couple of years. Two papers from this project were published in 2000, one in *Palaios* and the second in a symposium volume of the Paleontological Society of Korea. (Jim won’t say much about a third paper, an infamous publication in *Nature*, because enough people are annoyed about this as it is.)

Jim also continued work on fossils from the Pipe Creek Sinkhole, a late Tertiary biota from northern Indiana. A multi-authored summary paper has been accepted for publication by *American Midland Naturalist*, and other manuscripts are in development. Jim hopes to do more fieldwork at the site in 2001. (James O. Farlow)

**Michigan State University**

The ever-productive Al Holman reports that, as a follow up to his successful book, “Fossil Snakes of North America,” he is now working on “Fossil Frogs and Toads of North America.” Al asks anyone out there who has published on fossil frogs and/or toads to please send him reprints if you haven’t done so already. Mike Gottfried’s grad students are keeping busy; three of them (Andery Calkins [radioisotopes], Erica Shipman [faunal analysis], and Lisa Whitenack [mako shark morphometrics]) plan to defend their theses this spring. Mike’s two new grad students (John Burris and Erin Rasmusson) are focusing in on research topics and settling in to life at MSU. Mike is continuing with various projects on Cretaceous Gondwanan bony fishes and sharks, and Tertiary white sharks, and
has also been busy serving as an associate editor for *JVP*. Recent travels include a productive and very enjoyable stay with Ewan Fordyce at the University of Otago, wrapping up a paper on spectacular Oligocene *Carcharodon* material from New Zealand’s South Island, and a great week with Sue Dawson at the University of Prince Edward Island in Canada, giving talks and starting a collaborative project with Sue on the systematic and functional utility of fossil shark centra. Thanks to Ewan and Sue and their colleagues for all the great hospitality at both places. Finally, closer to home, Mike has been looking at some intriguing Carboniferous sarcopterygian material that has recently turned up in Michigan, including a very nice rhizodont(?) brought to Mike’s attention by geologist Patricia Videtich at Grand Valley State University. More fieldwork is planned relating to this, as soon as the snow melts.... (Mike Gottfried)

**Science Museum of Minnesota**

The paleontology department and program are settling into their new facilities as part of the brand new, 270,000 ft² Science Museum of Minnesota that opened in December of 1999. A larger preparation laboratory (connected to a visible lab in the Dinosaurs and Fossils Gallery), a work room, and a large space allocation in the new, state-of-the-art collections vault are some of the areas paleontology now has at its disposal. As part of the NSF-funded move and rehousing of the paleontology collections, Kristi Curry Rogers has joined our staff as curatorial assistant. As well as working on collections, she is continuing to work on projects related to sauropod growth and on her dissertation on a new titanosaur from Madagascar and titanosaur phylogeny as a “long-distance” graduate student at SUNY/Stony Brook. Her husband, Ray Rogers, is now professor at local Macalester College and she joins him in teaching some classes there as well. As far as moving in goes, all the SMM paleontology collections are generally accessible, although some of the documentation remains to be finished. Most of the collections are now housed in a compactor system.

Curator Bruce Erikson is working on various projects including Paleocene and Oligocene faunas from South Carolina and microsites from North Dakota, and is gathering images and writing chapters for a proposed popular book, “The Dinosaurs of the Science Museum of Minnesota.” He is also working on new species of Tertiary turtles from western North Dakota and assessing the paleoecology of various Paleocene localities.

In the lab, preparator Doug Hanks is continuing casting, molding, and mounting skeletons of specimens from Erikson’s Paleocene Wannagan Creek site and is now also working with education staff on a paleontology field school project for SMM youth staff and local high school students in conjunction with the Pioneer Trails Regional Museum in North Dakota. Funding from Lucent Technologies is making the field school possible. Dick Wolszon is also working on some of the casting as well as on other mounts for potential future exhibits.

Director of the paleontology program Andy Redline has just opened the NSF-funded exhibit “When the Dinosaurs Were Gone.” This 5,000 ft² exhibit
allows visitors to step back into the recreated Paleocene world of western North America and then learn of the ecosystem changes after the dinosaur extinction that led to the world we know today. It will travel to other U.S. museums after closing in Minnesota. The new 10,000 ft² Dinosaurs and Fossil Gallery continues to be popular with our visitors as it adds displays of new skeletons as well as many new interactive exhibits. Best of all, no serious damage was inflicted on any of our fossil skeletons during the move to the new facility. In the fossil mammal realm, Andy is also getting some notes on hyopsodontid relationships together for an SVP symposium in Bozeman. Then, there are new grant proposals to write.

There’s a lot that is new or better about VP at SMM—whether it’s experiencing an 80-ft-long Diplodocus with a tiny, modeled Morganucodon at its feet or the impressive array of over 70 restored Wannagan Creek crocodile skulls in the collections. We would like to welcome all of our friends to stop on by.

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Museum of Geology

The Museum of Geology and the Paleontology Program at SDSM&T have had an extremely active year with the arrival of a new paleontology graduate student, Jennifer Cavin (formerly from Chadron State College—advised by Mike Leite) this past fall. Four students completed and successfully defended their MS theses during the 2000 year: Jeff Person, Barbara Rowe, Joe DiBenedetto, and Kathy Stokosa. We wish them the best of luck in their future careers. Two other graduate students, Amanda Cordes and Toni Superchi, hope to defend next semester.

Phil Bjork (Museum Director) officially retired in September. Candidate interviews continue and hopefully a new Director should be on board in early 2001.

Jim Martin (Professor, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology) has done fieldwork all over the world this past year, from Antarctica to Australia to Oregon and finally in the marine Cretaceous of South Dakota. In June, Jim Martin, Robert Meredith (MS student), and Judd Case (St. Mary’s College, California) worked on Miocene outcrops in Australia. Findings of this expedition were presented at the museum’s annual reception in November to an enthused audience. This past semester has been a bonus for Jim as he has completed several papers—due to a break from teaching and opportunities to escape to areas where he can work undisturbed! Lucky man!

Carrie Herbel, (Collections Manager/Preparator/PhD student/Instructor) supervised the seventh field season at the Pig Dig in Badlands National Park. Over 6,000 bones have been recovered from this unique Big Badlands quarry. Two new taxa have been added to the fauna list—Merycoidodon and a nimravid—much to the delight of all. In addition, Carrie leads the paleo crew on the three-year NRFP Bonebed project with other researchers from Temple University (Dennis Terry—sedimentology) and University of Colorado (Emmett
Evanoff—stratigraphy). This NRPP project is coordinated by Rachel Benton, Badlands National Park Paleontologist. In the first field season alone, over 350 new sites have been documented within the park using GPS technology. Students from SDSM&T are quite active in both projects, getting both field and quarry experience on top of gathering great thesis/research data.

Mike Greenwald (Research Scientist) has been active curating the Whitneyan Cedar Pass locality for Badlands NP with a current estimate of 4,000–6,000 specimens. In addition, he has curated all of the recently prepared specimens from the Pig Dig project. New cases are helping with this overflow—thanks NPS!!! Mike has also completed the curation of the Late Cretaceous Igloo, South Dakota, material plus attempting to get the Fossil Lake collection organized. Mike and Carrie’s efforts in the collections have made access to specimens more available. Unfortunately, we still have a long way to go with well over 250,000 curated specimens needing this special care!

Julia Sankey (Haslem Fellow, Assistant Professor of Vertebrate Paleontology) started at SDSM&T in October 1999. Last spring semester she taught a graduate paleontology seminar, “The Cretaceous/Tertiary Extinctions.” She made a February trip to the Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller, Alberta, to continue research with Don Brinkman on theropod teeth. MS paleontology student Merrilee Guenther received a scholarship to spend the summer at the Tyrrell continuing this research (more measurements and statistics) in preparation for the SVP annual meeting. Julia went to Vienna in July 2000 for the Impacts and Mass Extinctions conference and then to Big Bend, Texas, for a month of fieldwork (collection and screening of Late Cretaceous microvertebrate sites) with eight high-school students funded by Earthwatch. Plans are underway for fieldwork in the Hell Creek of North and South Dakota next summer (2001). During the fall semester 2000, she taught vertebrate paleontology, gave a poster (with Brinkman and Guenther on theropod teeth) at the SVP meetings, and did a poster at the Earthwatch PI conference in Boston.

And finally a brief note on a few of the paleontology students who are landing jobs and grants. Jeff Person is now the curatorial specialist at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman. Frank Varriale (with a Jurassic Foundation grant) and Megan Cherry (with a summer scholarship) are working on dinosaurs and mammals from the Morrison Formation near Sundance, Wyoming. Sarah Black will be working with Carrie Herbel on a bonebed project in the Badlands this summer. Other graduate and undergraduate students are doing all sorts of incredible and unique projects. We will keep you posted on their doings in the next News Bulletin. (Carrie Herbel)

University of Chicago

The major news here is that Neil Shubin is the new chair of the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy. This increases the number of VPs in the department to four, with Michael Coates, arriving next summer, adding a fifth.

Neil arrived in Chicago immediately after a successful season in the
Devonian of Nunavut with Ted Daeschler and Farish Jenkins. Marcus Davis and he are setting to work on new material of *Sauripterus*. With Gao Keqin (AMNH), Neil is also working on a remarkable salamander fauna from the Jurassic of China.

