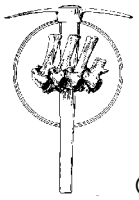
SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY NEWS BULLETIN

Number 171, October 1997



-TABLE OF CONTENTS-

-OFFICIAL BUSINESS-

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When a person first starts out in vertebrate paleontology, the usual vision lurking somewhere in the mind is that of exotic field work with strange new worlds of fossils dripping from dramatic outcrops. Very soon all practicing or aspiring vertebrate paleontologists converge at the annual meeting of the SVP where the previous year=s field work and laboratory studiesCdistilled to the essence of new informationCjoin the historic parade that gives meaning to our science. In this grand assembly of great minds and friendly people we all find excitement, inspiration, and exhilaration. Many of the results tested at the meeting or brooded over in laboratories across the world end up published in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. From the beginning of our adult life in VP through to the very end, the SVP is a major boon to us. None of us, at least when we start out, thinks about how such an organization runs, or that one day we might be a part of helping it to serve our community better.

Now the SVP has an endowment approaching $1.5 million and an annual operating budget of nearly $400,000. Our journal is the most prestigious in the field. We award prizes of recognition and provide modest amounts of seed money to help build careers. But even though we are greater in number, and we live in different times than when the Society began, we are still just a bunch of vertebrate paleontologists.

When I became president last October, the SVP was in fine shape, as it still is, a position that enhances our options in setting the course for the future. Part of our current strength is the result of the way we do business. Through our relationship with Smith Bucklin and Associates, established in 1994, our business affairs have attained a structure and continuity that allow us to keep track of our budgeting and financial matters in a more detailed and current way.

We are extremely fortunate to have Pam D=Argo and Kathy Lundgren working with us. They deserve all of our thanks for the excellent job they do, for their positive and cheerful approach to difficult tasks, and above all for their loyality and dedication to the cause of vertebrate paleontology. They help with virtually every aspect of our Society. Through their efforts, we can now track membership trends, the effects of our programs, and the desires of our members, all designed to help the Society serve the profession better, to make us more responsive to needs.

We have produced an 800-page journal, created a strategic plan, increased our endowment through our development efforts, and structured our administrative and annual meeting policies and procedures. Moreover, we have built stronger relationships with our sister organizations, in particular the Paleontological Society, the Geological Society of America, The Dinosaur Society, and the International Union of Biological Sciences. This year the Mid-America Paleontological Society is our guest at the annual meeting.

Special mention must be made of the contribution by The Dinosaur Society to the science of vertebrate paleontology in general and to the SVP in particular. It has awarded nearly a million dollars in grant funds that directly benefitted SVP members, and it has supported *JVP* page charges and the conversion of the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* to an on-line service. For all of this, we owe a great deal of thanks to Dr. Steven Gittelman for his vision and for his volunteer effort while president of The Dinosaur Society. We also extend thanks to the small group of TDS employees who have labored long and hard for the greater good of furthering research in dinosaur science. Steve has stepped down as president of TDS. We wish our friend well in his next endeavor and I hope he will continue to join us at our annual meetings. We should let him know he is always welcome. We will build on the strong relationship we have established. We wish continued and increasing prosperity on The Dinosaur Society under the leadership their new president, Jack Horner.

We have been fortunate this year in that we have not faced the same urgency with respect to legislation governing federal public lands that we were confronted with in the recent past. We still maintain an active role, as does Save America=s Fossils for Everyone (SAFE), which is our watchdog and activist group, and which I hope all of you support. The hue and cry this year is about the auction of Sue, a troubling issue to be sure, but one that can be clearly evaluated in the light of our statement on ethics, published in every current *News Bulletin* and on our Web page. Please review our statement because it contains what we, as a Society, have agreed to live by. I hope you will use it to guide your discussions with the press or with interested nonpaleontologists who want to know what Sue is all about.

Two events deserve special mention. Frank Schloeder passed away recently. As tragic as it is when we lose one of our members, you should know that he remembered us in his will. Frank was more than a physician. He was a scientist who specialized in nephrology but held much broader interests. His love of learning, passion for education, and dedication to research was boundless. His involvement with the SVP was fueled by those

qualities because he recognized them in our profession. He felt we were not well enough recognized, so to help our efforts he bequeathed $100,000 to us. Frank would have cringed at the thought that his generosity should set any standard, but it is exactly that kind of humility that does set standards. Even though most of us might not be able to match Frank=s gift in amount, we might choose to remember the Society at our own appropriate level. Al Wood, who was SVP president in 1961, has chosen to do just that, and he has also agreed to chair an informal working group on planned giving to the Society.

The second event is the major pledge of $150,000 by Dr. Herbert Axelrod of T.F.H. Publications. As you know, Dr. Axelrod is an honorary member and he has donated the printing and binding of the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* since 1989, an immense value to the Society. With the cessation of a hardcover *BFV* and the transfer of the *BFV* to electronic medium, Dr. Axelrod made his very generous gift to aid the Society in its purposes. He richly deserves our thanks.

What does the future hold? We must continue to build a stronger and stronger financial base with an eye to providing support for all the profession=s needs, including research funding. We must evaluate what we do now to see how we might improve in the future. Member benefits should be reviewed. We must take full advantage of the state of the electronic world, completing the on-line *BFV*, enhancing our Web site, and offering new data-intensive sources on-line or as CD-ROMs. We must make the good things we do known through enhanced outreach and education.

Our Society became successful through the cumulative efforts of our members. The SVP will continue to serve the profession well so long as we avidly safeguard the quality of our activities, emphasize innovative research, engage ourselves in large-scale problems relevant to the future of our species and the Earth, reach out to diverse constituents, provide useful knowledge to school children and museums, straightforwardly face the challenges to our profession posed by legislative initiatives designed to help a few at the expense of many, and use our influence as an international organization to support the laws of all lands that lead to a stronger contribution by our field to human wisdom and the common good.

But we are still just a bunch of vertebrate paleontologists. (Louis L. Jacobs)

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C NEWS FROM MEMBERS C

BOLIVIA

Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, La Paz

Last year Federico Anaya and company participated in two separate field expeditions to Salla (Late Oligocene), one with Rick Madden and Derik Johnson of Duke University and another with Masanaru Takai of the University of Kyoto. On the Duke/MNHN-Bol trip they found a nearly complete primate mandible. With Takai, they found two primate mandibles, one nearly complete and associated with a maxilla. They also found a complete skull of a lizard, the first from this predominately mammal locality.

In December of last year, Federico discovered a new Pleistocene locality in Comunidad Quila Quila. This site produced glyptodonts and *Megatherium*.

Federico, Bernardino Mamani, and Praxidas Mallcu discovered a nearly complete skeleton of *Megatherium* in the Departamento of Potosi. Juan Tarqui and Ruben Andrade prepared and cast this skeleton which is currently on display in the Museo Arqueologico y Anthropologico in Uyuni.

Last April, in the Torotoro National Park, which has Permian and Cretaceous exposures, Federico and Bernadino discovered some Permian fossilsCthe first time ever in Bolivia. They also found Cretaceous fish teeth, turtle and crocodile bones, as well as a new large exposure with hundreds of dinosaur footprints.

Federico worked with Masanaru Takai of the University of Kyoto at the Miocene La Venta beds of Colombia. They found additional primate specimens along with some notoungulates, litopterns, armadillos, rodents, etc.

Bernardino Mamani and Ruben Andrade have made excellent progress in cataloguing the backlog of fossil mammals specimens. This year Bernardino has catalogued more than 6,100 specimens from the Cenozoic localities of Salla, Quebrada Honda, Ayo Ayo-Vischachani, Inchasi, and Tarija. Ruben Andrade has catalogued over 5,000 OrdovicianBDevonian invertebrates from various localities throughout Bolivia.

Bruce J. Shockey, who recently received a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, has joined the MNHN-Bolivia team. He is here on a National Science Foundation (USA) International Research Fellowship. (Bruce Shockey)

CANADA

Canadian Museum of Nature (Paleobiology)

The Peat Busters (Dick Harington, Clayton Kennedy, John Tener and Natalia Rybczynski) are back from their month-long field trip to Ellesmere Island with (among many other fossils) their find of part of a cranium and the upper teeth of *Ursus abstrusus*Cthe 3.5 million-year-old bones of a forerunner of the black bear. This provides much more information than is visible on the type specimen. Only seven days were lost to bad weather, and the team made the most of it by examining peaty matrix that they had packed down from the fossil site to base camp.

Steve Cumbaa and Richard Day from the Canadian Museum of Nature and colleagues Hans-Peter Schultze and Oliver Hampe (Museum fhr Naturkunde, Berlin), John Chorn (Natural History Museum, University of Kansas), and Jessica Harrison (Tucson, Arizona) spent three weeks mining Lower Devonian strata along the Anderson River, NWT, in July and August. Significant discoveries included two taxa of porolepiforms, several complete specimens of the early actinopt *Dialipina*, an arthrodire, many skeletal elements of the lungfish *Melanognathus*, a number of complete acanthodians, and a variety of invertebrates, including a complete eurypterid. The stalwart crew endured blackflies, mosquitoes, and decidedly un-Arctic temperatures (104EF on July 24) to bring back 870 kg of fossils, most of which will be prepared in Berlin. (Dick Harington and Steve Cumbaa).

Department of Geology and Geophysics and the Vertebrate Morphology and Palaeontology Research Group in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Calgary

Matt Vickaryous began his M.Sc. earlier this year under the cosupervision of Philip Currie and Tony Russell. Matt is undertaking a detailed description of the cranial anatomy of ankylosaurs with special emphasis on the functional morphology of the respiratory tract, work to be based largely on new *Euoplocephalus* skulls that have been collected by Tyrrell Museum crews. He spent a fruitful summer in the field collecting further ankylosaur materials, and had to be dragged kicking and screaming back to Calgary for the start of classes in September.

Tony=s and Don Brinkman=s student Jianghua Peng is in the final phase of writing up his Ph.D. dissertation, a project on the paleoecology of vertebrate microfossil assemblages from the Lower Judith River group in southeastern Alberta. He is aiming to complete his program before Christmas.

After acquiring her M.Sc. at the University of Calgary, Darla Zelenitsky spent last year working on dinosaur exhibits at the Manitoba Museum, but now is back at Calgary pursuing a Ph.D. with Philip Currie. She is describing embryonic-to-juvenile lambeosaur materials collected from Devil=s Coulee, southern Alberta, and coeval localities in Montana, for a taxonomic and phylogenetic review of crested duckbills. A brief reconnaissance of the Oldman Formation in southeastern Alberta yielded several microvertebrate sites with copious dinosaur and turtle eggshell fragments, but more complete dinosaur-egg specimens were altered by diagenesis and contained no embryos.

Sean Modesto spent the past summer rummaging through the collections of the Oklahama Museum of Natural History and the Field Museum and working on Permian fissure-fill materials from the Fort Sill locality, and was able to slip in a quick visit to the Canadian Museum of Nature=s new facilities to check out the museum=s wonderful collection of lambeosaur and ceratopsid skulls. He thanks Nick Czaplewski, Bill May, Olivier Rieppel, and Kieran Shepherd of their respective institutions for their generous hospitality, and especially Bill for reacquainting Sean with Fort Sill and several other Permian localities of Oklahoma. Later this year, Sean will be moving on to the University of Witwatersrand=s Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontology and Palaeoenvironmental Research in Johannesburg, South Africa, to work on PermoBTriassic beasties. (Sean Modesto)

FRANCE

Laboratoire de PalJontologie, MusJum National d=Histoire naturelle, Paris

Philippe Taquet, libJrJ des lourdes t>ches administratives, retrouve avec plaisir l=Jtude des Dinosaures, beaucoup plus passionnante que celle des dossiers. Une nouvelle mission au Laos en NovembreBDJcembre 1996 a permis la dJcouverte de reptiles mammaliens dans le Permien supJrieur et de Dinosaures dans le CrJtacJ infJrieur. En France, il a organisJ, en juin 1997, une fouille sur un gisement de Dinosaures du CrJtacJ supJrieur de Provence; et, depuis un an, il a particiBpJ B la fouille et B l=extraordinaire dJcouverte d=une aire de nidification de Dinosaures dans le Jurassique supJrieur de Lourinhn, sous l=Jgide du Professeur Antunes de la FacultJ des Sciences et Technologie de Lisbonne. Une centaine d>oeufs de Dinosaures, plusieurs embryons et de trPs nombreux petits os attribuables B un ThJropode constituent un ensemble exceptionnel, dont la premiPre Jtude est publiJe aux Comptes-Rendus de l=AcadJmie des Sciences (CRAS Juillet 1997, 325[1]).

Philippe Janvier still works on Devonian vertebrates from Vietnam, in collaboration with colleagues in HanoW University. He now concentrates his efforts on the Devonian localities which are situated south of the Red River, in particular in central Vietnam. He

provided evidence for reputedly endemic South Chinese taxa (yunnanolepidoid antiarchs and youngolepid sarcopterygians) on the Indochina block, well south of the Song Ma suture, thereby suggesting that the Indochina and South China blocks were either very close or formed a single block in EarlyBMiddle Devonian times. In collaboration with Vietnamese colleagues and Art Boucot (Oregon University), he is planning a field trip to central Vietnam in November 1997 to study a new Silurian locality which yields placoderms and possibly sarcopterygians. Last November, he was in Colombia and explored the Devonian AOld Red Sandstone@ outcrops of the Boyaca area, in collaboration with Carlos Villarroel (Colombia National University). They discovered several rich vertebrate localities which yield antiarchs, arthrodires, chondrichthyans, acanthodians, actinopterygians, and sarcopterygians. The taxa in these assemblages are quite similar to those in Late Devonian localities of Europe and North America, yet some typically Gondwanan taxa are recognized. Beside this field work, Philippe is till looking for more characters to improve his results on Abasal@ craniate phylogeny. His last version is now available on the Web (in D. Maddison [ed.], ATree of Life.@ http://phylogeny.arizona.edu/tree/phylogeny.html). Nevertheless, unaware readers should be conscious that, apart from the terminal taxa, most clades are supported by very few characters. There seems, however, to be a rather good support for the clade which includes galeaspids, osteostracans, and the gnathostomes. Philippe=s book on AEarly Vertebrates@ came out in July 1996 at Oxford University Press. He heartfully thanks all those colleagues who helped him in achieving this task, in particular those who granted him permission to use their figures. He also welcomes any comment about mistakes or omissions that readers could find in it. Philippe is now chairman of the associated research unit 12 (URA12), which includes 22 researchers (of the CNRS, Museum, University, CollPge de France, and Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes) and 12 technicians working in the department. Needless to say that he is now sees more files than fossils!

Ronan Allain a participJ en novembreBdJcembre 1996, B la mission palJontologique dirigJe par Philippe Taquet au Laos. Une note sur les pistes d=ornithopode, sauropodes et thJropode de Muong Phalane, ainsi que la rJalisation d=un film sur les fouilles du Laos ont suivi cette mission. Par ailleurs, une partie du matJriel riche et diversifiJ (tortues, crocodiles et dinosaures) dJcouvert B proximitJ de Trets dans les sJries continentales du CrJtacJ supJrieur du bassin d=Aix-en-Provence (France) sera JtudiJ prochainement dans le cadre d=un DEA. L=accent sera mis, dans la mesure du possible, sur la position stratigraphique exacte du gisement, aini que sur la description de nouveaux ossements de dinosaures provenHaux (*Rhabdodon*, *Hypselosaurus*, thJropode indJt.).