The sands of the Sahara were calling in 2000, and Paul Sereno answered by assembling a team of intrepid students, a teacher, a doctor, and a photographer who could withstand four months of fossil hunting in inhospitable environs. The target areas were Cretaceous in age and yielded a wealth of new fossil vertebrates from three different horizons spanning the period. Dinosaur fossils include the first skeleton of a primitive armored ornithischian from Africa, a small-bodied contemporary of the sauropod *Jobaria*. Several new sauropods and theropods were discovered, some from nearly complete skeletons. Several new crocodiles were uncovered including much of the postcranium of the monster crocodile *Sarcosuchus*. New turtles also surfaced, some with skulls, and many other vertebrates were recovered at numerous microsites. All in all, the 20 tons of fossils collected, when prepared and studied, will open wide the understanding of Cretaceous faunas of Africa (for more information on the expedition, see www.dinosaurexpedition.org).

This year we graduated four of our students: Darin Croft, Robin O’Keefe, Chris Sidor, and Hans Larsson.

In March, Darin Croft defended his PhD thesis entitled “Archaeohyracidae (Mammalia: Notoungulata) from the Tinguiririca Fauna, Central Chile, and the Evolution and Paleoeconomy of South American Mammalian Herbivores.” Immediately following his defense, Darin accepted a newly created postdoc position at the Field Museum where he served as a research scientist in geology, a program developer in education, and acted as a bridge between the two departments. This position ended in December and Darin is now a lecturer for the human morphology course at the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago. At the Field Museum, he is continuing his research on South American fossils with John Flynn and Andy Wyss (UC Santa Barbara).

Robin O’Keefe defended his thesis on “Phylogeny and Convergence in the Plesiosauria (Reptilia: Sauropterygia)” in May. He has a postdoctoral position teaching human anatomy at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In July, Chris Sidor defended his PhD thesis on “Evolutionary Trends and Relationships within the Synapsida.” Two of his thesis chapters have already been submitted for publication. Immediately afterward, he went on the Sereno expedition to Niger, where the team found two amphibian skulls and fragmentary reptiles in the Permian. From Niger he went on to South Africa to finish some work with Bruce Rubidge. He starts a postdoctoral position at the Smithsonian with Doug Erwin in January.

Hans Larsson defended his PhD thesis, entitled “Ontogeny and Phylogeny of the Archosauromorph Skeleton,” on the same day as Chris. He also participated in Sereno’s Niger expedition and is now in Canada doing the first part of a postdoc at the National Museums of Canada. He will shortly continue his postdoc
Former University of Pennsylvania graduate students Marcus Davis (fourth year) and R. Adam Franssen (second year) have followed Neil to continue their research at the University of Chicago. Marcus is continuing his thesis research on the evolution of endochondral and dermal skeletal development in paired fins. This summer he participated in the Devonian fieldwork in the Canadian Arctic on Ellesmere Island. He has recently completed a preliminary description of several juvenile rhizodontid specimens from the Devonian of Pennsylvania. Current research includes the study of fin developmental mechanisms in extant basal actinopterygians and the biomechanics of the pectoral fin in the rhizodontid *Sauripterus*.

R. Adam Franssen is currently investigating naturally occurring morphological variation in salamander limb development. His research focuses on the effects of the external environment and morphological signaling on variation.

Second-year grad student Rebecca M. Shearman has joined the Shubin lab. She will be studying the development of paired fins and the pectoral girdle in zebrafish and other lower vertebrates.

Jack Conrad (second year), who is working with Paul Sereno, spent the fall in Niger and is now back in Chicago, where he is working on a project on squamate phylogeny, with special emphasis on anguimorph lizards.

Karen Sears (third year) successfully defended her dissertation proposal on the comparison of evolutionary constraints on the limbs of marsupials and placentals through study of developmental genetics and morphological disparity. She is currently learning techniques for studying marsupial development in Nipam Patel’s lab.

Allison Beck continues to study the evolution of synapsid locomotion, from sprawling pelycosaurs to erect mammals. She participated in the Niger expedition and is currently in South Africa studying and measuring therapsid limbs.

Jim Hopson has finally seen the publication of the two-volume “Encyclopedia of Paleontology” (edited by Ronald Singer, Fitzroy Dearborn Press) which contains his articles on synapsids, therapsids, and Mesozoic mammals. A review of the origin of mammals is due out shortly in “Paleobiology II.” Also due out soon are the description of a new probainognathian cynodont from South Africa (in the festschrift for Fuzz Crompton, *MCZ Bulletin*) and a paper on the ecormorphology of phalangeal proportions in birds and nonavian dinosaurs and their implications for the arboreal vs. terrestrial origin of bird flight (in the Ostrom symposium volume, Peabody Museum publications). Jim will officially retire this June, which will allow more time for travel and research. (James A. Hopson)

**University of South Dakota, Vermillion**

Tim Heaton, along with Fred Grady from the Smithsonian, spent another long summer excavating Ice Age mammals, birds, and fish from On Your Knees Cave, Prince of Wales Island, southeastern Alaska. After seven years of work there, the excavation was completed and the site restored. Over 24,000 fossils have been
catalogued from the site so far, spanning the last 50,000 years. Radiocarbon dates suggest that the site was used as a carnivore den even during the height of the Last Glacial Maximum. The area was apparently a coastal refugium where vertebrates thrived amidst glaciers and sea ice by feeding on ocean resources. A summary of the research was presented at the SVP meeting in Mexico City. Tim also gave a talk on this research at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Gary Johnson presented a paper on endemism in Late Paleozoic xenacanth shark genera at the International Geological Congress last August in Brazil. Part of his conclusions were negated by the discovery in Porto Alegre of Upper Permian *Orthacanthus* teeth collected by Martha Richter. (Timothy Heaton)

**Southwest Region**

**Mesa Southwest Museum, Mesa, Arizona**

By the time you read this, the museum will have been the host of the 2001 Western Association of Vertebrate Paleontologists meeting. The meeting looks to be shaping up quite well, and I am sure that it will be a great success.

As in the past, Doug Wolfe continues work on the Zuni fauna, Heidemarie Johnson on the Martin Formation fish, Bob McCord on the Fort Crittenden fauna, and Brian Curtice on all matters sauropod. Bob and Brian have a new project in the mid-Cretaceous Shellenberger Canyon Formation that involves a sauropod, as well as other creatures. Our 111 Ranch work goes well too, with all manner of new discoveries. Bob is enjoying all of the turtles, with other faunal elements being parted out to interested workers. (Bob McCord)

**Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma**

Northeastern State University has one of the largest percentages of Native American students in a four-year college in the United States. In 1909, the State Legislature of Oklahoma bought the Cherokee National Female Seminary from the Cherokee Tribal Government and converted the then almost 50-year-old institution to Northeastern State Normal School. Although NSU does not offer a formal geology degree, it offers biology, zoology, and science education, and a Master of Science in college teaching in these fields. NSU will soon have an undergraduate environmental science degree. Geography, including GIS, and Native American studies degrees are offered through the social science division. Graduate students in these programs, together with interested faculty and community members, curate a small but growing collection of vertebrate and invertebrate fossil specimens with emphasis on Oklahoma groups. NSU's geology classes, taught by John Simms, take frequent field trips and cooperate with local public schools to encourage interest and understanding of geology and paleontology. (Dorothy Simms)

**Quaternary Sciences Program, Northern Arizona University**

Larry Agenbroad continues his research on the mammoths from Siberia (Discovery Channel), Channel Islands, and Hot Springs, South Dakota. During
the fall semester 2000, Michael Pasenko completed his thesis on rhyncotheres and Don Jolly completed his study of turtles from the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California (with George Jefferson). Mary Carpenter continues her work on the fauna from sloth dung layers of Rampart Cave, Grand Canyon National Park. Marci Hollenshead continues her work on the Rancholabrean lizards from a cave in the north-central Great Basin. Phil Gensler is finishing up his work on the Irvingtonian fauna from the Coyote Badlands, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Amy Kelly is beginning her work on the taphonomy of the fauna from a 30-m-deep natural trap in eastern Arizona. Jim Mead and Sandy Swift recently began two new projects, both in Sonora, Mexico. The Opata Indian village of Terapa, Rio de Moctezuma, produced an extensive Irvingtonian fauna containing, among other taxa, *Cuvieronius*, *Equus*, *Mammuthus*, *Neotoma*, antilocaprids, turtles, and anurans. We will continue work at this large locality over the next few years—Joaquin Arroyo-Cabrales will help coordinate the project.

The Christmas semester break began a project in conjunction with Gary Nabhan (Center for Sustainable Environments, NAU) on the Holocene and Rancholabrean lizards from coastal Sonora and on the desert islands of San Esteban and Tiburon, Sea of Cortez. Extensive surveying began for shelters and caves containing owl, raven, hawk, and packrat deposits. We are looking for a long record of *Sauromalus*, along with other taxa. All this work is in conjunction with the Seri Indians of Sonora. Work continues and is coming to completion on the fauna (including various salamanders) from portions of Oregon Caves National Park, Oregon, and the Rancholabrean fauna from Kartchner Caverns State Park, Arizona. Mary and Jim are completing a short article about a “largest-of-all” roadrunner (*Geococcyx*) from the 35,000-yr-BP area within one cave room in Kartchner. Greg McDonald (NPS) and Jim are working on the *Nothrotheriops* from Kartchner and other southern Arizona caves. Marci, Sandy, and Jim are working on the extensive remains of *Sorex* spp. from Snake Creek Burial Cave, Great Basin—the manuscript is nearing completion. Work continues on Blancan and Irvingtonian *Ovis* and other bovids from the Southwest (with Lou Taylor and Chris Shaw). Besides the above, the production editor job for *JVP* is keeping Jim more than busy. (Jim I. Mead)

*University of Texas at Austin, Department of Geological Sciences and Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory*

It’s been a busy time for us in Austin! The fall semester of 2000 saw some changes in our graduate student body. We were joined by Gabe Bever (Fort Hays State University) and Chris Jass (Northern Arizona University) and were delighted to welcome back two of our own: Amy Balanoff and Ted Macrini. Ted completed his Master’s degree in the summer and joined us in the fall to continue his research for a PhD (probably investigating phylogenetic relationships of basal mammals). Amy completed her undergraduate studies and is now pursuing her MS degree. Speaking of new arrivals, Chris Bell blew it (again) on the last round of the *News Bulletin* by failing to announce the arrival of Jeri Rodgers to our
program. Jeri joined us in spring 2000 and is now enthusiastically investigating SCINNI and Ultrafast X-ray technologies to study head-retraction and shell-closing mechanisms in box turtles. Our newest addition is Jackson Dodd, who arrived one week ago (as of this writing) from Flagstaff, Arizona.

Just as the summer was coming to a close, we said goodbye to Lyn Murray, who left us to assume the responsibilities of collection manager in the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Peabody Museum of Natural History. Lyn will continue his PhD work in the Anza-Borrego Desert, where he spent ten days over the Christmas holiday (with the invaluable assistance of George Jefferson and several of the Anza-Borrego Paleontology Society volunteers, Lyn was able to relocate several important sites originally worked by Ted Downs in the 1950s and George Miller in the 1970s).

We were delighted to travel to Mexico City to help celebrate with Jack Wilson when he received the Romer-Simpson Medal. The vertebrate paleontology lab that Jack founded is now 52 years old, and 68 MS and PhD students have passed through its doors since its founding. Jack continues to have a positive influence on the VP lab and our current students.

Ernie Lundelius continues to work on the revision of the Pliocene–Pleistocene chapter of the upcoming revised Woodburne volume on Cenozoic mammals. He is also continuing work with Bill Turnbull on some on previously unstudied material from the Hamilton fauna from Victoria, Australia, and the rodents from Madura Cave in Western Australia. Another project is the FAUNMAP update with Russell Graham.

Wann Langston continues his work on Deinosuchus, and, with the help of Robert Rainey, Ron Tykoski, and Phil Koepp, is continuing the preparation of a beautiful skull from western Texas, found by alum Tom Lehman (Texas Tech).

Chris Bell spent the last six months continuing his work on skulls of lizards and turtles. Walter Joyce (Yale) came to Austin in the spring to participate in Bell’s “Turtle Morphology and Systematics” seminar, and joined Chris and Jason Head (Southern Methodist University) in an investigation of testudinoid turtle relationships.

The Earth Science Hall was permanently closed this year for Space Science construction.

The offices of Russ Graham, Logan Ivy, and office manager Cheryl DeGraff have been moved to a new area. Also, a new collection facility was developed on the second floor. This facility is an experiment in shared resources since Earth and Space Science, Library and Archives, and Zoology occupy one large open area. This second floor collection area will probably serve CRD (Collection and Research Division) even after the Space Science renovations are complete.

The divisions of Exhibits, Education, and CRD have been merged into one large super division known as Program. Richard Stucky, Chief Curator, will supervise the new program. Unfortunately, these new administrative duties will remove Richard a step further from research but it offers a real opportunity for integration of these three critical areas of the museum.

Ken Carpenter and his volunteers continue to churn out new dinosaurs from the Lower Cretaceous of Utah. This year, Ken made two separate collecting trips to his field area. A series of papers are in the works by Ken and his associates describing the results of his work. In fact, several were published this year. Also, Ken conducted the first live Web broadcast for DMNS.

Bryan Small has also had a productive year in the field. He continued his work near Rifle, Colorado, and the lower vertebrate site in eastern Nebraska. Bryan also became involved with a dinosaur bone logjam in the Morrison Formation of Wyoming. His plans for this site are still up in the air but it promises to be a fabulous one.

Russ continued his work at Bones Galore and Porcupine Cave. Russ and crew completed their work documenting a water hole accumulation in the area of the main excavation at Bones Galore. However, Russ is still perplexed by the mode of accumulation in the “titanotheria area.” Russ plans to do more work there next summer. Russ and volunteers also investigated a new site, Broken Jaw, for the U.S. Forest Service. The taphonomy of this Chadronian site is quite different from the deposits at Bones Galore. DMNS and the USFS do not plan for any additional work at Broken Jaw. Russ and Emmett Evanoff taught the field course at Bones Galore for the second year.

At Porcupine Cave, the crew has identified the buried surface entrance to the Camel Room. Work at PC continued to yield abundant remains of Pleistocene mammals. Russ will be featured on the cover and in an article in the Frontier Airlines In Flight magazine in January.

Bart Weis and several volunteers have been working on the FAUNMAP project. They have completed coding data for the contiguous 48 states and are now beginning to get data for Canada and Alaska.

Logan was in the Bridger with young students collecting fossils. This year has been a “moving” experience for Logan. He supervised the move of the Small Museum of Natural History) to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). These changes will serve to launch DMNS into its second century as the museum celebrated its centennial in December 2000.
Bone Room to a temporary storage area and then moved the entire collection again to the new Figgins Range. Logan has also been heavily involved in the conversion and implementation of the new ARGUS system.

Of interest to paleontologists is a K/T boundary discovery just 35 miles (56 km) east of Denver. Kirk Johnson (Department Paleobotanist) found a classic K/T boundary (marked with iridium, shocked quartz, and tektites) with dinosaur bones below and nondinosaurian fauna above.

Russ Graham reports that only a fraction of what the department accomplished in 2000 was done without the hard work, dedication, perseverance, and generosity of its volunteers. People too numerous to mention have done everything from sweep the floor, collect and catalogue specimens, assist with classes and projects, and even publish scientific papers.

The year ended with the Holiday Party and Graduation. Sixteen volunteers were graduated from the Paleontologic Certification Program. Over 150 persons have now graduated from this intensive two-year (minimum) series of courses and fieldwork. (Alan Keimig)

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

The work on the new tracksite on Skyline Drive continued during summer and fall of this year. This contains, at this point, more than 70 exposed tracks with the potentially new ichnogenus (?)!). Along with these, of which there are good sets from four animals, are iguanodontid tracks as well as some tridactyl tracks, one of which has only two toes showing, a very intriguing one indeed. Do we have a raptor tripping through here in this Cretaceous trackway? The public has responded very favorably to the site and on-the-spot interpretation has been an enjoyable experience. Work was proceeding at a slow hand pace until the donation of a jack hammer and generator by the Royal Gorge Bridge Company. Even our Executive Director/President Jon Stone has become very good at moving that matrix right off the face which makes the finish work just that, a finish, not a long, drawn-out labor.

Volunteers and staff in the lab continue preparing fossils for such institutions as the American Museum of Natural History and the University of Colorado, as well as microsorting for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and the University of Wyoming. Work on Tony’s Tree, the Jurassic log we have been working on, is about half completed and will go on display by summer. Not often does one get to see dinosaur lunch leftovers. For additional information please call us at 1-800-987-6379 or www.dinosaurdepot.com. (Pat Monaco)

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument/Geologic Resources Division, National Park Service

This will be Greg McDonald’s last report as Chief of Research and Paleontologist at Hagerman Fossil Beds. Starting the first of October he moved to Denver to start as the Paleontology Program Manager in the Geologic Resources Division for the National Park Service. Greg will be taking over from Vince Santucci who has
filled the position part time for the last two years. Vince has done a great job getting the program off the ground and has built a lot of momentum which Greg hopes he can continue. Greg would like to express his appreciation to Vince for building a solid base to work from on promoting and advancing paleontology resource protection and research in the National Park Service. Anyone needing to contact Greg can reach him at: Geologic Resources Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 25287, Denver CO 80225. Phone (303) 969-2821. His e-mail address stays the same.

On the research front, Greg spent April in Paris (weather conditions did not do justice to the song) working with Christian de Muizon on new material of the aquatic sloth *Thalassocus*. It turns out that an entire evolutionary lineage of the genus is preserved. The first part of the project focused on a detailed description of the cranial anatomy of the genus plus the description of some new species. Continuing research on the animal will include the postcranial skeleton and a more detailed analysis of postcranial modifications for its aquatic lifestyle.