Bernard Battail a participJ pendant six annJes consJcutives aux missions francoBlao organisJes par Philippe Taquet. Il dispose maintenant de tout un ensemble de vertJbrJs terrestres du Permien terminal des environs de LuangBPrabang. Cette faune, trPs largement dominJe par les dicynodontes, comporte aussi des restes fragmentaires de gros tJtrapodes encore tout B fait Jnigmatiques. L=examen des grandes collections mondiales de vertJbrJs du Permien supJrieur permettra-t=il de rJsoudre ce mystPre? Une visite aux principaux musJes d=Afrique du sud est en tous cas prJvue pour cet JtJ (borJal).

Laurence Beltan fait le bilan des points essentiels de ses recherches, pendant les trois annJes qui viennent de s=Jcouler. 1) Colloque international, BiogJographie de Madagascar, sept 1995, Paris. Participation B ce colloque et prJsentation d=un article intitulJ AQuelle est l=origine, et en quel lieu se produit la parturition du coelacanthe actuel: *Latimeria chalumnae* Smith 1940 (Pisces Sarcopterygii)@; in ORSTOM Editions, collect. Colloques et SJminaires, pub. Wilson R. LourenHo, BiogJographie de Madagascar 1996:411B422. Dans cet article l=auteur a Jtabli une analogie entre les coelacanthes du Trias du N.W. de Madagascar (Beltan, 1968, 1996) et le comportement du coelacanthe actuel dont le biotope est B 800 km du biotope triasique. 2) Laurence a participJ au Colloque International intitulJ AMesozoic fishes, systematics and palaeoecology@ B Eisch@tt (Allemagne, aoft 1993). La communication prJsentJe a pour titre AOverview of systematics and paleoecology of Triassic fishes of northwestern Madagascar.@ Mesozoic fishes, Systematics and Paleoecology, G. Arratia and G. Viohl (eds):479B500, 13 figs., 1 table, 1 app., 1996, by Verlag der Friedrich Pfeil, Mhnchen, Germany. 3) En Aoft 1996, elle a participJ au CongrPs GJologique International B Beijing, Chine; dans la section PalJontologie-Taphonomie, elle a fait une communication orale relative B la formation des nodules fossilifPres argilo-siliceux non calcaires. Ceux-ci prJsentent un relief positif ou nJgatif df B l=Jlaboration d=acide sulfurique provoquJe par l=interaction sJdiment-fosssile pendant la diagJnPse. 30th J. G. C. Abstracts, vol. 2, Beijing, China, 1996.

Didier Dutheil a quittJ momentanJment la palJontologie buissonniPre et a commencJ en octobre 1996 un dipl^me B l=Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes. Son mJmoire porte sur les faunes de vertJbrJs infJrieurs du CrJtacJ continental du sud-est marocain. Le matJriel JtudiJ provient des fouilles effectuJes par l=Jquipe de Paul Sereno au printemps 1995. La partie centrale de son mJmoire est la description d=un *Polypterus* trouvJ en connexion anatomique et la phylogJnie des Cladistia. RJcemment, Didier est allJ au Niger oj il a pu rJcolter des polyptPres actuels. En ce qui concerne le terrain, il se prJpare pour l=expJdition que Paul Sereno va diriger B la fin de l=annJe au Niger dans le CrJtacJ continental.

Vera Eisenmann is still involved with equids. The metapodial morphology of Vallesian and Turolian hipparions has been addressed in detail in a chapter of APaleoclimate and Evolution@ (Yale University Press, 1995). The description of the two species of hipparions from Galta in collaboration with P. Sondaar is in press (*Bulletin du MNHN*). A paper on mandibular morphologies in browsing and grazing equids with a comparison with tapirs is also in press (*GJobios*). Papers dealing with Recent equids include studies on the origin of asses (*Ethnozootechnie*, 1996), the domestication of horses (*CEREOPA*, 1997; XIII UISPP Congress, Forli, Italy, in press), and the craniology of Iranian, Trans-Caspian, and Indian Hemiones (in collaboration with N. Shah, EEP Yearbook, 1995B1996). In *Hipparion* and in *Equus*, the mosaic association of characters is tremendous: fossil systematics at species level seems nearly hopeless.

Arnaud Filleul a travaillJ au Laboratoire de PalJontologie dans le cadre du DEA de systJmatique du MusJum national d=Histoire naturelle. Il a prJsentJ en juin son mJmoire, dans lequel il dJcrit un nouvel Albuloidei primitif du CrJtacJ infJrieur (Hauterivien) de

Savoie (France). Ce spJcimen est l=Albuloidei le plus primitif actuellement connu. L=Jtude de ses relations de parentJ par l=analyse cladistique a JtJ envisagJe en suivant l=hypothPse proposJe par Arratia (1997). L=ensemble de ses rJsultats sera publiJ ultJrieurement, et Arnaud poursuivra l=annJe prochaine l=Jtude de TJlJostJens actuels et fossiles dans le cadre de sa thPse de Doctorat.

LJonard Ginsburg a JtJ mis en retraite, mais continue B travailler surtout au laboratoire. Il tente actuellement de publier en anglais sa thJorie sur l=extinction des dinosaures qui date de 1964 et contre laquelle il n=a encore jamais lu, dans la littJrature, extrPmement abondante, relative B ce sujet, la moindre objection valable. Avec Jorge Morales de Madrid (Espagne) il a terminJ la rJvision des hJmicyonides europJens. Il s=avPre que les ours s=enracinent directement dans ce groupe qui, par ailleurs, est reliJ directement aux cJphalogales. De plus, les deux mLmes Jtudient actuellement un bien curieux mustJlidJ rJcoltJ dans le MiocPne de Madrid et qui parait trPs proche du petit panda. Ce dernier aurait donc une origine europJenne. Enfin, il a accompagnJ dans les Bugtis au Pakistan son vieil ami Jean-Loup Welcomme qui a rJussi B y monter une expJdition (pJrilleuse, certes, mais combien passionante). Les derniers palJontologues B avoir pJnJtrJ dans ce territoire fermJ des Seigneurs de la guerre sont Pilgrim et Forster-Cooper, avant la premiPre guerre mondiale! Nous avons retrouvJ les sites classiques du synclinal de Dera Bugti, sites attribuJs jusqu=B prJsent B l=Aquitanien, en raison de la coexistence de formes typiquement oligocPnes comme *Cadurcotherium* avec des formes non moins typiquement miocPnes en Eurasie, comme *Gomphotherium*. Il semble bien que Pilgrim ait JtJ victime de rJcoltes faites par des non-gJologues, car nous n=avons retrouvJ aucune forme B cachet oligocPne dans le synclinal de Dera Bugti, formes qui n=existent que dans le synclinal plus mJridional de GandoV, dans une Jtroite bande de terrain placJe entre les calcaires marins JocPnes du Kirthar et la sJrie miocPne.

Marc Godinot is still in the process of settling in Paris, and adjusting to his teaching and research position at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes. He was happy when the special volume in honor of D. E. Russell, co-edited with Phil Gingerich, appeared in *Palaeovertebrata* (25[2B4] 367 pp.). This volume contains 22 papers on Paleogene mammals. His own contributions to the volume are a biographical sketch of Don Russell, co-authored with Phil Gingerich, and a study of the affinities and way of life of the small hyopsodontid condylarthran from Dormaal *Paschatherium*, based on its tarsals (done in collaboration with Th. and R. Smith, Brussels; it contains outrageous comments on hyracoid origins). Marc did some field work in a new early Eocene locality, in the Paris Basin, which yields lignite and pieces of wood, insects in amber (studied by AndrJ Nel, who works at the Museum in the Entomology Department and in association with our lab), mammals, and some other vertebrates. Mammals are not very abundant, but the whole assiociation is quite interesting.

Dominique Gommery, Docteur de l=UniversitJ Paris VII, est actuellement post-doc au Laboratoire de PalJontologie du MusJum o j il poursuit ses recherches sur l=axe vertJbral des primates, tout particuliPrement sur celui des HominoVdJs et des HominidJs actuels et fossiles. Il continue de publier les rJsultats obtenus lors de son doctorat, notamment la morphologie des cavitJs glJnoVdes de l=atlas, les angles rJtroglJnoidiens et homologues

du rachis cervical supJrieur, l=angle vertJbro-apophysaire supJrieur du rachis cervical infJrieur. Il a publiJ une note importante sur les atlas et axis des hominidJs du PlioBPleistocPne oj il a dJmontrJ qu=un axis de la localitJ 333 de Hadar appartenait B un taxon d=hominidJ diffJrent des *Australopithecus* et montrait des caractJristiques systJmatiques et fonctionnellles trPs engagJes sur la voie humaine. En collaboration avec B. Senut, il a dJfini les caractPres morphologiques et fonctionnels du squelette post-cr>nien de l=*Otavipithecus namibiensis* (HominoVde du MiocPne moyen de Namibie). Il a mis en place les collections de vertJbrJs du MiocPne de Namibie au Geological Survey B Windhoek. En collaboration avec M. Pickford, il a constituJ une collection de rJfJrence pour le MiocPne et le PlioBPleistocPne de la rJgion occidentale de l=Ouganda et a rangJ la collection de l=Est ougandais (Napak, Moiroto, Bukwa) B l=Uganda Museum de Kampala. Il a rJorganisJ avec Ezra Musiime, l=exposition retraHant 10 ans de coopJration palJontologique francoBougandaise dans ce mLme musJe. Enfin il a participJ aux fouilles de la Namibia Palaeontology Expedition dans le sud de la Speergebiet en Namibie. Il collabore actuellement, en Afrique du Sud, aux fouilles du site B *Paranthropes* de Drimolen dirigJes par AndrJ Keyser.

Daniel Goujet has been involved in the preparation and study on the Early Devonian acanthothoracid placoderms (*Romundina*) from Arctic Canada (Prince of Wales Island) collected in 1995. A comparison with the material in cores from the TimanBPechora borings (North Russia) shows that *Romundina* was also present there. The new data are used in a revision of his scheme of placoderm phylogeny. In June Daniel combined the CAVEPS meeting in Perth with a visit to the Gogo localities in northwestern Australia. Afterwards, he visited Sydney and Canberra to meet Zerina Johanson, Gavin Young, Ken Campbell, and Dick Barwick. A visit to the TaemasBWee Jasper area with G. Young gave him the chance to check the distribution of vertebrates remains in the early Devonian limestone.

Nor-Eddine Jalil, who was in our department for six years, is now an Assistant Professor at Marrakech University in Morocco. He is planning a program of investigation on the Late Permian tetrapod faunas of the Argana Formation, in particular captorhinids and diplocaulids.

Anwar Janoo has finished his thesis on the phylogenetic position of the dodo and the solitaire, extinct birds from the Mascarene Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues respectively. The defense took place early this summer, June 1997. This work was based upon the osteological study of dodo and solitaire material deposited in the MusJum national d=Histoire Naturellle, Laboratoire de PalJontologie, Paris, as well as on other collections, namely the Natural History Museum (London), the South African Museum (Capetown), the East London Museum, and the Natal Museum (Durban). Many thanks to South African colleagues who welcomed him. From this data collection a monograph on the dodo and the solitaire is expected to be published in the future, including formerly undescribed dodo material. In order to elucidate the phylogenetic position of dodo and solitaire, a study of the columbiform assemblage is being carried out. A first attempt at the phylogenetics of the columbiforms is proposed and is based upon osteological characters. This is to be expanded into a wider investigation. As a first insight into the

interrelationships of higher bird taxa (Columbiformes, Charadriiformes, and Gruiformes plus the Ardeidae) a cladistic analysis based on the intrinsic character attributes of the coracoid complex is being done. This has brought about a resolution in the hierarchical relationships of these taxa, which were formerly grouped together as an unresolved polychotomy in Cracraft=s phylogenetic classification (1981, 1988). This indicates that potentially informative signal can be retrieved from the postcranial skeleton of birds. The pectoral complex is presently under scrutiny for an evaluation of characters so as to retrieve more data for phylogenetic analysis. Current additional work includes the description of new struthioniform fossil remains from Galta in Turkey (a new taxon) and an anhinga (Anhingidae) from the Amazonian basin (these were not included in the thesis), plus minor studies.

After the publication of the plesiochelyid turtles from Quercy with Brigitte BadrJ, UniversitJ Paris 6, France de Lapparent de Broin has just finished the study of the continental turtles from the Late Cretaceous of the northern Iberian Peninsula (LaZo) and the South of France, with Xabier Murelaga, University of the Basque Country, and that of the marineBlittoral turtles from the Late Cretaceous of Egypt, with Christa Werner, Technische Universit@t Berlin. The only common point between the two localities is the presence of Bothremydidae, which gave us the opportunity to prepare a new cladogram for this family. France is still working on the turtles from the Paleogene of Brisbane with Ralph Molnar and Alan Rix: these specimens are of interest in the search for lost primitive characters of chelid carapaces. This is congruent with her collaboration with Marcelo de la Fuente, La Plata University, in their quest of the oldest chelids. In February and March, she had the opportunity to examine many turtle collections in Argentina, where she and Marcelo were very warmly welcomed by the members of the visited museums. Thanks to Jose Bonaparte from Buenos Aires, and Jorge Calvo and SeZor Carolini from Neuquen, they were able to study the oldest known chelid fragments from the Early Cretaceous of El Choc\n, and presented, with Jorge, a communication on these turtles at the XIII Jornadas Argentinas de PaleontologRa de Vertebrados, in La Rioja. Marcelo and France are preparing various publications, including a revision of the position of *Notoemys*, and the study of anatomical structures (complexes) such as that on the pleurodiran pelvis they had presented at the 56th Annual SVP Meeting in New York, 1996. Several more papers in collaboration with other friends in France, such as GJrard Breton on *Tropidemys*, are in preparation and just need longer days!

Christian de Muizon has been overseas from 1989 to 1995 heading the French Institute of Andean Studies (IFEA, Lima, Peru), a multidisciplinary research institute of the French Ministery of Foreign Affairs in the Andean countries. During his stay in South America, in spite of heavy administrative tasks, he managed to carry on doing field work in Peru and Bolivia. He is now back (since early 1996) to the Paleontology Laboratory at the museum and reinstated the CNRS as a ADirecteur de recherche.@ He is still actively working with Bolivian colleagues from Cochabamba and Santa Cruz on the unique mammal-bearing locality of Tiupampa (early Paleocene, Bolivia) where he discovered, in the last five years, 18 partial or complete skulls and skeletons of marsupials belonging to five different taxa. One of these specimens is a skull and partial skeleton of a dog-like marsupial (Borhyaenoidea), *Mayulestes ferox*, which was preliminarily described in

Nature (370, 21 July 1994). Most of 1996 was dedicated to writing an extensive monograph on this exceptional specimen, which is now in press at the new earth sciences journal of the museum (*GJodiversitas*, ex-*Bulletin du MusJum national d=Histoire naturelle*, Sect. C). Various skulls and skeletons of the didelphoid *Andinodelphys* are now next on the list. C. de Muizon has also been describing some borhyaenoids basicrania from the early Miocene of Salla Luribay (Bolivia) which represent the starting point of a phylogenetic analysis of borhyaenoids taxa represented by good cranial remains. In April and May 1997 he actively worked with Richard Cifelli (University of Oklahoma) who obtained a two-month-long APrafesseur AssociJ@ position at the museum. This collaborative work was very productive since five manuscripts on early marsupials and South American placental evolution have been (or will be soon) submitted for publication. Many collaborative research projects are in preparation.