We had another productive summer season at Hagerman. Phil Gensler led our field crews with our continuing relocation of fossil sites and data entry into the GIS database. Among the more exciting finds was a complete carapace of a turtle with some limb elements. While turtle shell fragments are quite common in the monument, this is only the second complete shell found—the first being the type of *Trachemys idahoensis* from the Horse Quarry. Our construction efforts of last summer paid off as this summer we have a newly renovated building with a fully operational prep lab, curation area, and collections storage. Our new space was put to good use by Amy Morrison, Kris Thompson, and Josh Samuels, who continued preparation and curation of specimens from the Horse Quarry. (Greg McDonald)

**Museum of the Rockies**

Jack Horner continues to work closely with Kevin Padian and Armand de Ricqles on histological aspects of archosaurs. He is also engaged in CT cranial research with Dave Weishampel and Phil Currie. Jack is also writing a popular book on the dinosaurs of Montana, and one on dinosaur behavior that will contain 20 years of behavioral data from Egg Mountain and a variety of other sites in Montana and other locations. On the curatorial side Jack is involved with preparing the collections for the 2001 SVP meetings. Bob Harmon is busy molding a *Triceratops* found in the summer of 1999. He is also working on a *Brachylophosaurus* exhibit. It will be constructed into a death-pose mount with most of the real bone.

Carrie Ancell spent last summer finishing up the *Brachylophosaurus* bone-bed material from near Malta and has been going through microsite material collected this summer from the Hell Creek Formation. She is now working on a *Triceratops* skull found this summer in the Hell Creek.

Kim Wendell joined us this summer from Florida. She is currently preparing the *Tyrannosaurus rex* found by Greg Wilson (Berkeley) this past summer,
finishing up the femur and jaw parts. Laurie Spicher is preparing the tibia and pubis from the same specimen. This is the specimen that will be highlighted on the Discovery program coming out next year.

In addition to some Montana State University teaching duties, David Varrichio has now taken the collections manager position with the MOR. He also remains busy with several *Troodon* projects—exploring eggshell function with Frankie Jackson and hoping to complete a *Troodon* osteology monograph by the end of 2001.

Frankie Jackson recently went on an expedition with Luis Chiappe to the early Cretaceous Junggar Basin in northwestern China, looking for dinosaurs. She also presented a poster at GSA with David Loope and Jim Schmitt on possible sauropod footprints from Auca Mahuevo fossil egg locality in Patagonia, Argentina. Mary Schweitzer, Jim, and Frankie are working on the diagenesis and preservation of eggs from the same site. Mary Schweitzer and Frankie J., Luis Chiappe, Jorge Calvo, and David Rubilar just finished up research on a new Cretaceous embryonic bird from Patagonia.

Ellen Lamm, Histology Technician, has been keeping busy with a variety of projects. She has completed the thin-sectioning of *Confuciusornis* using X rays of this specimen (which is in sediment) to aid in accurate preparation and identification of the bones. She has also completed thin sections of pachycephalosaur domes. This project enabled us to fine-tune disassembling and reassembling histology specimens, as well as work with our methods for making large thin-section slides, up to 4 × 6". Over the summer Ellen did histology training sessions with folks from DMNH, as well as UCMP. DMNH’s specimen was large, and had to be cut into seven pieces to keep the thin-section size manageable; This challenged us to develop even more techniques to successfully section and organize big bones. The material used for the UCMP training was not fully fossilized, so a number of methods to stabilize the bone prior to sectioning using resins and glues were tried with success.

The big “Histology Lab clean-out and organize” (once every ten years—at least!) was also done over the entire summer. This prepared us for the next undertaking, which is to database our collection of thin-section slides, along with our CT scans, X rays, and SEM projects.

This fall Ellen has been running back and forth between the resin room and the histology lab. In the RR, she is painting brachylophosaur casts, starting with a great new epoxy primer (automotive!) over a urethane cast, and then using layers of acrylic paint to match the original bone colors.

In the histology lab students are training and working on both histology and SEM projects—sectioning eggshell, tendons, and teeth. The most brave and hardy of the lab just participated in cleaning out the “Carrion Café”—our freezer of very Recent specimens. We generated many a meal for the beetle colony, as well as numerous specimens for a graduate research project.

As the snow flies, a *Tyrannosaurus rex* tooth is about to go under the blade, and is being used to test some SEM techniques; baby alligator sections await
grinding, and will be used for a serial-section imaging project; and only the skull of the brachylophosaur remains to be painted.

Over the winter Ellen will continue to write up a chapter on thin-sectioning techniques. We are also all looking forward to SVP 2001 here in Bozeman, for which we have begun making plans for a Thin-Sectioning Techniques Workshop!

Cynthia Marshall (DVM, PhD) is our new post-doctoral fellow. She is currently working on growth-plate studies of birds and alligators with Claudia Barreto (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee). Other projects include growth and evolution of ratites, the evolution of herbivory, and histological studies on allosaur teeth.

Alberto Prieto-Marquez (Master’s student, Earth Sciences Department) just finished studying the osteology of over 1,200 specimens of *Brachylophosaurus canadensis*, including one complete articulated skeleton, for the first chapter of his thesis. He has already begun the next phase, studying the systematics and variation of these specimens. His other projects include: description of hadrosaur skin from Montana, in collaboration with Giulianna Negro (Los Angeles County Museum); looking at the enamel structure of selected *Hadrosaurus* taxa with Kathy Stokosa; describing new eggshell remains from the Cretaceous of Montana with Frankie Jackson; and studying theropod tooth marks on dinosaur bones, looking for patterns in their occurrence, with fellow graduate student Jeff LaRock.

Tobin L. Hieronymus (Master’s student, Cellular and Microbiology) is working on his thesis research, looking for osteological indicators of muscle attachment in Diapsida. He is also studying Sharpey’s fibers on the periosteal surface of fossil bones and running the Recent specimens PMMA (polymethylmethacrylate) embedding lab.

Joe Cooley (Master’s student, Earth Sciences Department) is beginning his thesis work characterizing the taphonomy of multiple tyrannosaurid individuals in the Hell Creek. He is also currently working on the taphonomy of a disarticulated subadult *Triceratops*, and looking into analyzing the transition of the Fox Hills Formation to the Hell Creek.

Kathy Stokosa, our newest PhD student, will be working on an analysis of the Tyrannosauridae for her dissertation research.

Joe Beamon (PhD student, Ecology Department), is currently working on the nondinosaurian reptiles, amphibians, and fishes of the Hell Creek, trying to glean some paleoenvironmental information from their distributions and associations with the geology and other biota of the Hell Creek, as well as trying to devise a biostratigraphic scheme for the formation. He is also working on the feeding mechanics and behavior of *Xiphactinus audax*, a large Cretaceous marine fish, and is writing up a find from the summer of 1999 of a trionychid turtle he prepared last fall from the Hell Creek, a species not previously reported from that formation.

Chris Organ (PhD student, Cellular and Microbiology Department) is...
polishing the models of *Tenontosaurus* and *Brachylophosaurus* tail deflection that he presented this past year at Mexico City. He is also finishing the histological samples of ossified tendons from the vertebral column of an articulated *Brachylophosaurus*. (Joe Beamon)

**Sheridan College**

A most interesting fall field season was carried out by the Geology Department here at Sheridan College. The students and faculty continue our on-going excavation at the college’s Morrison Quarry in northern Wyoming. *Allosaurus* material continues to be the main focus of our fall excavations—a new subadult *Allosaurus* has been located intermixed with sauropod bones high up in the Morrison Formation within the western Powder River Basin. Two very popular field-methods paleontology courses have been offered within the Hell Creek and Cloverly formations of Montana and Wyoming.

Jessica Klutts and Bill Mattason continue to work on upgrading the department’s geology prep lab. The department has a good deal of prep work to keep us busy working on Cloverly specimens for many months. Visits to area paleontology museum collections were undertaken during the fall semester.

As field season 2001 moves into high gear, the paleo students and volunteers will be opening up the college’s dinosaur quarry for the tenth year within the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation.

Mike Flynn continues his research on William Utterback’s (1904–1906) Morrison quarries of northern Wyoming—two out of three quarries located in northern Wyoming. (Mike Flynn)

**University of Colorado Museum, Geology Section, Boulder**

In August we finished our three-year-long NSF-funded collections improvement project but haven’t had a chance to catch our breath yet! Planning continues for our move to the Museum Collections Building on the Boulder Campus which is slated for completion in mid-July. In early fall we passed out of the building design phase into actually focusing entirely on the move. This includes everything from packing strategies to equipment and furniture purchases for the building. The paleontology and zoology collections will be packed and/or padded for moving from January through June, a project which will require the full efforts of our regular staff and up to ten other full-time professional packers. In addition to housing most of our museum’s natural science collections, the Museum Collections Building (which we have been told will ultimately include the name of a donor) will house offices and research labs for museum faculty and staff as well as our Museum and Field Studies Graduate Program.