Martin Pickford had a busy year participating in field surveys to Uganda, Namibia, and South Africa, and museum study tours to Belgium (fossil Neogene gastropods from the Western Rift Valley in collaboration with Dr. D. Van Damme), Spain (suids and hominoids in collaboration with S. Moya-Sola and M. K`hler), Uganda (arranging the fossil collections at the Uganda Museum with D. Gommery), South Africa (various Langebaanweg fossil groups in collaboration with P. Haarhoff), and Namibia (Hyracoidea and Tubulidentata). He also labored intensively on geology monographs of the Otavi Mountainland where *Otavipithecus* was found in 1991, and the southwest African coastal strip where he and B. Senut have led expeditions since 1993. The Namibian Cainozoic record is now one of the most complete for the continent, especially for micromammals and fossil bird eggs, with sites spanning most of the Neogene and Quaternary.

CJcile Poplin poursuit ses recherches sur les poissons actinoptJrygiens palJoniscoVdes du PalJozoVque. En collaboration avec R. Lund, elle continue l=JtudeB des poissons de Bear Gluch (Montana, Namurien). Une publication, en cours au *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, donne la description de trois nouvelles espPces ainsi qu=une discussion et une redJfinition de la famille des rhadinichthydJs. Un autre manuscrit est en prJparation consacrJ B l=JtudeB de deux nouvelles espPces ainsi qu=aux relations phylogJnJtiques des 5 espPces ainsi dJcrites. Trois autres espPces nouvelles sont Jgalement en cours d=JtudeB. De nouveaux palJoniscoVdes continuent B LtreB trouvJs dans le Massif Central franHais: ainsi un haplolJpiforme a JtJ dJcrit dans le StJphanien de Montceau-les-Mines, un actinoptJrygien a JtJ dJcouvert dans un sondage permien en ArdPche (publication soumise) et du nouveau matJriel a JtJ mis au jour gr>ce B la reprise des fouilles B BuxiPres-les-mines par les palJontologues locaux.

Don E. Russell would like to thank, most heartily in fact, all those who contributed to his Festchrift (published in *Palaeovertebrata*, 25), which ranges in authors from Asia to Europe and to North America. In particular he appreciated the efforts of Marc Godinot and Philip Gingerich who were responsible for this heart-warming initiative.

Venant de franchir le cap d=un DEA de PalJontologie, Claire Sagne s=JlanceB vers une thPse afin de contempler de plus prPs les sirPnes. Les mois de FJvrier B Juin 1997 lui ont

permis d=examiner la curieuse morphologie des Sirenia, notamment celle d=un cr>ne JocPne inJdit, provenant du Fayoum (Egypte) et conservJ depuis 1913 au MusJum national d=Histoire naturelle, sous le bin^me A*Eosiren libyca*.@ L=observation des piPces fossiles et actuelles, la dJfinition de caractPres cladistiques et l=analyse des constructions phylogJnJtiques ont eu pour but d=examiner le statut phylogJnJtique du genre *Eosiren*. Une rJvision des taxons JocPnes contribuerait B la rectification des vicissitudes systJmatiques de ce groupe. Cet JtJ, elle participera aux fouilles d=un site exceptionnellement riche en Dugongidae, au lieu dit de Taulanne, dans les Alpes de Hautes Provence.

Nuran Sarica started her doctoral thesis entitled: ANeogene micromammals of western Anatolia, Turkey@ at the MusJum national d=Histoire naturelle in December 1996. At present she is preparing a paper on AThe taxonomy and phylogeny of fossil Spalacidae from the Miocene of Turkey@ for a special volume on Sinap Tepe Locality (Turkey) which will be published by Texas University Press in October 1997. For summer field work she will collect samples, with her supervisor Sevket Sen, from the grabens of western Anatolia, Turkey.

Sevket Sen moved in 1996 from the UniversitJ Paris 6 to the Laboratoire de PalJontologie du MusJum. He pursues his double activity by studying Neogene small mammals and magnetostratigraphy of mammal-bearing deposits. During the last two years he was active in the International Sinap Project in Turkey collecting a large number of small mammals from Miocene deposits in central Anatolia. In the meantime, he studied middle Miocene small mammals and magnetostratigraphy of Chios Island in Greece, in collaboration with George Koufos=s team from Thessaloniki. He is also editing a monograph on the Pliocene mammal locality of Galta, Turkey, which will be published in 1998 as a separate fascicle of *Geodiversitas* (previously *Bulletin du MusJum national d=Histoire naturelle, Sciences de la Terre*).

Dans le cadre d=un accord de coopJration entre la France et l=Afrique du Sud, Brigitte Senut et Martin Pickford ont poursuivi leurs travaux sur le NJogPne continental de l=Afrique australe et ont dJcouvert, en novembre 1996, la premiPre faune du MiocPne infJrieur de la rJgion. La prJsence d=un Hominoidea dans ces dJp^ts relance le dJbat sur l=Jvolution du groupe qui n=Jtait probablement pas confinJ B l=Afrique orientale, mais dJjB largement rJpandu sur le continent, et ce, dPs 18 millions d=annJes. Une nouvelle expJdition de la Namibia Palaeontology Expedition s=est dJroulJe au printemps 1996, B laquelle ont participJ P. Mein (UniversitJ Claude Bernard, Lyon), D. Gommery (MusJum national d=Histoire naturelle, Paris), deux collPgues du Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales de Madrid, J. Morales et D. Soria, ainsi que A. Riganti (Geological Survey of Namibia) et G. Bessinger (Jtudiante namibienne en Geosciences). B. Senut a terminJ l=Jtude des Cercopithecoidea plioBpleistocPnes du Botswana, un article sur les adaptations locomotrices des Pedetidae miocPnes de la Sperrgebiet et un autre en collaboration avec D. Gommery sur les restes postcr>niens des hominoVdes du MiocPne moyen de Namibie. Par ailleurs elle participe B l=Jtude du squelette de DryopithPque de Can Llobateres en collaboration avec S. Moya-Sola et M. K`hler. Dans le cadre d=une collaboration avec nos collPgues du South African Museum B Capetown, l=Jtude des

Macroscelididae du MiocPne supJrieur de Langebaanweg a dJbutJ. Enfin, l=Jtude de nouveaux oeufs des Jolianites de la Sperrgebiet est en cours avec M. Pickford et Y. Dauphin et une mise B jour de la biostratigraphie avienne et mammalienne pour le NJogPne est prJvue pour l=automne 1997.

Denise Sigogneau-Russell has been keeping a steady work pace, even though, due to her own inability to draw, she is often delayed in sending papers to the press; this is the case for the work on Aperamurids,@ long finished but for the illustrations. The paurodont study (in collaboration with Paul Ensom) which was announced as ended early in 1996, has had an eventful history; not that the scientific content was challenged by the referrees, but the photographic stereos did not meet the *Palaeontology* editors= approval, which delayed the publication (now due early 1998) by more than a year! The symmetrodont paper, again with Paul Ensom, has finally been sent off for publication: the cause of delay in this case was in the computer=s failure to elaborate an acceptable cladogram. D. S-R is now trying to interprete some weird triconodont teeth from Morocco. The variety of mammalian taxa from that fauna appears to be remarkable. Sorting goes on (with the help of D. E. Russell, who remains indispensable also in the casting of uncastable tiny teeth). The new lizards and rhynchosaurs from the same fauna have appeared respectively in 1996 (first author A. Broschinski) and 1997 (first author S. Evans). D. S-R=s collaboration with Paul Ensom on the Purbeck fauna continues, and she had the pleasure to host the latter for a week last November. At the same time, she is collaborating with P. Godefroit from Bruxelles on the Saint-Nicolas-de-Port mammals: the oldest docodont (?) saw the light early this year, and the kuehneotheriids are being scrutinized by both. Finally the spring visit of R. Cifelli and his wealth of Cretaceous mammalian teeth have been very stimulating; it was wonderful to be able to talk to somebody sharing the same parental outlook and concern over precious isolated mammalian teeth, dearly paid for in patience and time!

Pascal Tassy has definitely joined the museum as a professor. In the fall 1996 he co-edited with Hezy Shoshani (Detroit) AThe Proboscidea: Evolution and Palaeoecology of Elephants and Their Relatives,@ a multi-authored volume published by Oxford University Press, a long-awaited book (at least by the authors and the editors!). He attended the SVP meeting in New York and presented the state of the art of the systematics of Miocene European elephantoids. During the annual meeting of the SociJtJ FranHaise de SystJmatique, a forum on the 30th anniversary of APhylogenetic Systematics, gave Pascal the opportunity to discuss the way Hennig himself used paleontological data. He also attended the annual Willi Hennig Society meeting at Cape Town, South Africa, and presented, together with VJronique Barriel (Paris), a new way of how to display cladograms rooted with multiple outgroups. As usual field work focused on subpyrenean Miocene deposits. In the early Miocene locality, together with Francis Duranthon (Toulouse), he excavated more mammals, especially a fifth species of rhinocerotid, an amazing paleobiodiversity. Last February and March he was in Nairobi to study new elephantoids found by Meave Leakey at Lothagam, and he is currently fighting to find time to write the paper. (Christian de Muizon).

UniversitJ Paris VII, DJpartement des Sciences de la Terra

En 1996, Jean Gaudant est allJ Jtudier B Ankara (Turquie) une collection de poissons du MiocPne infJrieur lacustre d=Anatolie. Il a ensuite rJalisJ des fouilles, en collaboration avec un Jtudiant de l=universitJ d=AthPnes, dans le MiocPne supJrieur marin de l=Tle de Gavdos (GrPce). Un bref sJjour B Lisbonne lui a donnJ la possibilitJ d=Jtudier, en collaboration avec le Professeur M. Telles Antunes, les restes des seuls *Lates* connus B ce jour dans le domaine atlantique. Enfin, une mission en Allemagne lui a permis de terminer son Jtude de l=ichthyofaune du PliocPne lacustre de Willerhausen am Harz et d=Jtudier un squelette de Channiforme dJcouvert dans le MiocPne infJrieur d=Illerkirchberg prPs d=Ulm.

Jean a Jgalement mis cette annJe B profit pour terminer plusieurs nouveaux articles dont l=un est consacrJ B de nouvelles dJcouvertes de poissons fossiles dans l=OligoBMiocPne de Bulgarie (en collaboration avec Milorad Vatsev de Sofia). Un autre manuscrit, est consacrJ B un PercoVde nouveau de l=OligocPne de Provence.

Enfin, Jean s=est intJressJ B la naissance de la palJoichthyologie en Jcrivant un article sur Johann Jakob Scheuchzer qui, au dJbut du 18Pme siPcle, publia en latin un petit livre intitulJ ADolJances et revendications des poissons.@ Il a aussi prJparJ un article sur un manuscrit inJdit du milieu du 18Pme siPcle partiellement consacrJ aux cJlPbres poissons du Monte Bolca (Italie). (Jean Gaudant)

POLAND

Institute of Paleobiology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

It has been a long time since we have reported any news, and many things have happened in the meantime. Administrative reorganizations within the Institute have led to the establishment of our own Department of Vertebrate Paleontology. Together with the rest of our Institute, and several others within the Polish Academy of Sciences, we have moved to a new building in the center of the city. Moving was a horrible experience but, now it is over, we are quite glad of the change.

Magdalena Borsuk-Bia»ynicka has continued her studies of Mesozoic amphibians and reptiles, with special emphasis on lizards. She has recently investigated various aspects of the emergence of the lizard group Acrodonta. Nine putative genera of acrodont relatives and at least four genera of primitive Asian Aiguanids@ now known from Mongolian upper Cretaceous deposits suggest that Central Asia may have been an important center of iguanian radiation at that time. Studies of the Mongolian late Cretaceous lizard fauna may thus shed some light on what actually happened at the origin of the iguanian crown groups. Magdalena believes that the origin of Acrodonta was associated with changes in skull proportions related to a strong-bite adaptation (manuscript in preparation). The corresponding modifications in the growth rates of tooth-bearing bones could have affected the tooth-replacement phenomena that led to some irregularities, and eventually to a full blockade of tooth replacement, as exemplified by *Pleurodontagama aenigmatodes*. Her paper including these results appeared in the third issue of *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 41 last year. Magdalena has also an ongoing joint project with

Susan Evans and Elisabeth Cook (London) and Teresa Marya½ska (Warsaw) on the early Triassic small vertebrate communities from the karst deposits of Czatkowice, southern Poland. The project started in 1996 and has been sponsored by the BritishBPolish Joint Research Program of the British Council and the State Committee for Scientific Research. Preliminary results indicate that the Czatkowice faunal assemblage is probably significantly older than any other European early Triassic terrestrial vertebrate fauna known to date, and it apparently represents a different type of environment, much more mesic than that ascribed to the traditional upland communities of Western Europe. The Czatkowice fauna includes a possible stem frog (which would be the oldest Triassic example outside Madagascar), as well as a highly differentiated reptile fauna of procolophonids, small basal archosaurs, and still smaller lepidosauromorphs. In connection with this project Magdalena spent two pleasant and successful weeks in London last year and will visit again this year. A few months ago she visited the Russian Academy of Sciences Paleontological Institute (Moscow) and Zoological Institute (St. Petersburg), gathering data from the collections of late Cretaceous and modern lizards. Apart from her research activities, Magdalena has been busy working as the assistant editor of the monograph series *Palaeontologia Polonica*, published by the Institute since 1929. Although only one vertebrate paper has appeared in this series since 1985, we are optimistic that we will be able to maintain a more satisfactory balance between vertebrate and invertebrate papers in the future. In addition, Magdalena continues to lecture in vertebrate paleontology at the University of Pozna½.

Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska is at last back at the Institute after more than eight years at the University of Oslo, where she was professor of paleontology. Zofia has remained enormously active in studies of multituberculates and other early mammals and, as before, her scientific productivity continues to amaze us. She has recently published a number of papers. While still in Oslo, she and Petr Gambarayan (St. Petersburg) reconstructed the masticatory musculature in taeniolabidoid multituberculates (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 40[1], 1995). With JosJ Bonaparte (Buenos Aires) she has described the first multituberculate dentary (?*Fergliotherium windhauseni*) from the upper Cretaceous Los Alamitos Formation of Argentina (*Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales ABernardino Rivadavia,@ Nueva Serie* 145, 1996). Along with Jrrn Hurum (Oslo) and Robert Presley (Cardiff), she has described the ear ossicles of the tiny late Cretaceous multituberculate *Chulsanbaatar vulgaris*, based on material collected by the PolishBMongolian Paleontological Expeditions to the Gobi Desert (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 41[3], 1996). Again with Petr Gambarayan (who visited us after Zofia=s return to Warsaw) she has worked on the controversial problem of sprawling versus parasagittal stance in multituberculates, providing evidence for the sprawling stance (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 42[1], 1997). She has also discussed a number of multituberculate characters related to brain morphology, backward masticatory power stroke, and foot anatomy, all previously neglected or misinterpreted in phylogenetic analyses of early mammals (*Lethaia* 29[3], 1997). She believes that if these characters are taken into account, the position of multituberculates in a phylogenetic tree of early mammals may change. Quite recently, she published a further paper with Jrrn Hurum (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 42[2], 1997) using the Pee-Wee program to demonstrate that the Mongolian late Cretaceous multituberculates (except *Buginbaatar*) form a

monophyletic group that they name Djadochtatheria (and distinct from Cimolodonta). A similar conclusion was reached independently by G. Rougier, M. Novacek, and D. Dashzeveg (*American Museum Novitates* 3191, 1997) using the PAUP software. Moreover, Zofia has two further papers in press: AUngulate-like mammals from the Cretaceous of Uzbekistan and a phylogenetic analysis of Ungulatomorpha@ (with late Lev Nessov and David Archibald) in press in *Bulletin of the Carnegie Museum* 34, and AMammals from the Mesozoic of Mongolia@ (with Michael Novacek, Boris Trofimov, and Demberelyin Dashzeveg) in AThe Age of Dinosaurs in Russia and Mongolia@ edited by M. J. Benton, M. A. Shishkin, E. N. Kurochkin, and D. M. Unwin. Last year Zofia became the editor of the Institute=s quarterly journal *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*, and the president of the Scientific Council of our Institute, which greatly extended her duties. In addition, she is the superviser of Jrrn Hurum=s Ph.D. thesis on the cranial structure and relationships of Mongolian late Cretaceous multituberculates. The thesis consists of five papers, three of which have been published and two submitted. It is scheduled to be publicly defended at the University of Oslo in October this year.