Peter Robinson and Paul Murphey hosted a group of museum public programs, exhibits, and education staff in the Bridger Basin last summer. The week-long trip was such a success that, if our moving schedule permits, we plan to repeat it this June and open the trip up to our volunteers as well. Peter continues to work on the Wasatchian through Duchesnean biochronology chapter.
for Mike Woodburne’s upcoming volume on North American mammalian biostratigraphy. At long last Paul defended his dissertation this fall, and is now working on publishing its various components. Two of these include geologic maps which were prepared with advice and assistance from personnel at the BLM’s National Science and Technology Center in Denver. He is also currently working on an NSF bioinformatics proposal with our new curator of zoology, and a redesign of our paleontology exhibit hall. Our newest faculty member, invertebrate paleontologist Dena Smith, arrived in September, and we look forward to working with her and her students.

Curator Judith Harris fully retired last summer, and had a great retirement party here at the museum. We wish her all the best for the future. Judith makes her home in Chama, New Mexico, where she is busy writing a book on terrestrial paleoecology. Emmett Evanoff spent much of last summer working in Badlands National Park with students, and has been busy teaching classes here and at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science this fall. Bert Covert spent time in Vietnam last summer and this winter, continuing to search the country for somewhat elusive fossils, and having some very interesting, if not sometimes scary, experiences. Emily Bray continues to work on her dissertation, and is busy consulting and curating our fossil eggshell collection. Dave Daithc is planning to finish his Master’s on evolution in *Didymictis* this May, and is planning to begin a PhD next fall. Heidi Schutz is continuing her Master’s research this year, and has been involved with a variety of projects including some at the Denver Museum. Jon Bennett is making a final push to finish his Master’s thesis on arctocyonids, and is also planning to graduate in May. (Paul Murphey).

University of Wyoming

The good news from Laramie is that Mike Cassiliano, John Foster, and John Burris completely recurated the Collection of Fossil Vertebrates thanks to an NSF Collection Improvement Grant to Jay Lillegraven and Mike. All specimens are accounted for, and specimen and locality data have been entered into a computer database. Specimens have been arranged by age, locality within the age, and taxon within the locality. Storage is listed with each specimen by cabinet and tray. Search time for specimens has been reduced from hours to a few minutes. Jay’s graduate student, Brian Kraatz, built a Web site for the collection. By going to http://paleo.gg.uwyo.edu/Paleo_Home.html, it will be possible to browse the specimen catalogue. Locality data was kept to a minimum to limit unwarranted access to sensitive information. Researchers can contact Mike Cassiliano for detailed locality data.

At the University of Wyoming Geological Museum, Brent Breithaupt, Thomas Adams, Beth Southwell, Neffra Matthews (National Science and Technology Center, Denver), and a small battalion of students and volunteers continue their work at the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite (RGDT). The RGDT is a 1600 m² area of public land administered by the BLM in the eastern Bighorn Basin of northern Wyoming. Study of the tracksite over the past three years
indicates that approximately 1,000 tracks are preserved in an oolitic limestone of the Bathonian (167 MA) Canyon Springs Member of the Lower Sundance Formation. Current ichnological research indicates that tridactyl pes impressions present at the RGDT range in length from 8–30 cm, representing small- to medium-sized theropods. These tracks make up over 125 trackways (consisting of between 2–44 steps), with the majority trending to the south and southwest. The RGDT is the most extensive dinosaur tracksite known in Wyoming.

Extensive photographic documentation has been conducted at the RGDT. Imagery of the tracksite ranges from satellite data to close-range photogrammetric images of a single track. The close-range photogrammetry is used to document the track surface on a meter-by-meter basis. Standard format aerial photography, as well as 35 mm photos taken from a low-altitude remotely controlled plane, an ultralight aircraft, and a blimp are being georeferenced with geodimeter survey data for use in GIS technology. As state-of-the-art technology continues to be utilized at this site, it is gradually becoming one of the most extensively documented dinosaur tracksites in the world. (Brent Breithaupt)

Utah Museum of Natural History, University of Utah, Salt Lake City
The Utah Museum of Natural History (UMNH) is in the midst of a major growth phase, including a capital campaign toward a new, larger, and vastly improved museum facility to be located immediately adjacent to the University of Utah campus. A key aspect of this growth has been the initiation of a large-scale program in the area of vertebrate paleontology. The latter began in 1999 with the hiring of Scott Sampson as Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology (UMNH) and Assistant Professor of Geology and Geophysics. Soon after came the hirings of Jude Higgins (Curatorial Assistant), Mike Getty (Collection Manager), and Monica Castro (Laboratory Assistant). Scott has also taken on two graduate students; Mark Loewen is conducting a dissertation study of hind-limb ontogeny in Allosaurus, while Master’s candidate Terry (Bucky) Gates will be looking at the taphonomy of the Cleveland-Lloyd dinosaur quarry (Late Jurassic Morrison Formation). During its short tenure, this new program has been active in a number of paleontological arenas.

Mike and Monica have been leading a large team of volunteers (currently greater than 50 and constantly growing), working diligently both in the preparation lab and the collection area. In the recently constructed public preparation lab, staff and volunteers have been working on a broad range of specimens from Utah and Madagascar, the latter including some of the first postcranial remains of the large theropod Majungatholus. Mike has overseen the return of a large loan of Cleveland-Lloyd fossils (approximately 5,000 specimens) from Brigham Young University, requiring six months and numerous trips. We thank Ken Stadtman (BYU) for his cooperation and assistance during this lengthy process. We are now hard at work curating this extensive Late Jurassic dinosaur assemblage, which includes the largest sample of a single species of large theropod (Allosaurus fragilis). These efforts are greatly improving the
research and education potential of this remarkable collection. For example, Ken Carpenter and Dan Chure recently paid us a visit, researching the taxonomic diversity of small theropods from the Cleveland-Lloyd quarry.

The UMNH initiated several field projects in Utah during 2000. These included the North Horn Formation (Maastrichtian), where we collected the first skeletal remains of *Tyrannosaurus rex* from Utah (approximately 15% of a single individual), as well as a number of *Torosaurus* elements from a promising locality. Much of our effort was directed toward the abundant Cretaceous deposits in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM), where we conducted reconnaissance work in both the Wahweap and Kaiparowits formations (Campanian). This work resulted in specimens representing a range of fossil vertebrates (e.g., dinosaur, turtle, and crocodilian), including remains of at least one new ceratopid taxon. We are very pleased to announce a collaborative partnership between GSENM and the University of Utah that includes five years of funding from the Monument to support fieldwork in the Late Cretaceous. Hearty thanks to Alan Titus and Marietta Eaton (GSENM) for their support in setting up this collaboration. We look forward to exploring this immense, highly significant, and relatively unknown terrain in years to come. During 2001, we will return to GSENM and the North Horn Formation, and hopes are high that we will also re-open the Cleveland-Lloyd quarry. In addition, Scott plans to head back to Madagascar with the SUNY-Stony Brook crew for yet another season in the Late Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) Maevarano Formation.

Scott is working on a number of research projects, several of which are well underway or nearing completion. The largest of these is a detailed description of the skull of *Majungatholus atopus* (with Larry Witmer, Ohio University), which will be part of an edited monograph addressing various aspects of this abelisaurid theropod. Another project with Larry, addressing novel narial anatomy in ceratopid dinosaurs, is progressing well. Scott and Cathy Forster (SUNY-Stony Brook) are attempting to wrap up a large phylogenetic analysis of Ceratopsidae, an albatross of a project whose time has come. Scott, together with Cathy and Matt Carrano (also of SUNY-Stony Brook) recently completed a short description of a new and bizarre small-bodied theropod from Madagascar. A brief announcement is scheduled for publication in *Nature*, with a full description to follow. Finally, Matt and Scott are busy on an extensive, NSF-funded phylogenetic analysis of basal (noncoelurosaur) theropods, which will entail much travel over the next couple of years.

In short, all of us at the UMNH are excited to be part of a new and growing program, with abundant potential that will likely include a new museum facility. Scott is particularly pleased to be back out west in the land of dinosaurs. (Scott Sampson)
**West Coast Region**

**Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center**

Intensive field survey activities this season are directed at the mid/late Irvingtonian “Mammoth Cove” area in the western Borrego Badlands. A GIS compilation of all documented localities in the region revealed a blank area that either had not been surveyed or didn’t produce any recoverable remains. The former seems to be the case because of numerous recent discoveries, including bits and pieces of what appears to be a juvenile *Titanotylopus*.

Don Jolly of NAU has successfully defended his Master’s work on “Fossil Turtles and Tortoises of Anza Borrego Desert State Park®, California”—great work, Don! Rebecca Scott, recently of Fossil Butte National Monument, is presently enrolled in the State Paleontology Certification Training program. She claims to enjoy the experience, but wait for the exams! Our youngest Paleontology Society volunteer, eighth grader Jessie Atterholt, recently placed in the top 20 national science fair finalists and won the Enthusiasm for Discovery award with her work on “A taphonomic study of the Victorville mammoth site.” OK, Jessie! (G. T. Jefferson)

**Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**

In late August and early September Larry Barnes and Jim Goedert (Burke Museum, University of Washington) traveled in Japan, visiting various institutions (Sapporo Museum Project, Hokkaido University of Education, Numata-cho Fossil Laboratory, Takikawa City Museum, Ashoro Museum of Paleontology), providing lectures, conferring with students, participating in press conferences, and pursuing collaborative research on fossil marine mammals. Larry and Jim thank their wonderful colleagues Hitoshi Furusawa, Masaichi Kimura, Satoshi Shinohara, Harumi Yoshizumi, Hitoshi Nakarai, Hiroshi Sawamura, Yasushi Muraishi, Kiyoharu Hirota, and the many institutional and city administrators for the courtesies that they extended, thereby making the trip very productive and enjoyable. Important new specimens of *Desmostylia*, Oligocene Cetacea, Miocene Allodesminae, and a beautiful dolphin fossil of the enigmatic family Albireonidae were observed and studied.