Halszka Osm\lska has continued studies on dinosaurs and related reptiles from the late Cretaceous of Mongolia. Last year she described a new theropod genus and species, *Bagaraatan ostromi*, based on a mandible and fragmentary postcranial remains from the upper Cretaceous Nemegt Formation of the Gobi Desert (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 41[1]). This year, with Eric Buffetaut and Stephane Hua (Paris) she published a paper on the anatomy and relationships of the protosuchian crocodyliform *Gobiosuchus kielanae*, known from the upper Cretaceous Djadokhta Formation, Gobi Desert. Two years ago The Dinosaur Society awarded Halszka and Teresa Marya½ska a grant for a project on the late Cretaceous oviraptorids from Mongolia. In connection with this, Halszka and Teresa spent six successful weeks in Mongolia in 1995, investigating the oviraptorid collections at the Geological Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ulan Bator. In addition, they spent two weeks in New York last year, where they were busy studying the oviraptorid collections at the American Museum of Natural History. The first paper resulting from the project deals with the quadrate bone of oviraptorids and has been submitted for publication to *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*. Moreover, Halszka has continued to lecture on vertebrate paleontology at the University of Warsaw although, since the beginning of this year, she became head of our Department, acquiring all the additional duties that this entails.

Karol Sabath is in the final stages of his Ph.D. dissertation on the revised osteology of the Mongolian late Cretaceous tyrannosaurid *Tarbosaurus bataar*. This work took him to Mongolia for six weeks in 1995, joining Halszka and Teresa Marya½ska. We all very much look forward to Karol=s completion of his thesis in the very near future. During the past year he has served as an assistant editor of *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*. Apart from that, Karol has mostly been busy popularizing vertebrate paleontology, becoming a media spokesman in Poland for dinosaurs. He has also helped organize dinosaur audio-animatronic exhibitions in Gda½sk (1995) and Warsaw (1996) and been very active at the Museum of Evolution of the Institute. Finally, he has also recently translated several books and papers on paleontology into Polish.

Andrzej Sulimski retired a few years ago and left the Institute. Despite his duties as a grandfather, he hopes to continue his studies on insectivorans and rodents from Pliocene and early Pleistocene karst localities in Poland.

Mieczys»aw Wolsan, formerly of the Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Systematic and Experimental Zoology, Cracow, the Polish Academy of Sciences Mammal Research Institute, Bia»owieóa, and the University of Mainz, joined the Institute as an associate professor at the end of 1994. His main interests are related to the phylogeny, evolution, paleobiogeography, and systematics of carnivoran mammals, particularly musteloids. During the past two years, apart from about a dozen notes, abstracts, review articles, etc., he has completed several papers, some of these having been published in the meantime. With Edith Cirot (Poitiers), he has described the mandibles and teeth of the late Oligocene musteloids *Amphictis ambigua* and *A. milloquensis* from La Milloque, France (published in *Geobios* 28[6], 1995). With Brigitte Lange-BadrJ (Paris), he has finished a description of a skull of the oldest procyonid, *Pseudobassaris*, from the Phosphorites du Quercy, France (*Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 41[3], 1996). With Yuriy Semenov (Kiev) he has completed a taxonomic revision of the giant mustelid *Eomellivora*, providing evidence for the single lineage or species *E. wimani* that evolved in Eurasia during the Late Miocene, entering North America in the early Hemphillian (published in the festschrift volume honoring Kazimierz Kowalski in *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia* 39, 1996). With Michael Morlo (Frankfurt am Main) he has finished a paper on the status of the reputed musteloids A*Plesictis@ croizeti*, A*Plesictis@ gracilis*, and A*Lutra@ minor*, recognizing these as synonyms of the European early Miocene viverrid *Herpestides antiquus* (the paper should have appeared in the first issue of *Bulletin of The Natural History Museum, Geology* 53 by the time you read this). Along with Adam Nadachowski (Cracow) he has performed an archeozoological analysis of the animal remains from a few Polish Neolithic and Iron Age archeological sites (to be published in *Studia Gothica* this year and another part as an appendix in a book by A. ZakoÑcielna). With Maria Bieniek (Cracow) and Henryk Okarma (Bia»owieóa), he has completed a manuscript on the historical biogeography of the lynx in Poland (submitted to *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensia*). Lastly, he has described a partial skull and a fragmentary mandible of the extinct badger *Meles hollitzeri* from the lower Pleistocene fossil-rich bed of Unterma8feld, eastern Germany. The manuscript has been accepted for publication in the second part of *Das Pleistoz@n von Unterma8feld in Thhringen* edited by H.-D. Kahlke and R.-D. Kahlke. After that, Mieczys»aw has been involved in a multiauthor analysis of mammal remains from some Paleolithic human sites in southern Poland in order to supplement reconstructions of their environments (project granted by the State Committee for Scientific Research). Moreover, since 1995 he has been working on the phylogeny, evolution, paleobiogeography, and paleoecology of the Old World skunks (another grant from the State Committee for Scientific Research). So far he has been unable to find time to publish any of the comprehensive results of the skunk grant, only presenting a talk (with co-author Burkart Engesser, Basel) on a new species of the European mid-Miocene skunk *Palaeomephitis* at the congress ACenozoic Mammalian Biochronology of Europe and Related Areas@ in Montpellier, France (April 14B17, 1997). Thanks to a recent grant from the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund (American Museum of Natural History), Mieczys»aw will be able to broaden the scope of the project

into the New World skunks. In addition to the *Palaeomephitis* presentation in Montpellier and a number of other recent presentations in Poland, Mieczys»aw presented a talk on the early evolution of the middle ear in arctoid carnivorans at the SVP annual meeting last year. Thanks to financial support from the American Museum of Natural History Department of Vertebrate Paleontology and Collection Study Grants, he was able to stay at the museum for over a month after the meeting, studying fossil and Recent carnivore collections, including the magnificent Frick Collection. During this stay, he managed to have a short trip to the Yale University Peabody Museum of Natural History, where he studied the carnivoran collections (including the important Princeton University Collection). He wishes to express his grateful thanks to all those who made his visits to New York and New Haven so successful, especially to Richard Tedford, Xiaoming Wang, and Jessica Anderson. Over the past two years, thanks to generous support from the Humboldt Foundation, as well as the skunk grant and the Polish Academy of Sciences exchange programs, he has also paid visits to Germany, Switzerland, Russia, and Sweden. In Germany he attended the 1995 and 1996 annual meetings of the Arbeitskreis Wirbeltierpal@ontologie (Vertebrate Paleontology Group) in Buckow and Bad Marienberg, visited the collections of Pleistocene mustelids at the University of Jena=s Institute of Quaternary Paleontology, Weimar, surveyed two important private collections of Oligocene and early Miocene arctoids in southern Germany, and three times spent an enjoyable week at the libraries of Mainz University. In Switzerland he twice spent about a week at the Natural History Museum, Basel, hard at work on the splendid fossil carnivoran collections and having a successful time at the magnificent collection of mammal reprints from the 19th century and the earlier decades of the present century. In Russia he spent a week in Moscow in 1995, researching the Tertiary arctoid collections from the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia at the Russian Academy of Sciences Paleontological Institute, gathering basicranial data from the Recent mustelid collections at the Moscow State University Zoological Museum, and surveying the Tertiary carnivoran collections at The Vernadsky State Geological Museum and the Russian Academy of Sciences Geological Institute. A further week in 1995 was spent in Sweden visiting the Paleogene and Recent carnivoran collections at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, and studying Chinese Neogene musteloids in the Lagrelius Collection at the University of Uppsala Paleontological Museum. Special thanks to Aleksander Lavrov, Lutz Maul, Clemens M`dden, Marina Sotnikova, and Lars Werdelin for their profound role in making all these trips so pleasant and successful. Currently, Mieczys»aw is beavering away at editorial work on the AEvolution of Shrews@ (co-edited with Jan W\jcik). Twenty-two authors contributed to this volume, covering various aspects of shrew evolution. Five chapters are directly related to vertebrate paleontology, including a revised classification of the fossil and Recent shrews (by J. W. F. Reumer) and the fossil histories of shrews in Europe (by B. Rzebik-Kowalska), Asia (by G. Storch, Zh. Qiu, and V. S. Zazhigin), Africa (by P. M. Butler), and North and South America (by A. H. Harris). The volume should be published by spring 1998. On the teaching front, Mieczys»aw has given lectures on mammalian paleontology and on Quaternary vertebrate faunas at the University of Warsaw since 1995. There he has three students preparing master=s theses. One of these, Jolanta Noskiewicz, is well on her way to completing her thesis ALate Pleistocene Leporids of Poland@. The two other students are in the early stages of research. Finally, Mieczys»aw is extremely happy to announce that his second

child, Barbara Beata, was born on February 28 this year. In spite of his newly extended duties as a father, he hopes to make substantial progress in his understanding of the phylogeny, evolution, and paleobiogeography of early musteloids in this and the coming years.

Several vertebrate paleontology visitors have managed to find their way to our Institute over the last two years. In addition to Teresa Marya½ska of the Museum of Earth, Polish Academy of Sciences, who consistently cooperates with Halszka in her research on the late Cretaceous dinosaurs from Mongolia, and Micha» Ginter of the University of Warsaw, who regularly attends and often participates in our vertebrate paleontology seminars, we were very pleased to have had a few foreign guests. Jrrn Hurum of the University of Oslo visited the Institute in December of 1995, twice during 1996, and again in March this year, working with Zofia on the middle ear of multituberculates and a new multituberculate suborder (Djadochtatheria), and consulting with her on his ongoing dissertation. Susan Evans of University College of London stayed here for nearly two weeks last year and again for two weeks in June this year, to continue her work with Magdalena on the early Triassic tetrapods from Czatkowice. Aleksander Averianov of the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, was here in the summer of 1996. He was studying our collections of Cretaceous mammals and Oligocene lagomorphs and their relatives from Mongolia, and the material of the leporid *Hypolagus* from the Pliocene and early Pleistocene of Poland. Petr Gambaryan, from the same institute, visited us in October 1996 and February 1997, working with Zofia on their manuscript on the stance in multituberculates. James Clark of the George Washington University and Catherine Forster of the State University of New York were working on our dinosaur collection in the fall of 1996. At the end of the last year Mieczys»aw hosted of Yuriy Semenov and Dmitry Ivanoff, both from the Central Museum of Natural History, Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences. They were working together on carnivoran material from Polish and Ukrainian Neogene and early Pleistocene localities. Early this year we had Demberelyin Dashzeveg here from the Geological Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences for two weeks, while he accumulated data from our collections of Mongolian mammals. Michael Novacek and Guillermo Rougier (American Museum of Natural History) and John Wible (University of Louisville) visited our Institute in May this year, studying our collections of Cretaceous multituberculates and therians from Mongolia. Most recently, in June of this year, Costin R|dulescu and Petre Samson (Emil Racoviû| Speleological Institute, Romanian Academy) spent two weeks at the Institute, examining the multituberculate collection and consulting with Zofia on the structure of a multituberculate skull from the Maastrichtian of Romania (the first skull of this group found in the European Cretaceous). (Mieczys»aw Wolsan)

ROMANIA

Muzeul Civilizatiei Dacice si Romane Deva, Deva, Romania

This past spring Cora Jianu attended the Second European Workshop on Vertebrate Palaeontology in Quillan, France, where she, Dave Weishampel (Baltimore), and Emil Stuica (Bucharest) presented their work on the Late Cretaceous pterosaurs of Europe.

Previous to attending the workshop Jianu visited the Magyar Allami Foldtani Intezet and the new Hungarian Museum of Natural History, where she studied their collection of the Hateg fauna and Nopcsa archival material. After the workshop, she traveled to Italy, where she worked with Fabio della Vechia on the footprints of nearby Croatia and new Late Cretaceous material from Triest. Thanks go to friends and colleagues for their hospitality while in Quillan, Budapest, and Triest.

Field work in the Hateg Basin was very productive this summer. Working with a large crew, including visitors from Italy (among them, Fabio della Vechia), we collected remains of the ornithopods *Rhabdodon* and *Telmatosaurus*, the sauropod *Magyarosaurus*, what appears to be the braincase of a new theropod, fragmentary pterosaur material, and what may be the first articulated lizard specimen from the Basin.

Immediately following the field work Jianu attended the Hateg Symposium, where she presented a talk on the ancestry of Franz Baron Nopcsa. This study, as well as other aspects of Nopcsa=s life and family history and work on *Rhabdodon*, *Allodaposuchus*, and other members of the Hateg fauna, are in progress. (Cora Jianu)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region

Brown University and the University of Rhode Island

For Dave Fastovsky (URI) it was a long summer, with ten days at home from May 17BAugust 15. Dave spent the first part of the season in Mexico with incoming Syracuse paleontology graduate student (ex-URI undergraduate) Nicole Bonuso. They were obtaining 30 m of core from the Tepexi de Rodrigues quarry (a fish/reptile/plant/invertebrate lagerstatte) to attempt to determine the environment of deposition. At present, there is a lot of latitute for interpretation: our options are shallow marine, deep marine, and estuarine! During the same trip Fastovsky also reported a new zircon radiometric age date for the Huizachal Canyon section from northeastern Mexico at the meeting AII Convencion Sobre la Evolution Geologica de Mexico y Recursos Asociados.@ The Mexicans tolerated his talk in English.

After that it was on to Mongolia for six weeks with plant reprobates K. R. Johnson and D. J. Nichols, and paleomagician J. Hicks. After logging hundreds of meters of section at Khermin-tsav, Naran Bolak, and Tsagan Koshu, it looks as though we have a good start on finally locking in (in time) the CretaceousBOligocene section of the western Gobi Desert. To wit, it would be nice to contain the ages of creatures like *Tarbosaurus* and *Velociraptor* to something more precise than ?SantonianBMaastrichtian! We hope to see results some time in the coming spring.

Two new master=s students, Alisa Herrick and FranHois Therrien, have joined the URI program. Both are interested in becoming vertebrate paleontologists. Alisa hopes to work

in sediments of the Petrified Forest of Arizona for her degree, while FranHois may be be looking at trackways in the CT valley.

Steve Gatesy and grad student Kevin Middleton (Brown) are continuing their investigation of theropod footprints from Greenland in collaboration with Farish Jenkins and Neil Shubin. Kevin is starting his second year in our department and is studying leaping in birds and lizards to learn more about the origin of flight. Kevin and Steve are also involved in analyses of theropod limb design. Amanda Tyson, a recent graduate, now helping to organize the collections at the Field Museum, Chicago, is working on the evolution of tail flexibility in theropods and will be presenting her work at SVP.

Christine Janis (Brown) spent the first part of the summer in Europe, and attended the meeting of the International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology at Bristol (Steve and Kevin were there, also). The rest of the summer she has spent holed up at home, working either on copy editing the galleys for AThe Evolution of Tertiary Mammals of North America@ (Volume 1Cand wondering if she=ll ever recover sufficently in her lifetime to get around to organizing Volume 2), and rewriting chapters for the fifth edition of AVertebrate Life.@

All of us at Brown are delighted to welcome Jessica Theodor, previously from Berkeley, as our new anatomy postdoc. Christine and Jessica both hope that her teaching obligations will still leave enough time for them to do some work together. With an even greater diversity of local paleontologists, including Jack Sepkoski here with Christine for the fall semester, we=ll be making every effort to get GRIPS (Greater Rhode Island Paleontological Society) off the ground and running again this year. (Christine Janis).

Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Ray Bernor, Miranda Armour-Chelu, and their F_1 Daniel returned from a one-year Humboldt-sponsored sabbatical in Karlsruhe, Germany. It was a wonderful year, free to enjoy Europe and finish/begin several projects. Foremost was the completion of the Hoewenegg hipparion monograph which now sits in the printer=s office with final, final corrections to be completed for printing by the end of September. Ray and Miranda made long visits to work with Laszlo Kordos in Budapest, Lars Werdelin in Stockholm, and Mikael Fortelius in Helsinki. Miranda and Ray are engaged in a number of western Eurasian and African faunal projects which are sure to keep them busy until the next sabbatical. Ray=s co-edited volume with Volker Fahlbusch and Hans-Walter Mittmann, AThe Evolution of Western Eurasian Neogene Mammal Faunas,@ appeared at the end of 1996 with Columbia University Press.

Daryl Domning closed out his sabbatical year with a short visit to Vienna, Austria, to help assemble a skeletal cast of the Early Miocene seacow *Metaxytherium krahuletzi* for a forthcoming display and to work on a monograph on this species, bones of which he and his Austrian colleagues have been excavating for several years. This was followed by two weeks of field work in southern France, where the Taulanne fossil quarry continues to yield numerous bones of Late Eocene sirenians. Claire Sagne, a student of Pascal

Tassy in Paris, will be writing a thesis on these specimens, and the Geological Reserve of Haute-Provence is preserving part of the quarry as a permanent outdoor exhibit, featuring under glass a huge dip slope covered with sirenian bones. A related interpretive display will be the centerpiece of a new museum in the nearby town of Castellane. The official public openings of both exhibits are scheduled for next summer.

Taseer Hussain continues with his Eocene work in Pakistan and his global-warming and human-health project. We hope that Taseer will give us a more extensive update in the next SVP news cycle.

Nardos Fessaha continues writing her dissertation on the suids of Hadar (Ethiopia), as well as work with Ray, Mikael Fortelius, and Miranda Armour-Chelu on European Miocene suids. Irina Koretsky, together with Bob Emry of the Smithsonian, is still in the field in Slovakia, so check the next issue for a communiquJ on her results.

We regret the loss to our program of Maria Cole, who has moved on to bigger and better things (i.e., a tenure-track job) at the University of Health Sciences in Kansas City, Missouri. Good luck, Maria! Carl Terranova is still with us, however, reliably buttressing our anatomy teaching program as fall semester begins and several months of darkness again descend on our research activities. (Daryl Domning)

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

Ken Rose ran another successful field season in the Wasatchian Willwood Formation, Wyoming, this July, despite the wettest weather for decades. Our field crew included Tom Bown and Don Kron (University of Colorado), as well as students from Germany (Ingo Raufuss and Friederike Bungenstock, University of Bonn), Canada (Amy Chew, University of Toronto, and Mary Silcox, Johns Hopkins), Japan (Naoko Egi, Johns Hopkins), and the U. S. (Jay Mussell, Johns Hopkins). We enjoyed visits from Tab Rasmussen (Washington University), Scott Wing (Smithsonian), Vin and Kay Morgan (Granger Papers Project), Suzanne Walker (Humboldt State), and Beth Strasser and friends (Sacramento State). Notable finds included a skull of *Esthonyx*, a number of well-preserved omomyid jaws, and further extensive microvertebrate finds from quarrying and screenwashing.

Ongoing projects in the Rose lab include analyses of leptictid and palaeanodont skeletons (Rose, Bob Emry, and Spencer Lucas), and rodent postcrania (Brenda Chinnery and Rose). Mary Silcox and Ken Rose are continuing work on Wasatchian quarry deposits, and on a stratophenetic study of *Diacodexis*. Recently completed studies include an analysis of a skull of *Cantius* (Rose, Ross MacPhee, and John Alexander), and the description of a new, exceptionally small species of *Batodonoides* (Rose, Jon Bloch, and Phil Gingerich). Publications have included articles on the skeletons of *Homogalax* (Rose, *Palaeovertebrata*) and Eocene miacoid carnivores (Heinrich and Rose, *Palaeontology*).

Jay Mussell was accepted as a graduate student in the Functional Anatomy and Evolution program to work with Ken Rose, and is currently studying humerus function in palaeanodonts and other diggers. (Mary Silcox)

Dave Weishampel attended the Second European Workshop on Vertebrate Palaeontology in Quillan, France, in early May. Thanks to the organizers for putting together a successful meeting; it was great to meet and reestablish ties with so many friends and colleagues.

In July, Dave was in Romania, conducting field work in the Hateg Basin with Cora Jianu (Muzeul Civilizatiei Dacice si Romane Deva). Despite the rain and near flood, we had a great and successful season, with lots of new material and plans for future projects.

Biographical research on Franz Baron Nopcsa with Jianu is continuing, with more archival material than we expected. In addition, a paper on *Montanoceratops* (senior author Brenda Chinnery), as well as contributions to ADino Fest 2@ and AThe Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs@ should be coming out soon. (Dave Weishampel)

National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

A quick update from the National Museum of Natural History. A more detailed update will come for the next issue. Fred Grady spent two weeks on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, assisting Tim Heaton in collecting more Pleistocene vertebrates from two caves. Later Fred went to Hagerman National Monument, Idaho, to assist Greg McDonald and his crew at the horse quarry for a month. Fred also attended the National Speleological Society convention in Missouri and gave two presentations. He also got to go into Cherokee Cave where some 50 years ago G. G. Simpson recovered *Platygonus* remains and other Pleistocene vertebrates.

Bob Purdy is busy putting the finishing touches on the Lee Creek manuscript; by the time you read this it should be submitted to the SI Press. Shelly Applegate is making slow progress in the revision of the lamnoid sharks. He was happy to find Andrew Martin=s DNA work supports his conclusions based on the fossil tooth sets. He has found over 800 lamnoid species; many of these are based on variations that occur in the dentitions of living species. It is evident that paleontologists have not studied tooth variation in living species.

Ralph Chapman has been incredibly busy. He spent part of July in Spain as part of a symposium on dinosaurs of the Iberian Peninsula and went into the field to the Las Hoyas site with Jose Sans and lots of other colleagues. They were all great people, the symposium was very interesting, and some neat stuff came out of the field. Ralph also went to the International Trilobite Symposium in Saint Catharines, Ontario, in August and was part of three talks on trilobite growth and development. He is currently working along with Gene Hunt (University of Chicago) and Diego Rasskin on finalizing a bunch of research on three-dimensional scanning, mensuration, and modeling, mostly of archosaur material. Diego is on his way to Uruguay and Argentina to teach a class in

morphometrics and is currently working on various projects on archosaur morphospaces and functional morphology.

Mike Brett-Surman continues his work in Big Horn country, Wyoming. With the help of Erik Kvale (Indiana University), there are now eggshell and track sites in addition to the dozen bone sites. These range from the Sundance to Cloverly formations. Mike will be helping the BLM in preserving one or more sites for public education programs.

Speaking of Mike, a major project is well underway to conserve many of O. C. Marsh=s original illustrations that somehow ended up in our collections hidden away to all but apparently Ostrom and McIntosh who used some of them in their book AMarsh=s Dinosaurs.@ Mike rediscovered them and has been working with Mary Parrish, conservator FeiWen Tsai, and summer intern Jeff Dunbar on the first steps in properly conserving the material which includes some wonderfully neat stuff. We=ll keep you posted as the project continues. (Ralph Chapman)

The New York Paleontological Society

Marty Becker is completing his thesis work at CUNY on the dating of the Winonah Formation of Big Brook, New JerseyCa well-known late Cretaceous marine site in that state. His work focuses on the use of strontium isotope ratios in the enamel of shark and reptile teeth from the site, and has established a date of 82B76.5 myr. He has also used the ratios to correlate paleo shorelines and wave reworking at the site.

Jim Bourdon, while continuing his work on the fossil ray teeth of the Miocene coastal plain of the East Coast, has become interested in shed rates of teeth and dermal denticles in the pelagic stingray *Dasyatis violacea*. This hopefully may Ashed@ light on shed rates vs. relative abundance in fossil skates and rays.

Phil Stoffer, a member and graduate student at CUNY, has been collecting and studying fossils along the ocean beaches of Long Island and northern New Jersey. With almost no direct literature on these fossils, he has been working with John Chamberlain at Brooklyn College in an attempt to correlate these fossils with known regional stratigraphies, and to reconstruct Pleistocene shorelines, barrier islands, sea levels, and coastal current flows from the fossil distribution.

The Society has also instituted an educational outreach program to provide lectures/workshops in paleontology and related topics to area schools, both public and private, from first grade through high school. Due to the extensive teaching experience of many of the committee members and their distribution throughout the Greater New York area, these lectures will be offered in northern New Jersey, Westchester, and Long Island, as well as in New York City.

The Society helped with SVP=s annual meeting last fall at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. About 15 members volunteered a total of about 70 hours of work, mainly manning the preregistration and registration tables, but also

providing some muscle for taking down the poster session and setting up for the auction. The Society also had a table, providing information and literature on the geology of New York City and the geology and paleontology of the state. It also offered to SVP conference attendees AWalking Lunches@Ctours of the geology and design of nearby Central Park, and general geology of the New York City area. These tours, led by Don Phillips and scheduled not to interfere with any SVP events, attracted about 45 people on two tours; the third was cancelled because of the severe ANor=easter@ storm on the last conference day.

The New York Paleontological Society meets on the third Sunday of every month from September to May. Among last year=s speakers were Gordon Bell (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology) on the discovery of the first embryonic mosasaur, Scott Sampson (Research Associate, American Museum of Natural History) on conclusions about ceratopsian behavior from the fossil record, and Roger Wood (Richard Stockton College of New Jersey) on the evolution of the leatherback turtle. A monthly newsletter is also published, as well as a new annual publication, *The Spirifer*. (D. Phillips)

NYCEP (New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology)

It=s been a long time since any of the NYCEP VPs sent in news, but we have all been active over the past few years. Please also see our announcement in the Positions Available section about grad student and postdoc support.

At New York University, Terry Harrison has led active research in African paleontology and various facets of primate evolution. He edited a volume entitled ANeogene Paleontology of the Manonga Valley, Tanzania,@ which has just been published by Plenum Press in their Geobiology Series. This volume presents the results of ten years of geological and paleontological research at late Miocene and early Pliocene sites in north-central Tanzania. He is also preparing a chapter for Gregg Gunnell=s forthcoming volume based on his recent fossil discoveries at the early Eocene site of Mahenge in Tanzania. No mammals have yet been recovered from this important locality, but the collections include a splendid series of fish and frog fossils, as well as insect and plant remains. During a recent visit to the Kenya National Museum, Terry collected new data on lorisoids and *Proconsul* from the early Miocene of Kenya that will provide the basis for systematic revisions of each of these taxa. Among Terry=s recent publications is a long chapter co-authored with Peter Andrews, Eric Delson, Lawrence Martin, and Ray Bernor in Bernor, Fahlbusch, and Mittmann=s book on western Eurasian Miocene faunas; this reviews all Miocene primate occurrences between Spain and Afghanistan, with Terry concentrating on pliopithecids, Eric on cercopithecids, and both kibitzing on Andrews/Martin=s section on hominoids.

Terry=s students are also involved in research on a variety of projects of paleontological interest. Wendy Dirks is examining dental histology and life history evolution within the catarrhines. She recently visited the Anthropologisches Institut in Zurich to study cranioBdental specimens in their care. John Krigbaum is conducting stable isotope research on prehistoric materials from Niah Cave (Sarawak, Malaysia) and other sites in

Southeast Asia to interpret changing human subsistence after the Last Glacial Maximum. Eric Baker and Avelin Malyango are currently studying the forelimb in hominids, in particular the distal humerus from Kanapoi in Kenya. Varsha Pilbrow is working on dental variation and the species problem in Miocene hominoids and recently conducted research at a number of museums in Europe and the States. Chris Robinson is studying the mandibular morphology of *Australopithecus afarensis*. Elizabeth Ramsey spent part of the summer with Bob Anemone collecting Paleogene fossils in Wyoming.

Of the CUNY contingent, Fred Szalay has just completed a monograph with Friedemann Schrenk of Darmstadt on *Eurotamandua* and a phylogenetic analysis of the Aedentates.@ At present he is busy writing a monograph on the varied and abundant marsupial longbones from Itaborai with graduate student Eric Sargis. Eric=s thesis is the evolutionary morphology of the postcranium of tupaiids, dealing with intricate issues of function and phylogeny. Another student, Brian Stafford, is finishing his study of the evolutionary morphology of the skeleton of living Dermoptera, dealing in addition with aerodynamic issues of gliding in the Mammalia. Several smaller joint projects by Szalay and C. de Muizon on marsupials are in the works, as well as major efforts on marsupial osteology and the Cretaceous mammal postcranials of Kizylkum, Uzbekistan. Fred and Eric Delson are slowly moving ahead on the revision of AEvolutionary History of the Primates@Cas they are teaching a year-long course on primate phylogeny, this should spur them into greater activity.

Eric, as usual, is working on too many projects at once. The second edition of the AEncyclopedia of Human Evolution and Prehistory,@ edited by Eric, Ian Tattersall, John Van Couvering (both AMNH NYCEPers), and Alison Brooks (George Washington U) is due back from copy editing imminently and should appear by the spring. A long monograph on body weight estimation (and related topics) in fossil Old World monkeys (by Eric, Carl Terranova, Bill Jungers, Eric Sargis, Nina Jablonski, and Paul Dechow) is nearing completion. Eric recently completed a reconstruction of the cranium of Romanian *Paradolichopithecus* and returned the originals to Bucharest after a lengthy loan; an article about this population and its close relatives is in preparation. A variety of fossil monkeys (from China, Mongolia, Pakistan, Israel, Albania, and Africa, among others) are also being studied. This summer, with support from the Leakey Foundation and CUNY, Eric traveled to Addis Ababa to study new Ethiopian fossil cercopithecids, mainly those collected by Tim White and his colleagues in the Middle Awash. AMNH illustrator Chester Tarka and CUNY/NYCEP grad student Steve Frost accompanied Eric to take photographs and help with measurements and morphology, respectively. They concentrated on the hundreds of mainly isolated teeth from the Aramis localities (ca. 4.4 Ma) which also yielded *Ardipithecus*, but in addition they were able to study Omo, Hadar, Konso, and younger Middle Awash fossils.

Steve is now preparing a dissertation proposal to study African cercopithecid systematics and distribution, especially seeking to compare patterns of origination and co-occurrence with climatic records. Steve and Eric have also been working with Leslie Marcus on study of three-dimensional landmarks and curvilinear data (ridge curves) in cercopithecines, in order to examine both morphological patterns and systematic

applications. Katerina Harvati, another student working with Eric, had the opportunity to participate in several excavations and surveys of later Pleistocene sites in Greece in July and September. She is now developing a dissertation proposal to study aspects of cranial morphology in Middle and Late Pleistocene *Homo*, with concentrations on patterns of modern variation and the place of European fossil samples in human evolution.