Since his arrival at LACM early in 1999, Luis Chiappe has continued work on origin and early evolution of birds and the sauropod nesting site of Auca Mahuevo (Patagonia, Argentina). Luis conducted fieldwork at Auca Mahuevo in March of 1999 and 2000, collecting more than a dozen sauropod embryos (several with well-preserved skulls, a new abelisaur theropod (more than 90% complete), and several adult titanosaurs. Luis’ research on bird evolution focused on osteological descriptions of several new specimens or taxa from the Mesozoic. These included a new skull of *Gobipteryx* (co-authored with M. Norell and J. Clark) and new specimens from Lebanon (co-authored with F. Dalla Vecchia), Patagonia (co-authored with J. Clarke), Spain (co-authored with J. Sanz), and China (co-authored with Ji S.-A.).

In the summer of 2000, Luis started a new field project in Xinjiang, China,
exploring the Early Cretaceous beds of the Tugulu Group. The expedition collected several new dinosaur remains as well as pterosaurs, turtles, and crocodiles. During this year, Luis and co-editor Larry Witmer finished their volume “Mesozoic Birds: Above the Heads of Dinosaurs” (University of California Press), which is currently in production, and Luis co-authored a popular narrative of the expeditions to Auca Mahuevo: “Walking on Eggs” (Scribner) with Lowell Dingus.

J. D. Stewart and Margie Hakel spent a few very profitable days in August studying the jaws and dentitions of white sharks in Gordon Hubbell’s collection. A quick side trip to the Florida State Museum yielded an opportunity to study a rare skeleton of a 1,000-lb Mola. In addition to preliminary investigations of the fossil fishes of the Tulare Formation (Plio-Pleistocene), J. D. has been preparing a manuscript with Stephen Cumbaa on Cenomanian fossil fishes of Kansas and Saskatchewan.

Howell Thomas has begun a study of the paleopathology of the skeleton of a giant, six-tusked, intertidal, invertebrate-crunching pseudo-walrus, the bizarre dusignathine otarioid pinniped *Gomphotaria pugnax* Barnes and Raschke, 1991. The latest Miocene holotype skeleton, found at San Clemente, California, belonged to an extremely old male, and the poor beast had terrible pathologies in many parts of its body.

Dave Whistler continues his studies in the Miocene biostratigraphy of southern California assemblages with a greater emphasis on the upper part of the Sespe Formation. Bruce Lander and Dave have recently discovered new early Miocene vertebrates in the Sespe Formation of the Santa Monica Mountains in an area where the interbedded marine biostratigraphy is well documented. (John Harris)

*Occidental College, Los Angeles*

During the fall, Don Prothero completed paleomagnetic sampling and lab work on the Paleocene Pattiway and San Francisquito formations of southern California, which are both completely reversed in polarity. This completes the sampling for the Pacific Section SEPM symposium volume, “Magnetic Stratigraphy of the Pacific Coast Cenozoic,” which should be in print by the time of the 9–11 April 2001 Cordilleran GSA/Pacific Section SEPM-AAPG meeting. At that meeting, Don ran a symposium on the same topic, which included 13 talks by Don’s present and former students and by his colleagues. The revisions to Prothero and Dott, “Evolution of the Earth” (sixth edition) are at the printer, and his new physical geology textbook, “Earth: Portrait of a Planet” (with S. Marshak) should also be out soon. In addition, papers on the magnetostratigraphy of the Keasey Formation of Oregon (*Journal of Geophysical Research*, 105:16473–16480) and of the Coaledo Formation of Oregon (*Geophysical Journal International*) have also appeared recently. (Don Prothero)
DINOSAUR TRACKS COLLECTION AND EXHIBIT

The University of Colorado at Denver fossil footprint collection (technically held jointly with the Museum of Western Colorado) is now the largest single collection of its kind (1,200 specimens, compared with the Hitchcock collection at Amherst College, which is about 1,100 specimens). Unlike the famous Hitchcock collection which mainly consists of lower Jurassic specimens, the CU Denver collection contains tracks from Carboniferous to Recent, with particularly large collections from the Mesozoic of Colorado and Utah. We also have specimens from Europe, Asia, and elsewhere.

The “Tracking Dinosaurs” traveling exhibit has been on tour since 1991 in Japan, Colorado, Switzerland, and Great Britain where it has been seen by about one million people. The latest small iteration of this exhibit opened on the CU Denver campus on 8 November. It is open for limited hours (12:00–2:00 PM) during regular semester time. Please call (303) 556-5261 for further information, or contact Martin Lockley or Joanna Wright through our Web site http://carbon.cudenver.edu/public/trackers/.

All donations of track specimens (or interesting replicas) will be gratefully received. (Martin Lockley)

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

THE SIXTH CONFERENCE ON FOSSIL RESOURCES

The Sixth Conference on Fossil Resources is scheduled for 10–14 September 2001 in Grand Junction, Colorado. Dubbed “2001: A Fossil Odyssey—Partners for a New Millennium,” this meeting is hosted by USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The objective of the Conference is to provide a forum in which scientists, amateurs, and professional land managers exchange, share, and evaluate the great diversity of paleontological research and cooperative activities which take place on public lands for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States. Themes include paleontological resource management; curation, preparation and conservation; partnerships; science and research on public lands; technology and paleontology; and paleontology and the public trust. Plenary sessions addressing major issues, concurrent sessions to improve technical competencies, a poster session on research and educational activities, and field trips to classic paleontological localities are among the highlights. Papers/oral presentations/posters submissions are strongly encouraged. For additional information please visit our Web site at www.nps.gov/dino/fossil or contact Peter Ambrose at pambrose@fs.fed.us or USDA Forest Service, 2250 Highway 50, Delta CO 81416; or (970) 874-6638. (Peter Ambrose)
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Bozeman, Montana

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Photo of Iceberg Cirque Courtesy of Glacier National Park, Montana
SYMPOSIUM ON THE HISCOCK SITE
A symposium on the Hiscock Site, an unusually rich, late Quaternary paleontological and archaeological locality in western New York, will be held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York, on Sunday and Monday, 14–15 October 2001. The event will comprise approximately two dozen papers on paleontology, archaeology, taphonomy, sedimentology, and Quaternary geology. Presentations will be divided into four sessions, each session followed by a panel discussion.

For information, please contact Michelle Rudnicki, (716) 896-5200, ext. 312; rudnicki@sciencebuff.org.

— PUBLICATIONS —

THE FOSSIL VERTEBRATES OF FLORIDA

A semitechnical, comprehensive review of vertebrate fossils from the state of Florida primarily intended for avocational paleontologists, students, and educators. The book’s genesis was the Plaster Jacket series of pamphlets published from the late 1960s through the early 1980s by authors such as W. Auffenberg, S. D. Webb, G. S. Morgan, P. A. Meylan, B. J. MacFadden, A. Berta, and C. E. Ray. Their contributions were all updated and standardized by Hulbert who also wrote original accounts of taxa not covered in the Plaster Jacket series and added professional quality illustrations. Includes a checklist of all valid, published species from Florida current through mid-2000. Order from University Press of Florida at http://www.upf.com.

— POSITIONS AVAILABLE —

LACM CURATOR POSITION
The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County has an immediate opening for a Full, Associate, or Assistant Curator to undertake research and collection programs in Cenozoic-aged terrestrial mammals of North America. The nearly half-million specimens of the Museum’s Department of Vertebrate Paleontology include a world-class collection of Late Tertiary and Quaternary mammals, with special strength in material from the western United States. Extensive Rancho La Brea collections are administered in a nearby facility (Page Museum). We seek an individual who will implement a strong, internationally recognized, collections-based research program. Candidates with interests in micromammals are particularly encouraged to apply. The successful candidate will be expected to establish a field program, develop the collections, contribute to the Museum’s public programs (education and exhibits), and become successful in obtaining grants to assist in the support of his or her research and the Museum’s collection.
A PhD in an appropriate discipline (paleontology, paleobiology, or related earth sciences disciplines) is required. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, statement of interest, and the names and addresses of three references by 15 April 2001 to: Chairman, Curator Search Committee, Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007, USA. The museum is an equal opportunity employer.

— OBITUARIES —

KAREN ALF
It is with great sadness that I report that SVP member Karen Alf passed away last week. Karen worked on Prehistoric Journey, the fossil exhibit at the Denver Museum of Natural History. Among her accomplishments are the mounts of the smaller of the two Coelophysis skeletons and the skeleton of Sphenocoelus unitensis. Karen was also involved with the discovery of a dinosaur egg clutch in the Morrison Formation at Garden Park, Colorado.