Tim Bromage continues to codirect the Hominid Corridor Research Project with Friedemann Schrenck of Darmstadt. In addition to continuing work in Malawi (where the Uraha early *Homo* mandible was found several years ago and a fragmentary maxilla of *Paranthropus boisei* has recently been identified), the team has expanded into the Lake Manyara area in Tanzania. Second year grad student Shannon McFarlin took part in this summer=s research. Tim and Friedemann briefly looked into research in Mozambique, which will be continued by several of their colleagues. Tim=s long-time Aavocational@ study of Pleistocene deposits in Cyprus was funded by CUNY this year and resulted in the discovery of significant bone beds with a fauna of pygmy hippopotamus and pygmy elephant. One aspect of this work is to study a Anatural experiment@ in dental reduction, which could be compared to reduction in hominid dentitions. Several of Tim=s graduate students are working on projects in comparative morphology with applications to or sidelights in VP: for example, Haviva Goldman=s study of bone microanatomy and biomechanics of the human femur will include study of fossil such as Kabwe. (Eric Delson)

Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, Connecticut

We=re very happy to announce that Marilyn Fox has joined the VP staff here at the Peabody. She=s busy settling in and getting the Prep Lab up to snuff. Mary Ann says by the time you read this, VP=s on-line catalogue should be nearly completed. Look for us on the Peabody=s Web page at http://www.peabody.yale.edu.

John Ostrom extends apologies to all SVP members for missing the deadline for news for the last *News Bulletin*, where this report should have appeared. Many SVP members who attended last year=s meeting in New York remember the excitement caused by the photographs shown by Dr. Chen Pei-ji of Nanjing. The photographs showed what appeared to be a small specimen of *Compsognathus* that seemed to have Afeather-like@ fibers along its vertebral column. Don Wolberg of the Academy of Natural Sciences organized and funded a team of specialists to verify that find of August 1996 and to confirm the Afeather-like@ fibers, and, if possible, to inspect the field site in Lioaning Province of northeastern China. John Ostrom was asked to serve as the team leader. The team of specialists included John, Alan Brush of the University of Connecticut, Peter Wellnhofer of Munich, Larry Martin of the University of Kansas, and David Bubier of the Philadelphia Academy. In early March the team visited first the National Geological Museum of China in Beijing and later flew to visit the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology, the two institutions where the main slab and the counterpart slab are under study. Following that, we were taken to the field site in the northern edge of Liaoning close to the Provincial Boundary with Inner Mongolia, where the specimen was collected by a local farmer last year. The fossil-bearing strata consist of thousands of feet of very

fine-grained, thinly interbedded clays, silts, and tufts intruded by basalt and andesite. Most of the Lagerstattan faunas and floras occur within the Yixian Formation of Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous age and include a mixed freshwaterBterrestrial assemblage of birds, mammals, variety of reptiles, fish, arthropods, insects, gymnosperms, possible angiosperms, and palynomorphs. Most impressive are the abundant specimens of *Confusiusornis* with unmistakable feathers and the two slabs now in Nanjing and Beijing.

We agreed that that specimen is very similar to but slightly smaller than *Compsognathus longipes* from Solnhofen of Bavaria. The Beijing slab has been named *Sinosauropteryx prima* by Ji and Ji of Beijing. The counterpart slab in Nanjing is being described in *Nature* in press under a different binomial. Further preparation and study of both slabs will be required.

The team agreed that the fibers preserved in both slabs are not like feathers as we know them and probably will require chemical analysis to identify the protein composition to possibly resolve the fiber nature. Radiometric dates of the section are being determined. The whole team thanks Dr. Ji Qiang, Dr. Mu Xinan, Dr. Chen Pei-ji, and all of their colleagues. A long-term cooperative study between the Academy of Natural Sciences (directed by Wolberg) and Chinese institutions has been agreed to in principle. Wolberg is currently working out the details with Ji and the Ministry of Geology and Mineral Resources. (Gerry Parisi)

State University of New York at Geneseo

Bob Anemone and crew spent the month of July in the Great Divide Basin of southwestern Wyoming for our fourth field season in Paleocene and Eocene sediments of the Fort Union and Wasatch formations. We enjoyed spending some time in camp and in the field with Chris Beard and his crew from the Carnegie Museum and with Gus Winterfeld.

In addition to collecting additional Wasatchian mammals from a number of our established localities, we devoted a good deal of time this season to the beginnings of a quarry at our productive Clarkforkian locality and to prospecting for new Wasatchian localities in a new area in the vicinity of Freighter Gap and Steamboat Mountain. Both of these endeavors were very successful and helped make this our most productive field season yet.

New plesiadapiform primates from our Clarkforkian locality included several new specimens of *Carpolestes* and *Plesiadapis* (thanks to both Chris and Gus for spending some time with us at this site). Our last week was spent in the beautiful Freighter Gap area where we found several excellent new localities. One of these produced close to 75 mammalian jaws (many of *Meniscotherium*) in a few days of collecting, and another produced several complete turtles within sandstone nodules. Needless to say we were highly encouraged by our time at Freighter Gap and look forward to returning there next year.

Having just finished a paper on primate life history and human evolution (for a volume edited by Nancy Minugh-Purvis and Mike McKinney), Bob is now focusing his research efforts on a paper on the hind-limb skeleton and positional behavior of the Bridgerian primate *Omomys* (with Wenner Gren support and in collaboration with Bert Covert and Brett Nachman). Bob will be on leave from Geneseo this year and can be found in the Anthropology Department at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. (Bob Anemone)

University of Maryland, College Park

After several issues= absence, Tom Holtz has remembered to get his news in to the *SVP Bulletin* by the due date. To almost no one=s surprise, Tom is continuing his studies of theropod systematics as a main focus of his research. The forthcoming theropod paleobiology issue of the Portuguese earth science journal *GAIA* will feature an update of his 1994 theropod phylogeny paper. At 42 ingroup taxa and over 300 characters, it is a monstrous database (somewhat appropriate for a monstrous subject). Down the line (perhaps in the next millenium?) he hopes to produce a larger, more detailed monograph on theropod systematics, but hopefully this new paper will prove useful in the interim. Other forthcoming papers include work (with Dan Brinkman and Christine Chandler of Yale) on troodontid tooth morphometrics; ecomorphological aspects of theropod claws, jaws, and hind limbs; new estimates of the masses of the largest theropods (with Greg Paul); and historical patterns of carnivory within the Mesozoic archosauriforms (presented at the International Congress on Vertebrate Morphology at Bristol last June).

Tom will be presenting a new, preliminary cladistic analysis of the Tyrannosauridae at SVP in October, with comments on the validity of the genera *Gorgosaurus* and *Tarbosaurus*. He will also be discussing tyrannosaur paleobiology at next year=s DinoFest in Philadelphia, and more general theropod paleobiology at the International Symposium on Dinosaur Paleobiology in Lisbon. With Dave Varricchio and Phil Currie, Tom will be describing the Upper Two Medicine daspletosaur specimens that have been in the collection of the Museum of the Rockies since the early 1990s. Although he didn=t get into the field this summer (except for some Arundel sites, but given that they are within ten minutes of College Park, that doesn=t really count...), the last few months have been very busy with editing the *GAIA* volume, conferences, museum studies, and the requisite documentary filming and kids= books.

On the employment front, Tom is now on two-year renewable contracts (rather than one-year renewables) with the department. He has also been made Undergraduate Director for the department (i.e., undergraduate advisor), and had his teaching load Areduced@ from five classes a year to four. All has not been in vain, though, as he received the Honors Outstanding Faculty Award for 1997 for his class AFearfully Great Lizards: Topics in Dinosaur Research.@ (Thomas R. Holtz, Jr.)

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Willy Bemis attended Mesozoic fish meetings in Buckow, Germany, in July, along with graduate student Eric Hilton. They presented three papers: 1) skeletal variation in *Acipenser brevirostrum*, and its implications for fossil fishes (Hilton and Bemis); 2) development of the median fins of the paddlefish, *Polyodon spathula*, and comments on the lateral fin-fold theory (Bemis and Grande); and 3) biogeography of Amiidae (Grande and Bemis). The much-awaited monograph on skeletal anatomy and phylogeny of Amiidae and Halecomorphi (Grande and Bemis) is due out this fall as *SVP Memoir* 4. It will be mailed free to all SVP members. Willy was also a co-editor of a sturgeon book (Birstein, Waldman, and Bemis, 1997, Sturgeon Biodiversity and Conservation, Academic Publishers, Dordrecht), which was published this spring. The articles were simultaneously published in Volume 48 of *Environmental Biology of Fishes*. Willy has been extremely active this year in promoting the incorporation of a natural history museum at UMass as a repository for present and future biological collections.

Jin Meng has settled down in Amherst and survived the first year of teaching. Collaborating with several authors, he managed to get some research done, including a *Nature* report on fossil hair (with A. Wyss). His manuscript on the Bayan Ulan fauna (with R. Zhai and A. Wyss), dedicated to the late Minchen Chow, is in press in the *Bulletin of the Carnegie Museum*. A manuscript reporting new discoveries from the mid-Tertiary of northern Xinjiang (with W. Wu et al.) is in press in *Vertebrata PalAsiatica*. He decided not to go in the field this summer and spent most of his summer on the *Glires* project funded by NSF, of which Malcolm McKenna is the co-PI.

Gina Gould arrived in July as a postdoc contributing to the *Glires* project. She is also continuing her research on hedgehogs, getting used to the Amherst area, and enjoying the New England summer.

Margery and Walter Coombs were very pleased to see their taphonomic study of Morava Ranch Quarry, Miocene of Nebraska, published in *Palaios* in April. Margery recently completed a study of phalangeal fusion in chalicotheres, now in review, with Bruce Rothschild. She continues her textbook work with Kathy Munthe and involvement with the vertebrate fossil collections at the Pratt Museum at Amherst College.

Luke Holbrook defended his Ph.D. thesis on cranial and postcranial anatomy and systematics of tapiromorph perissodactyls in April. His paper with (S. Lucas), naming a new Eocene rhinocerotoid *Uintaceras*, appeared in the June issue of *JVP*. As of September 1, Luke begins a two-year postdoc at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine on Long Island.

Becky Mattison has handed her Ph.D. thesis, on avian pelvic and hind limb proportions as related to function and morphology, to her committee. She anticipates defending this fall. Susan Feeney (fox postcrania) and Tim Koneval (armadillo hind limbs) are also in the late stages of thesis work. Gina Semprebon has begun her Ph.D. studies of systematics and functional anatomy of dromomerycid artiodactyls and spent the entire summer in New York, mostly at the American Museum of Natural History. Leslie Coyle

is pursuing a master=s thesis describing a trackway of *Otozoum* from Connecticut, with comparison to other trackways.

The northeast section of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology (SICB) had its meetings at the University of Massachusetts last fall, with a number of presentations by the UMass contingent. Farish Jenkins= keynote address provided a riveting commentary on the early evolution of the frog pelvis. In the spring, Peter Forey joined us for a delightful marathon week of the British Museum cladistics mini-course. (Margery Coombs)

Southeast Region

Florida Museum of Natural History/University of Florida

David Webb enjoyed an excellent experience helping at the Hagerman Horse Quarry. He also learned first hand of the new visitor=s center on the Snake River from Greg McDonald and Neil King. Dave thanks the University of Nebraska group, led by Bob Hunt and Mike Voorhies, for their help and hospitality during his week in their fabulous collections. Meanwhile, back at the University of Florida, Dave is beginning work on an edited volume on the late Pleistocene and early Holocene records of the first humans and last megafauna from the Aucilla River.

After hosting three successful field sessions at Thomas Farm, Bruce MacFadden went to Hidalgo, Mexico, to attend a meeting. While in Mexico, he spent some time in the field with Oscar Carranza. Together they collected Late Hemphillian horses, including a skull of *Dinohippus mexicanus*. In July, Bruce went on a museum and national park tour in South Dakota and Nebraska. He returned to Gainesville to work with Nikos Solounias on a project involving stable isotope and microwear analyses to reconstruct dietary habits in six sympatric horses from the Bone Valley. Bruce has also made great progress with the Fossil Horses in Cyberspace Website, which looks better than ever. The address of the site is http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/fhc/fhc.htm.

The Department of Vertebrate Paleontology was pleased to welcome Dr. Barry Albright to the museum in early June. Having successfully defended for the Ph.D. at the University of California, Riverside, in March of this year, Barry moved to Gainesville to begin a postdoctoral position. Barry, Bruce MacFadden, Mike Woodburne, Carl Swisher, Ted Fremd, Bob Hunt, and Ellen Stepleton are all busy working in the John Day Valley where they will refine the temporal resolution of that famous sequence using a multitude of geochronological techniques. Barry has also been working on a project in the Hell Creek and Tullock formations of eastern Montana with Carl Swisher, Bill Clemens, Don Lofgren, and Lowell Dingus.

In August, we welcomed to the museum Bob Feranec, a new graduate student of Bruce MacFadden. Bob comes to us from Syracuse University, and intends to use stable isotopes to address questions in the evolution of ungulates.

Bruce Shockey completed his Ph.D. in the Zoology Department. His dissertation is a thorough study of the functional morphology, paleoecology, and systematics of some ungulates of the late Oligocene of Bolivia. He also recently received the Oliver Austin Award for museum-based research. His paper on the notohippids of Salla will be in the fall issue of *JVP*. Bruce has received an NSF International Research Fellowship and has moved on to La Paz, Bolivia, where he will be studying the radiation of North American ungulates into South America. We wish him luck. Bruce was a mainstay of the department, and he will be missed.

Jean-Louis Monfraix, a graduate student working with Bruce J. MacFadden, is completing his master=s thesis in zoology at the University of Florida. Jean-Louis has been developing quantitative techniques for making paleoecological inferences based on mammalian community structure. Indices of body-mass distribution derived from cenograms and species diversity within specialized guilds were used to build a global model of habitat structure. The model was then used to infer the habitat of mammals from the Leisey Shell Pit Local Fauna, one of the richest early Pleistocene assemblages in eastern North America. Jean-Louis will be giving a talk during the Romer Prize session at the annual meeting of SVP in Chicago this year. The title of his talk is APaleoecological Interpretation of the Leisey Shell Pits, Early Pleistocene of Florida, Based on a Quantitative Model of Mammalian Community Structure.@

In early June, Pony Express sponsored its first lab training session. Participants (many of whom have participated in the annual Pony Express field training sessions at Thomas Farm) spent a long weekend in the vert paleo collection learning the basics of specimen identification, cataloguing, and preparation. The program was coordinated by Erika Simons, with assistance from Marc Frank, Russ McCarty, and Art Poyer.

Preparator Russ McCarty is working on a crushed but very complete skull of an eremothere-like sloth. This skull, recently recovered from the Haile quarries, is perhaps the most complete specimen of a new taxon and is being described by Gerry de Iulius and Castor Cartelle.

Collection Manager Marc Frank has a dedicated corps of student employees and volunteers working on a number of big curatorial projects. For the second year in a row Bruce MacFadden has received a Research Experience for Undergraduates grant from the NSF; these monies have allowed us to hire undergraduate interns to assist in curatorial and research projects in the vert paleo collection. In July, Matt Smith, who had been working in the vert paleo collection and prep lab for the past three years, left to take a job in the prep lab in the Department of Paleobiology, USNM (Smithsonian). We=re sorry to see him go and wish him the best of luck with his new job in D.C.

This summer Lana Peterson, a middle-school earth science teacher from Longview, Texas, spent seven weeks working as a vert paleo collection intern, as part of the NSF-funded University of Florida Teacher Research Update Experience Program. Lana assisted in the processing and curation of fossils from the Thomas Farm locality, and was a cheerful and very productive addition to the lab.

Dennis Ruez, Jr. is working on his master=s thesis, which he expects to finish in May. His research will describe the lagomorphs and rodents from newly excavated Late Pliocene sinkhole sites in Florida.

Jay O=Sullivan, also has a work in progress, recently completed a series of measurements of the mandibular dentitions of *Archaeohippus blackbergi*, a dwarf horse from the Thomas Farm fossil site. These measurements were in part made possible by a visit last fall to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, where he was graciously received by Chuck Schaff and Dr. Farish Jenkins. Jay=s Ph.D. research addresses the paleoecological implications of dwarfing in the evolution of *Archaeohippus*. This project involves population biology, systematics, and analysis of stable isotopes of oxygen removed from tooth enamel by laser ablation. (Jay O=Sullivan)

Georgia Southern University

Richard Hulbert spent most of the summer Aon the road,@ doing research on Florida tapirids. Much thanks for the hospitality and assistance from the paleo folks at the Florida Museum of Natural History, National Museum of Natural History, and Charleston Museum. At this point two manuscripts have materialized, one on the tapirids from the late Miocene and early Pliocene, and the other on late Pliocene taxa. The latter includes description of a new species of *Tapirus* and an improved phylogenetic analysis from that which appeared in his 1995 Leisey volume paper on *Tapirus*. Any reprints dealing with Neogene tapirids would be most welcome, especially those on Asian, European, and South American taxa.

Our on-going field work on vertebrate-bearing Pleistocene shell beds in the Savanna region (see Pratt and Hulbert in 1995 *JVP* abstracts) has helped stir up some controversy among Quaternary geochronologists. Uranium-series dating (using the new thermal ionization mass spectrometric method) on corals collected from one our sites on Skidaway Island has produced an age of about 80 ka. Specimens from Virginia and the Carolinas have produced similar ages. The elevations of the sites imply sea level at 80 ka was near or slightly higher than modern sea level; that conflicts with most accepted sea level curves which have it much lower (!10 m or more) at that time. A multidisciplinary team headed by J. F. Wehmiller (University of Delaware) and K. R. Simmons (USGS, Denver) are working on the implications of the data. (Richard Hulbert)

Louisiana State University

Drs. Ting and Schiebout attended the Geological Society of America Penrose Conference entitled APaleocene/Eocene Boundary Events in Space and Time,@ from April 24B30, 1997. Suyin Ting made a summary presentation on Asia entitled AMammalian events at the Paleocene/Eocene boundary in Asia@ and Judith Schiebout presented a poster on the boundary in Big Bend in west Texas.

A recent contract to the LSU Museum of Natural Science (Judith Schiebout and Suyin Ting, PIs) continues federal support for research on the Miocene of Fort Polk. Support

from the U. S. Geological Survey for associated mapping work (Drs. Schiebout and Bouma, PIs) is also ongoing. The work on Fort Polk continues to be productive, both from bulk acid processing and surface searching, and we will be bringing some new fossils to show people at Chicago. Recent publications include: 1) Ting, S., J. A. Schiebout, and Zheng Jiajian, New pantodont records from South China, in *Palaeovertebrata*; 2) Schiebout, J. A., The Fort Polk Miocene microvertebrate sites compared to those from east Texas, in *The Texas Journal of Science*; 3) Schiebout, J. A., Paleofaunal survey, collecting, processing, and documentation at two locations on Fort Polk, Louisiana. Report to the Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District.

Schiebout=s Dinosaurs, Catastrophes, and Extinctions freshman course has been accepted by LSU for general education credit in science. She developed this course to appeal to nonscience majors and to give them a solid grounding in earth science and life history. She was an invited speaker at the Phi Kappa Phi Centennial national meeting in New Orleans on August 1, discussing her research, including the work on the Fort Polk Miocene, and the effect of a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship on her career.

LSU graduate Dr. Bradley McPherson, retiring from Centenary College, donated his vertebrate paleontological collection of approximately 4,200 specimens, mainly from the Pleistocene of Louisiana to LSU.

Julia Sankey is working on her dissertation, tentatively titled ALate Cretaceous vertebrate paleontology and paleoecology of carbonate-cemented conglomerates, Upper Aguja Formation, Talley Mountain Area, Big Bend National Park.@ In April she finished her paleomagnetic lab work in Wulf Gose=s lab at the University of Texas at Austin. She now has over 3,000 lbs of very fossiliferous rock from five closely spaced horizons, all of which are producing vertebrates (including mammal teeth from four of the horizons). Acid processing, picking, and identifying this material continues. Julia is also working on publication of her M.S. thesis on the vertebrate paleontology and magnetostratigraphy of the upper Glenns Ferry (Latest Pliocene) and lower Bruneau (PlioceneBPleistocene) formations, southwestern Idaho. She assisted with teaching an introductory geology course for LSU freshman based at LSU=s geology field camp outside of Colorado Springs, Colorado, for six weeks this past summer. Julia helped fund raise (from the oil industry) and lead a ten-day Geology Department field trip to western Venezuela, focusing on the sedimentology and stratigraphy of the Cretaceous marine rocks exposed in the Andes.

Incoming Ph.D. candidate Ray Wilhite spent a lot of time this summer working on finishing his master=s project on ontogenetic variation in the appendicular skeleton of *Camarasaurus*. He hopes to expand this research to include all North American sauropods for his Ph.D. (Judith Schiebout)

University of Tennesse at Chattanooga

As this is the beginning of my fourth year in Chattanooga, I suppose it=s about time I sent in a news report. It has been a very productive summer, and I have been able to finish up

a number of manuscripts. Included among these are a couple of chapters for Ron Singer and Mike Diamond=s AEncyclopedia of Paleontology.@ Also, with the able assistance of artist-in-residence Julia Scott, my monograph on the morphology of xenarthrous vertebrae is finally complete. In collaboration with undergraduate premedical student Daniel Branham (who starts medical school at UT Memphis this fall), a new phylogenetic study of anteaters has been completed. The study, an extension of Daniel=s undergraduate thesis, includes some particularly interesting results concerning the phylogenetic affinities of the Messel taxon *Eurotamandua* (details forthcoming at SVP in Chicago). Lastly, in a manuscript nearing completion, John Wible and I have continued our collaborative efforts with a analysis of the entotympanic in pangolins and pholidotan phylogeny. Many thanks to the good folks at the Field Museum and the Smithsonian for their hospitality during my spring breaks of 1997 and 1996, respectively, when much of the work for the above studies was completed. Special thanks to Bob Emry for providing access to unpublished specimens of *Patriomanis*.

In closing, I=d like to report the initiation of a field project in the Chattanooga area. Undergraduate Jeremy Bramblett, a dual biology/geology major (who, by the way, is looking toward grad school for fall 1998) is in the field with some local cavers looking for some promising Pleistocene microvertebrate localities to work as the basis of his undergraduate thesis. Hopefully we will have more to report on this in the near future. (Tim Gaudin)

Murray State University

A team composed of Bob Martin, Jim Honey (University of Colorado, Boulder), Pablo Pelaez-Campomanes (Universidad Complutense, Madrid), Ryan Hurt (grad student, MSU), Kelly Joy (undergrad, MSU), and Jessica Ray (undergrad, MSU) spent most of July and early August prospecting, collecting, and washing sediments in and around the Meade Basin of Kansas as part of a long-term project, currently supported by National Geographic, designed to study the evolution of the rodent community of southwestern Kansas. We were joined briefly by Rick Zakrzewski (Kansas, Hays) and University of Chicago Ph.D. student Francesca Smith, looking at paleosoils. We also appreciated a visit by Nick Czaplewski (University of Oklahoma, Norman) and former MSU student Cindy Gordon (Ph.D. student, University of Oklahoma). The field work was very successful, and a surprising number of new localities turned up in all temporal intervals. We have a considerable backlog of concentrate to pick over the academic year, which hopefully will be finished by the time next year=s field season rolls around.

Ryan Hurt will be working on the rodents from the Aries and related localities for his M.S. thesis. The Aries site, discovered by Jim Honey and Glen Izett (retired, USGS), is located north of the Borchers locality and sits above the Huckleberry Ridge and below the Cerro Toledo ashes. We are hopeful that new localities discovered this summer at various levels between the ashes in this region will have substantial microfaunas.

A paper by Bob Martin, co-authored with Ken Fairbanks of the math department at MSU, tentatively entitled ACohesion and survivorship of a rodent community during the past

four million years in southwestern Kansas,@ should appear in *Evolutionary Ecology* sometime next year. This paper analyzes the preliminary Meade Basin rodent database for turnover and also reviews testing of Van Valen=s Red Queen hypothesis. (Bob Martin)

Southwest Region

Mesa Southwest Museum, Arizona

Doug Wolfe is continuing his studies of the Amiddle@ Cretaceous Zuni Basin near the New MexicoBArizona border with Bob Denton, Jim Kirkland, and Brian Anderson. The museum and Dinamation will have an expedition to the area this September.

Brian Anderson is continuing his studies of Cretaceous dinosaur skin impressions from New Mexico with Spencer Lucas and Reese Barrick.

Bob McCord is busy with exhibit planning, taking over responsibilities for the paleo lab, forming a Tucson chapter of the museum=s Southwest Paleontological Society, and preparing five manuscripts. Three of the papers are on tortoises and two on Kaiparowits region herps. All should be submitted by the time you read this.

The museum is continuing with its premiere showing of the AGreat Dinosaur Extinction@ exhibition. We also have material from our popular AGreat Russian Dinosaur@ exhibit on display at the Flandrau Science Center in Tucson.

The Southwest Paleontological Society, in addition to the formation of a new chapter, is busy helping Doug Wolfe with his Zuni Basin dig. They are also preparing for their annual Fossils of the Southwest Symposium on November 15. Copies of many of the previous symposia volumes are still available from the museum. (Bob McCord)

Northern Arizona University

Larry Agenbroad once again spent his summer successfully searching for mammoths at the Mammoth Site, Hot Springs, South Dakota, and the Channel Islands, California. Larry is reducing his academic load to half time this fall in order to have more time to look at mammoths.

Jim Mead chaired two vertebrate paleontology-oriented students that graduated with their M.S. is Quaternary studies this past May. Al Pajak=s thesis was entitled AThe Upper ›Unnamed Sandstone= and the Irvingtonian General Kearney Local Fauna, Riverside County, California.@ Al worked at John Day Fossil Beds during the summer and will soon be residing in Texas. Blaine Schubert completed his thesis on APaleontology and Paleoecology of a Terminal Pleistocene Mammalian Fauna, Little Beaver Cave, Central Ozarks, Missouri.@ Jim will continue to be Chair of Geology for one more year and has also taken over as Director of Quaternary Studies. He is now advisor to the following master=s students pursuing vertebrate paleontology projects: Amy Morrison (Bidahochi Formation, Arizona, Hemphillian and likely older), Chris Jass and Phil Gensler

(AnzaBBorrego, California, Irvingtonian), Joni Osterhaudt (lagomorphs from Snake Creek Burian Cave, Nevada, Rancholabrean), Mary Carpenter (a locality in the Muddy Creek Formation, Nevada, Hemphillian/Blancan?), and Don Jolly (turtles from AnzaBBorrego).

Jim is currently working on a number of cave projects analyzing amphibians, reptiles, and mammals in the western U.S. with various past students (Chris Bell, Blaine Schubert, and Larry Coats). Jim and Blaine returned in late July from a research trip to the Western Australian Museum, Perth. Besides attending the well-organized CAVEPS conference field trip to many of the southwestern cave deposits (and wineries), much time was spent in the museum assessing specimens and starting a project on the analysis of Quaternary lizard fossils from southwestern Western Australia.

Note: A volume dedicated to advances in late Cenozoic cave paleontology is in progress, edited by Blaine Schubert, Jim Mead, and Russell Graham (Denver Museum of Natural History). The idea was organized in late 1996 and culminated in a cave paleontological conference at the 1997 National Speleological Society meeting in Sullivan, Missouri. At this point they are hoping to publish with the Denver Museum of Natural History. (Blaine Schubert and Jim Mead)

Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Rich Cifelli spent two months in Paris, working with Christian de Muizon on various projects dealing with fossil marsupials. He visited Frankfurt briefly, and reports that he was enormously impressed by the high-resolution X-ray laboratory of Drs. Storch and Habersetzer. After returning to the U.S., he worked in the Lower Cretaceous Cloverly Formation with various friends and colleagues.

Graduate student Kent Smith reports good progress on his dissertation during the summer. This fall he is developing a paleontology class and a field research course at Oklahoma City Community College, where he also keeps busy teaching general zoology, general botany, and genetics. Randy Nydam is the proud father of a son born last June and he continues to be excited about Cretaceous lizards, including a few newly collected specimens from the Antlers Formation in southeastern Oklahoma. New student Cindy Fordon is shaping up a manuscript from her masters thesis for submittal and is searching for a dissertation project. She accompanied the OMNH crew in the Cloverly Formation in Montana last summer.

All vert paleo staff are continuing the planning of exhibits for the new building. Kyle Davies is keeping busy mounting skeletons and preparing other materials for the exhibits. (Nick Czaplewski)

Vertebrate Paleontology Lab, University of Texas, Austin

Ernie Lundelius attended the CAVEPS (Conference on Australasian Vertebrate Evolution, Palaeontology and Systematics) meetings in Perth, Western Australia and

gave a paper in the Extinction Symposium. The meeting was well attended and papers on a very wide variety of topics from fish to mammals were given. There were field trips to various parts of Western Australia of interest to vertebrate paleontologists. The one to the Pleistocene cave deposits of the southwest of Western Australia enabled Ernie to see localities he worked in more than 40 years ago. It was gratifying to see that some have turned out to be important localities for Australian vertebrate paleontology.

Tim Rowe reports that he and Lowell Dingus have just finished their book, AThe Mistaken Extinction,@ which will be published by W. H. Freeman and Co., this October. Copies should be available by the fall SVP meeting.

Melissa Winans reports solid progress in the unpacking and curation of the newly adopted Midwestern State University and East Texas State University collections. These efforts were greatly assisted by the efforts of Jack Wilson, who spent several months unpacking and inventorying the MWSU collection, and long-time volunteer Deborah Sydney, who unpacked and inventoried the ETSU collection, and is now hard at work doing data entry of site, lot, and specimen records, and reconciling the data with VPL maps.

Chris Bell took up residence at the university this month as our new assistant professor of vertebrate paleontology. We wish him a long, happy, and productive career at the University of Texas.

Our new high-resolution X-ray CT scanner is now up and running in the geology building on the main campus. Although it is still going through the acceptance testing, we have already successfully scanned specimens ranging from tiny lizards to dinosaur skulls to Martian meteorites and diamond-bearing eclogites. The facility is available to the scientific community and we look forward to serving the VP community above all. More information and sample imagery and the services we can provide can be found at the following Web sites: http://www.ctlab.geo.utexas.edu/ and http://mmsgi02.cc.utexas.edu/gator/index.html.

Graduate students Robin Balinsky, Chris Brochu, and Mary Stewart Miller finished their degrees this year. Mary is now living in Houston; Robin and Chris are still in Austin. Robin=s master=s thesis is titled ARevision of the Pleistocene to Holocene Wilson-Leonard Microvertebrate Fauna and Its Paleoenvironmental Significance.@ She is currently working as a designer for a software company but hopes to get back into faunal consulting in the future. Parts of Chris=s dissertation on the phylogenetic systematics of Crocodilia and the remainder are being prepared for publication.