Karen began at the museum as a volunteer, and continued later as staff. She was well liked by students in the fossil preparation class because of her patience and clarity of instruction. She was meticulous as a preparator as evidenced by the quality of the juvenile Coelophysis mount. After the opening of Prehistoric Journey, she maintained a fossil preparation business, Of Primitive Origins, in her home.

Condolences may be sent to her parents at jalf@compuserve.com. Services were held 1 December at the Chapel of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Contributions to a memorial fund can be made at the Karen Alf Memorial Fund, c/o Stacey Copeland, West Star Bank, P. O. Box 999, Bartlesville OK 74005. A longer contribution will appear in a future issue of the SVP News Bulletin. (Kenneth Carpenter)

LAWRENCE CROMPTON, 1907–2000
Dr. Lawrence Crompton died on 8 February 2000 at age 93. He was an outstanding scientist and a long-time employee of the Soil Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture. He held membership in SVP among many other organizations and kept all of the resulting journals. His longtime loyalty to SVP will be missed. (Ann Crompton Hughey, daughter)

WALTER W. DALQUEST, 1917–2000
With the passing of Dr. Walter Woelber Dalquest on 27 September 2000, the vertebrate paleontology community has lost one of its shining stars. His influence in the fields of paleomammalogy, mammalogy, and vertebrate paleontology in general will continue to be felt for many years after his death.

Dr. Dalquest was born on 11 September 1917 in Seattle, Washington. His grandparents were Swedish emigrants. From the age of four, he showed a keen
interest in animals and the natural world around him. After attending public
schools in Seattle and graduating from Roosevelt High School, Dr. Dalquest (or
“Doc” as all of his students called him), attended the University of Washington.
He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1940 and Master of Science degree
in 1941. His Master’s thesis on the geographic variation in northwestern
snowshoe hares was published in the *Journal of Mammalogy* in May 1942,
although his first published paper was published in 1938, at the age of 21. Also
published in the *Journal of Mammalogy*, this paper dealt with the bats of the state
Professor Arthur Svihla was his major professor at Washington.

Doc also worked with Dr. Victor B.
Schefler of the United States Fish and Wild
life Service in the collection of mammals
from Washington state. While Doc was a
graduate teaching assistant, he met, and
eventually married, Peggy Burgner on 8
August 1940. Peggy was always very sup-
portive of Doc’s research activities and
frequently read his manuscripts first.

After receiving his Master’s degree from
Washington, Doc spent 1941–1945 at the
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University
of California at Berkeley, working with Dr.
Seth Benson and Dr. E. Raymond Hall. Doc
learned a lot about pocket mice from Dr.
Benson, and, in turn, introduced Dr. Benson
to bat biology. Dr. Hall was instrumental in
continuing Doc’s interest in collecting.

In 1945, Dr. Hall left Berkeley for the Museum of Natural History at the
University of Kansas at Lawrence, Kansas. In the fall of that year, Dr. Hall
contacted Doc to see if he was interested in an extended collecting expedition to
Veracruz, Mexico. He went to Lawrence and agreed to take the job. It was while
driving to Laredo, Texas, that Doc got his first look at Texas. He worked in the
Tehuantepec jungle from 1946 through 1949, and again from 1950–1951. His
accounts of those years, both of a scientific and personal nature, as well as many
humorous stories, were recounted in an unpublished book entitled “The
Tehuantepec Jungle.”

In the summer of 1946, Peggy returned to her parents’ home in Washington
to wait for the arrival of their first child. Linda was born on 23 February 1947.
She was to accompany him on many future collecting, hunting, and fishing trips.

In the fall of 1949, upon returning to the states, Doc was accepted into the
PhD program at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He
worked with Dr. George Lowery, Jr., his graduate advisor, and returned to
Mexico in the fall of 1950 and the spring of 1951. The mammals that he collected
then were the basis for his doctoral dissertation. Doc received his PhD in zoology from LSU in 1951.

In the summer of 1952, Doc visited Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, and was interviewed by Dr. Arthur F. Beyer for a position in the Department of Biology. It was Dr. Beyer’s convincing that persuaded Doc to accept that position instead of one in Beaumont, Texas. He began his teaching and research activities at Midwestern in the fall of 1952.

During the early 1950s, Dr. Dalquest published several papers on the bats of San Luis Potosí and Veracruz, Mexico. He began collecting and studying the mammals of north-central Texas in 1953. In 1984, he published the results of 30 years of work in a book entitled “The Mammals of North-Central Texas.” He also worked with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on an inland fisheries project in 1953.

But what started Doc working in the field of vertebrate paleontology was when Mr. Ira Green of Electra, Texas, brought him a fossilized horn core and metapodial of a giant bison in October 1956. This led to close friendships with two very eminent vertebrate paleontologists, Dr. Alfred S. Romer and Dr. Claude W. Hibbard. All three men enjoyed wearing khaki and working in a good fossil deposit.

During 1963–1964, excavations at the Coffee Ranch in Hemphill County, Texas, yielded many fossils of carnivores of Pliocene age. This work was published by the Texas Memorial Museum at the University of Texas at Austin in 1969, and additional papers were published on other Coffee Ranch fauna.

Two mammal collecting trips to the Save River in Mozambique in October 1963 and October 1965 yielded 325 specimens, representing 54 species, for the vertebrate collection at Midwestern State University.

Additional fossil mammal specimens from various Tertiary epochs were collected in the late 1960s and early 1970s from the Beck Ranch near Snyder, Texas, the Blanco Local Fauna near Lubbock, Texas, the Clarendon Local Fauna near Amarillo, and the Holloman Local Fauna in Oklahoma.

Many cave local faunas were worked by Doc and various graduate students in the Texas Hill Country of central and south-central Texas, and Mexico. Notable among these caves was Schultz Cave.

Although Dr. Dalquest’s main research interests in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s centered around fossil mammals, from large camelids, rhinoceras, horses, and carnivores, to extremely small pocket mice, voles, bats, and shrews, his work and interests were not limited to mammals alone. Permian paleonisciform fish, large amphibians, acanthodian fish, and lungfishes were all collected, studied, and published. Additional research covered living mammal species including bats and pocket mice, pocket gophers, and voles.

A major collection of Pleistocene fossil mammals collected over 18 years by Dr. Oswaldo Mooser of Aguascalientes, Mexico, was studied by Dr. Dalquest and Dr. Mooser over several years in the early 1970s, and several joint papers were published. Dr. Mooser’s collection was eventually acquired by Midwestern
Robert Hoffstetter, 1908–1999
Professor Robert Hoffstetter, Honorary Director of Research at the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) passed away on 29 December 1999.

Robert Hoffstetter was born on 11 July 1908 in Fargniers (department of Aisne, in the northeast of France). A strong inclination for collection and observation attracted him very early toward natural history. He studied natural sciences at Sorbonne in Paris and graduated in paleontology and geology in 1936. One year later he obtained the highest degree for teaching natural sciences (“agrégation”) and became a high-school teacher in Lyon. He was fascinated by all fields of natural history and I often heard him say that he would like to have been a naturalist in the old meaning of the term, as those naturalists of the 18th and 19th centuries. His pursuit in paleontology was not just an early vocation, but also a deliberate choice, in which his professors, such as Boule, Piveteau, and
Arambourg, had a major influence. The choice of paleontology for his career was also made because this field is between earth and life sciences, which requires a constant contact with the other disciplines of natural history. Robert Hoffstetter always had close relationships with laboratories of biology, zoology, comparative anatomy, and geology.

The first fieldwork of Robert Hoffstetter was in the marine Cretaceous of Champagne, where, during five years (1931–1936), he studied the invertebrate fauna and stratigraphy of the Cenomanian chalk. Settled in Lyon in 1937, he was in close contact not only with the Museum of Natural History of Lyon, but also with that of Paris. For several years he focused on vertebrate paleontology and became a top expert of squamates. In 1946 he was offered a position at the “Escuela Politecnica” de Quito (Ecuador) as a professor of paleontology and general biology. He stayed in Ecuador until 1952. This epoch of his life had a major influence on the direction of his subsequent scientific work. Hoffstetter arrived in a country that was virtually virgin in terms of paleontological research. He discovered and excavated more than 40 localities containing Pleistocene mammals and collected abundant material of edentates, camels, equids, mastodons, and carnivores, which initiated the collections of the “Escuela Politecnica.” The study of this fauna was the theme of his doctoral thesis on the Pleistocene mammals of Ecuador, defended in 1950 at the University of the Sorbonne in Paris. The monograph, published in 1952, is now a classic in vertebrate paleontology. R. Hoffstetter has since then become one of the most-recognized specialists of the Cenozoic mammals of South America.

Hoffstetter returned to France in 1953, with a position at the CNRS, and became a member of the staff of the Laboratoire de Paleontologie of the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle in Paris headed by Professor Camille Arambourg. With Prof. Arambourg, in 1954 and 1955, he excavated the locality of Ternifine (Pleistocene of Algeria) that yielded a rich mammalian fauna, including *Atlanthropus*, a *Homo erectus* represented by two mandibles and a parietal.

In 1960 he was promoted to Director of Research. Since then R. Hoffstetter had frequently returned to South America, mostly in the Andean countries, where he proved to be a tireless field paleontologist, a geologist, and an exceptional fossil discoverer. Fascinated by the evolution of South American mammals, Hoffstetter wrote: “for a paleomammalogist, this continent is the framework of a large-scaled natural experiment of evolution, perhaps the most exceptional, which can be observed.” Among the more remarkable faunas that he brought to light is that of Sacaco on the southern coast of Peru, where he collected an extremely rich fauna of Neogene marine vertebrates and which has now become one of the major marine mammal assemblage in the world. Salla Luribay
(Deseadan, late Oligocene) of Bolivia, which has yielded the oldest-known South American primate, is another major locality assiduously visited by R. Hoffstetter. The discovery of this primate had led his fundamental reappraisal of the primate phylogeny in the 1970s.

In 1972, R. Hoffstetter succeeded J. Piveteau as the head of the Laboratoire de Paléontologie des Vertébrés et de Paléontologie Humaine of the Université Paris VI, created by the latter in 1953 at the Sorbonne University. At this time he introduced his students and colleagues to the Hennigian methods of phylogenetic reconstruction, which had remained little applied in the French and even international paleontological community. For many, this represents a new approach to evolutionary paleontology. From the starting point of his South American experience he became a pioneer of the study that unites paleobiogeography with the phylogeny of vertebrates, especially mammals. He synthesized the phylogeny and the classification of the Primates in a multidisciplinary approach that is related to models of mobilist paleobiogeography. On the assumption that “each continent...is the framework of a unique evolutionary experience,” he wrote: “geographical segregation...may be responsible for the differentiation of groups of higher rank... The fragmentation of Gondwana and of Laurasia has strongly influenced, and in a certain way commanded, mammal evolution.” The uniqueness of the Cretaceous mammal faunas discovered in the last 20 years in South America, Madagascar, and Australia clearly corroborates a posteriori Hoffstetter’s view. In the early 1970s he proposed the hypothesis that Antarctica played a major role in the distribution of marsupials, which was confirmed ten years later by the discovery of the first Antarctic marsupials in the early Eocene.

R. Hoffstetter retired in 1977 from the university but he remained active. He continued his studies on South American paleomammalogy and phylogeny, as witnessed by his extensive bibliography.

Because of his indefectible enthusiasm, his remarkable scientific rigor and common sense, and his tireless dynamism, R. Hoffstetter has been a role model and an inspiration for many of those who attended his classes a few decades ago on the benches of the university, myself included. (Christian De Muizon)

**KENNETH A. KERMACK, 1919–2000**

Professor Kenneth Kermack, a pioneer in the field of Mesozoic mammals, died in August 2000, at the age of 81. He was associated with University College London (Zoology and Comparative Anatomy) for most of his adult life. He joined UCL as an undergraduate student, completed his doctoral studies there under J. B. S. Haldane (on the sea urchin *Micraster*), and remained throughout his academic career, beginning as a Lecturer in Biological Statistics and retiring as Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology in 1984.

After the *Micraster* work, Kenneth moved into the realm of Mesozoic mammals, the interest generated by Walter Kuhn’s discovery (1947) of Mesozoic mammals in Lower Jurassic fissure deposits within the Carboniferous
limestone of south Wales. When Kuhne returned to Germany in 1950, Kenneth and his group at UCL took over the monitoring and exploration of the Welsh localities, amassing an enormous collection of mammalian teeth and bones, mostly of the primitive mammal *Morganucodon watsoni* but also of the therian *Kuehneotherium*. These early mammals (represented by literally thousands of exquisitely preserved 3-D teeth and bones) formed the focus of most of his research career (abetted by his wife Doris, and assistants Frances Mussett and Patricia Lees [Ferguson]), although the team (with the collaboration of Bill Clemens) successfully extended their exploration to the Wealden bone bed in the south of England in the 1960s. This Wealden work led to the identification of the earliest-known tribosphenic tooth, *Aegialodon*. The focus shifted again in the mid-1970s when an amateur collector (Eric Freeman) recovered mammals from several Middle Jurassic localities, most notably Kirtlington Quarry, Oxfordshire. Active fieldwork over several years yielded a rich and very diverse collection that occupied the remainder of Kenneth’s research career. Undoubtedly, however, his major works were those on the skull, jaws, and ear region of the Lower Jurassic *Morganucodon*, combining the exquisitely preserved bones of the fissure *M. watsoni* with the articulated, but less informative, material of *M. oehleri* from China (with Harold Rigney and the UCL team).

At UCL, Kenneth taught undergraduate paleontology to generations of students, and ran a MSc course in vertebrate paleontology until his retirement. In addition, he trained a succession of doctoral students including Colin Patterson, Brian Gardiner, Tony Thulborn, Osvaldo Reig, John Maisey, Jerry Hooker, David Pacey, Susan Evans, Chris Duffin, Peter Crush, and his future daughter-in-law, Diane Warrener.

Shortly before his retirement, Kenneth was diagnosed with diabetes and suffered gradually declining health, exacerbated by prostatic cancer. His last paper, on some peculiar haramyid/multituberculate-like teeth from the Middle Jurassic of Britain (co-authored with Frances Mussett and Patricia Ferguson with editorial help from Denise Sigogneau-Russell and Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska) was published in 1998 in *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*. The task of describing the remainder of the Kirtlington mammal collection has fallen to Denise Sigogneau-Russell in Paris.

On a personal level, Kenneth Kermack was very much an original. He was a scholar in the most traditional sense, with an almost photographic memory for details. His nonpaleontological interests ranged from religion (as an interested but atheistic observer) to history, weaponry, and Greek literature (which he read for relaxation in the original!). He was a keen bird watcher, an enthusiastic pistol shot, and a fervent cat lover. He is succeeded by his wife and life-long collaborator Doris, his sons John and Richard, and four grandchildren. (Susan E. Evans, Jerry Hooker)
“Article 9. Statement of Ethics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date of Birth: _____________________________________________________

Degrees with Dates and Schools: _____________________________________

C In what kind of institution do you work?

9 University or College 9 Museum 9 None (student/retired) 9 Other

C In that institution, what is your occupation? ________________________________

C How long have you been associated with your institution?

9 One year or less 9 2–5 years 9 6–10 years 9 11–20 years 9 More than 20 years

C How many SVP Annual Meetings have you attended?

9 None 9 One meeting 9 2–5 meetings 9 6–10 meetings 9 11–20 meetings 9 >20 meetings

C What are your areas of interest in vertebrate paleontology (taxonomy, biogeography, biostratigraphy, functional morphology, etc.)? Please specify groups, areas, & geologic time periods when relevant.

______________________________________________________________

C Do you hold membership in any other professional societies? If yes, please list all below.

_________________________________________________________________

Nominator

NOMINATIONS are required for membership acceptance. Your nominator must be a current SVP member.

(If you need a contact in your area, please contact the SVP Business Office at the number listed on the top of this form).

Nominated by: __________________________ Date___________________

Nominator’s Address & Phone Number: ________________________________

Nominator’s Signature: _____________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Please complete the reverse side of this form
Advisor: If Student applicant, include advisor’s name and signature below. All student applicants must submit a copy of valid university or college identification card.

Advisor: ________________________________

Advisor Signature: _________________________

Membership Options:
- C Associate membership includes SVP News Bulletin and member rates on books, journals, etc.; no voting rights.
- C All other categories include receipt of the SVP News Bulletin, Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, and voting rights.
- C Students must submit a copy of a valid university or college identification card as well as an advisor’s and/or authorized academic official’s signature for approval of membership.

Please check the appropriate category below. Once your application is approved, you will receive an acceptance letter and invoice for membership dues. DO NOT REMIT PAYMENT AT THIS TIME. You will be billed upon your acceptance to the Society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual Discount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Regular ($95.00)</td>
<td>9 Sustaining ($250–$599)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Student (with ID) ($45.00)</td>
<td>9 Partner ($600–$1,199)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Associate ($30.00)</td>
<td>9 Patron ($1,200 or more)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 For faster delivery of the News Bulletin, you may pay an optional air postage of $20.00 per year for overseas delivery.

NOTE: The minimum age requirement for membership is 18 years along with a nomination.

Signature

Upon approval of my membership to the SVP, I agree to abide by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology’s Ethics Statement provided below.

Applicant Signature: ________________________________

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology By-Laws on Ethics

“Article 9. Statement of Ethics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

• The barter, sale, or purchase of scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is not condoned unless it brings them into, or keeps them within, a public trust. Any other trade or commerce in scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is inconsistent with the foregoing, in that it deprives both the public and professionals of important specimens, which are part of our natural heritage.”
Contributions to the Endowment and Dedicated Funds  
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology  
2000–2001  
As of December 15, 2000

In 1986, the Society established an Endowment Fund to meet the urgent needs of the science as determined annually by the Executive Committee. Initially, the income was applied largely to support the Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates. In recent years, endowment funds have also been used to support other strategic initiatives of the Society. Currently members may support the dedicated funds of the Society (Patterson, Skinner, Estes, and Romer) in addition to supporting the endowment. The following list includes contributors to the general endowment fund as well as contributions made to one or more of the Society’s dedicated funds for the 2000–2001 fiscal year based on funds and/or written pledges received through December 15, 2000. Marked donors are not members.

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Send members’ news to Coor. Editors.
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