Pamela Owen is still digging into her American badger research. She was fortunate enough to examine plenty of specimens this summer during her travels to the Department of Mammalogy at KU (thank you Thor Holmes), the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (thank you George Baumgardner), the AMNH vert paleo collections (thank you Dick Tedford and Xiaoming Wang), and the University of Michigan Museum of Paleo (thank you Gregg Gunnell). Pamela has also kept busy educating the elementary-

school-age set about paleontology by participating in the Austin Science Fun Day (with fellow grad student Chris Sagebiel), and the AUTKidz@ summer program. This fall she is back in the classroom at UT teaching lab sections for the physical geology course. Chris Sagebiel is in the throes of writing his thesis on the mammalian fauna of Zesch Cave, Mason County, TexasCbetween stints of cave-crawling, contract textbook writing, and creature maceration. (Melissa Winans)

Rocky Mountain Region

Bighorn Basin Foundation/Wyoming Dinosaur Center, Thermopolis

Fossil excavation on Warm Springs Ranch, in Thermopolis, Wyoming, has been progressing nicely this field season. The density of dinosaur bone material from our Morrison Formation quarries continues to impress and inspire. Our ASI@ site has seen some recent work and some interesting finds. Attempts to expose more of this horizon have met with difficulty, but while working the site southward we began uncovering several cervical vertebrae in association and what may be part of a scavenged skull. The material has been identified as *Apatosaurus*, but until it is removed and prepared, positive ID is premature. ASI@ is what we believe to be a feeding site, and quite possibly an *Allosaurus* denning or ambush site. Over 500 bones from five different genera of dinosaur have been removed from this one area, many with both large and small tooth marks. All of these elements lie above a mudstone with numerous depressions we are interpreting as footprints. Ty Naus and Walter Stein recently presented a paper on this possibility at the joint Wyoming/Montana Geological Survey conference in Cody this past July.

Our Abone bed@ horizon has also yielded some interesting material. This zone is approximately 16B20 m below the base of the Cloverly Formation and represents a channel-lag or possibly a river channel deposit. Based on present bone density, we estimate that there may be as many as 250,000 bones in this single horizon from at least seven genera of dinosaur. One specimen appears to be a juvenile diplodocid of some kind. Three skull bones near the partial skeleton (a braincase, a maxilla, and a pterygoid?) may also belong to this animal.

On a sad note, the foundation directors Ty and Cheryl Naus have decided to return to college to pursue a higher degree. Their duties have fallen onto Walter Stein and Shawne Little, both from North Carolina.

This summer we held three children=s digs and a teacher=s workshop. Nearly 300 children from all parts of the country participated in the two-day programs. During the last kid=s dig, on a short excursion in the Sundance Formation, one 11-year-old boy discovered some thin bones that may be ichthyosaur ribs.

Staff of the Dinosaur Center will be working on some interactive displays for next season and putting the finishing touches on our *Camarasaurus* we plan to mount within the next several years. (W. W. Stein)

Dinosaur Depot, CaZon City, Colorado

Garden Park Paleontology Society=s Dinosaur Depot enjoyed a busy summer as far as visitation and field activities were concerned. Many groups and individuals were able to view continued work on the Aback@ side of *Stegosaurus stenops* in the laboratory. Our first ever basic field training in paleontology class was held with 13 attendees. Teaching consisted of ethics, legalities, and hands-on training in field work from basic prospecting to mapping, stratigraphy, and collecting by Donna Engard, Curator of Paleontology. Of those taking the class, five have become active field volunteers. Assistance in the actual field portion was also received from volunteers of the Denver Museum of Natural History. While no real finds of significance were made, it was evident that the Garden Park Fossil Area is a place that will need continual monitoring as time goes by. Participants were able to experience the Ajoy@ of working in such areas as the AValley of Death@ below the Cope quarries in the middle of summer with the attendant host of gnats! Pat Monaco, Field Research Coordinator, was off the part of the summer to Slovakia and Vienna, where she was able to see their exhibits of fossils and dinosaurs at their respective national natural history museums. With fall coming on, all of the fossils collected in the Garden Park Fossil Area will be curated into the collections at Dinosaur Depot. If you are in our area, please visit us or call 1-800-987-6379 for more information. (Pat Monaco)

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

Our excavations at the Horse Quarry were most successful with an abundance of bone and lots of good sedimentological data. We can now document at least two bone levels, one in a basal intraformational conglomerate and a second in an upper trough cross-bedded sand. The sediments indicate slow flow velocity and shallow water, resulting in a very different picture of the depositional history of the site than previously thought. Dean Richmond, sedimentologist on the project and quarry foreman, will continue the lab analysis of the sediments. Other members of the crew include Janet Bertog, Bill Fling, Jim Miller, John Buonincontro, Loren Schneider, and Chris Kinyon. We have also been very fortunate in having Fred Grady from the Smithsonian helping out for a month. In addition to the horse material, we have been screening for microvertebrates and Fred=s sharp eyes have spotted lizard, shrew, and rodents, such as a perognathine, material. A special thanks is extended to our many volunteers to the project including Liz Blom, down from Alberta, Matt Rolfes from Cincinnati, and the members of WIPS (Western Interior Paleontological Society) who helped out. Thanks to all of these folks= efforts we now have a huge backlog of material to be prepared. Volunteer preparators are most welcome to stop by for a visit. (Greg McDonald)

Idaho State University, Geology Department

Gus Winterfeld is in his second semester teaching geology part time, and slipping in as much paleontology as he can, as affiliate faculty here in Pocatello. He=s finishing up reports for paleontology mitigation of the Express Pipeline, in Montana and Wyoming, which he conducted last year. The pipeline is up and operational pumping crude from

Calgary to Casper. He also is back actively pursuing Paleocene mammals in south-central Wyoming. For part of the summer he prospected new and old areas on the east flank of the Rock Springs uplift with mixed success. The Black Butte Coal Mine has effectively removed most of the localities lower in the Fort Union section he worked on as part of his M.S. in the late 1970s, but there are plenty of new exposures to look at. It looks like the geology, particularly at the base of the Fort Union, has an extremely interesting geologic story to unravel. During one trip, he bumped into Bob Anemone and Dana Cope and their respective field crews from Geneseo and College of Charleston who are working the Clarkforkian and Wasatchian of the adjacent Great Divide Basin. Together they had a rip-roaring time by the campfire discussing life, paleontology, and the finer points of beer tasting. They also exchanged information and look forward to working together in the future.

Over the winter, in addition to teaching, Gus will be washing matrix from several new localities he found this summer in the Aflume room@ downstairs in the Physical Sciences Building. He=ll be back in Sweetwater County again next summer extending the search in the Fort Union around the entire Rock Springs Uplift. In addition, he is also actively researching lower Eocene deposits along the eastern edge of the Casper Arch, which appear to predate the Wind River Formation, but he hasn=t had the chance to put much field time in there yet. Next summer!

Denny Diveley is completing her M.S. work on the Mad Chipmunk Cave fauna in Nevada under the direction of Bill Akersten. She is shooting for a defense this fall and looks forward to moving on in her studies of Pleistocene paleontology. She spent the early part of the summer mapping the distribution of, and unsuccessfully looking for, fossils in the Yahoo Clay, a late Pleistocene lake deposit exposed at and around Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. She wishes to thank monument personnel, including Greg McDonald, for their help. The Yahoo was deposited behind a lava flow that dammed the Snake River. She spent the latter part of the summer visiting friends and family in New England. In September Denny will be attending a conference on Beringia held in Florissant, Colorado. In addition, she and Bill Akersten will be preparing a preliminary workup of the microfauna of Jaguar Cave. As part of this study she plans a trip in late October to the Peabody Museum (Harvard) to view fossil material from the cave. (Gus Winterfeld)

Sheridan College, Department of Geology, Wyoming

Over the summer months the students and faculty at Sheridan College continue to excavate new *Allosaurus* material from the college=s Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation quarry. Field season 1997 included three college credit courses located at the college=s Morrison quarry, and continuing the Department of Geology=s field research within the Cloverly/Morrison formations of the Big Horn Basin and northern Powder River Basin, Wyoming and Montana. (Mike Flynn)

University of Montana, Missoula

Work continues on the late Irvingtonian-age Fairmead Landfill locality in Mader County, California. The field crew, supervised by Diane Blades, is beginning the fifth year of excavation at the site, which now covers 14 acres. Bob Dundas spent the month of June out with the field crew to see how work is progressing. When they aren=t giving TV or newspaper interviews or tours to local dignitaries, the crew is recovering some very nice specimens, mainly large mammals, including mammoth, horse, ground sloths, camel, llama, and antelope. With all these herbivores, Bob told the crew they needed to find more specimens of *Canis armbrusteri*, which they did, a complete mandible and broken cranium, with some *Smilodon* thrown in for good measure. Howard Hutchison and Pat Holroyd from UCMP paid a visit to the site one day. Considering the amount of fossil material accumulating from the excavation over the past couple of years, thousands of predominantly large mammal specimens, Pat may wonder where she=s going to eventually store all of the specimens, since the UCMP is the site repository. A preliminary report on the Fairmead Landfill locality, covering the first year of excavation in 1993, was published in the December 1996 special volume of *Paleobios*. The fauna now totals 28 species. Also, in cooperation with colleagues Les Davis and Christopher Hill from the Museum of the Rockies, Bob is completing an analysis of the late Pleistocene Marrall locality fauna from southwestern Montana. Lastly, after letting it brew on the back burner for three years, Bob has finally completed the manuscript on paleobiogeography of the dire wolf (*Canis dirus*), which ranged throughout much of North and South America during the late Pleistocene. (Bob Dundas)

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

Jay Lillegraven spent most of the summer working with Jaelyn Eberle preparing for publication two major manuscripts on Lancian and Puercan mammals from the type Ferris Formation of Wyoming=s Hanna Basin. The first deals with geology, multituberculates, and marsupials, and has been accepted for publication in *Rocky Mountain Geology* (the 1998 successor to *Contributions to Geology*). The second is on eutherians, biostratigraphy, and paleobiogeographic relationships, and is in finishing stages prior to submission to *RMG* for review. Lillegraven and Eberle are also assembling a third paper that summarizes changes through the entire land-vertebrate fauna known from south-central Wyoming through Lancian and Puercan time.

John Burris finished a successful summer of field work and will begin writing his thesis this fall. He will use the reworked shark and ray teeth he collected from the Hanna Formation and surrounding Late Cretaceous formations, as well as other sedimentological and structural evidence, to address questions on the erosional/depositional evolution of the Hanna Basin.

Pennilyn Higgins is continuing her work toward her Ph.D. This past field season was spent collecting data in the effort to explain the unusual distribution of vertebrate remains within the lower 5,000 ft of the Hanna Formation. Otherwise, she continues to describe the Hanna Formation fauna expecting that this fauna will shed new light on the nature of the Torrejonian/Tiffanian North American Land Mammal Age boundary.

Michael Webb continues his studies and is excited about the prospect of doing research on the Late Cretaceous mammals of Wyoming.

We welcome Kelli Trujillo to the graduate program at the University of Wyoming. Kelli will be pursuing a project with Jay Lillegraven in the Morrison Formation of the northern Hanna Basin.

Brent Breithaupt (UW Geological Museum) continues to revamp the museum=s exhibit hall and develop new, public/education programs, as well as work on various projects dealing with the history of vertebrate paleontology in Wyoming and Mesozoic and Early Cenozoic lower vertebrate faunas. In addition to finishing a number of papers dealing with the early days of fossil collecting in the West, various projects on Wyoming=s microvertebrates are also nearing completion. The museum=s new fossil preparation station APaleoworks@ and a fleshed out *Tyrannosaurus rex* skull were unveiled during this summer=s ALost World Weekend.@ In addition, presentations by Michael Kohl and Tony Fiorillo highlighted the summer activities at the museum. (Brent Breithaupt)

Utah Field House of Natural History State Park

Things are changing here at the Utah Field House. Mid-March Alden H. Hamblin, Park Manager, was given the opportunity to work with the state of Utah and the Bureau of Land Management in planning the new Grand StaircaseBEscalante National Monument. His work will focus on the paleontological resources of the Monument that covers about 1.7 million acres of which nearly 176,000 acres were administered by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration. This is a formidable task and Alden has taken the challenge. This is a three-year appointment, allowing State Parks the opportunity to bring in new blood to the museum. As a result, we have an interim Park Manager, Michael M. Nelson. His interests are directed toward education, interpretation, and archaeology.

In addition to new personnel, we are also dreaming of a revitalized museum. To that end we have formed a team to prepare a plan for the future. Desperately needed is accessible storage and research spaces for collections, updated exhibits, user-friendly fee and gift shop areas, as well as educational facilities. Sue Ann Bilbey and Alden Hamblin (before he left) served on this committee. Numerous challenges have been discussed and more research will be done before the final plan is completed.

Sue Ann and volunteer Evan Hall have prepared an exhibit on A150 Years of DiscoveryCPaleontology in Utah.@ While researching the material for the exhibit, they found information that has led to the rediscovery of Marsh=s A*Megalosaurus*@ tooth locality near Dinosaur National Monument, as well as photographs of Douglass=*Dolichorhinus* quarry and one that fits Holland=s description of the sauropod leg bone found on his 1908 trip with Douglass near Dinosaur National Monument. Nearly 40 photographs are from the Douglass family collection, courtesy of Gawain Douglass. Next year this material (mostly photographs and perhaps some of the fossils) will be available as a traveling exhibit in Utah. (Sue Ann Bilbey)

West Coast Region

Occidental College, Los Angeles, California

Don Prothero and his student crew just completed several weeks of field work collecting magnetic samples in the marine Cenozoic of northern California, Oregon, and Washington. They also sampled the section at Blackhawk Ranch Quarry, so we=ll soon be able to resolve the controversy about the age of the early/late Clarendonian boundary in California.

Most of the summer was spent doing the final layouts for the paleontology textbook, which should be out by SVP time. The entire experience was an eye-opener. The book was done completely electronically using a PowerMac 6500, a scanner, and QuarkExpress (the standard layout/printing software used in the industry). The entire book went to the publisher on one-gigabyte Jaz disks, with no page proofs, pasteup, shooting, or maskingCno paper involved. The printer just takes the disks and converts them directly to film (line art, tone art, everything), and then straight to the presses! The publisher=s only contribution was reviewing, copy editing, and final page checking, but otherwise, we are now capable of producing books cheaply by ourselves, with no interference or delays from publishers! So if you=ve got a major book project in mind, but it=s too technical and limited in sales (as most VP books are), offer to do it electronically. It=s easy to learn, costs relatively little in hardware and software, and you can do the entire book in weeks and have it in print in just months! Just think, no more multiyear delays by editors and publishers, and no more overpricing due to the big production expense! Now if we could only do marketing and distribution ourselves, we wouldn=t need the publishers (and their huge overheads and markups) at all! Eventually, of course, everything will be electronic publishing, and paper journals and books will be obsolete, but for now this works great. (Don Prothero)

C BULLETIN BOARD C

DINOSAURS: THE ENCYCLOPEDIA

By now, come of you have already purchased this book I worked on for some 11 years and which was more than a year in press. Unfortunately, a book so large (about 1,100 pages and some 1,300 pictures) can inevitably bear its share of typographical errorsCsome of them quite embarrassing!Cwhich somehow manage to creep into the galleys at the penultimate moment and escape the scrutiny of proofreaders (myself included) and editors. Most frustrating in this particular case are the (thankfully) relatively few illustrations that inexplicably got printed upside down or with the wrong captions. As these errors (which will be corrected in the all new AVolume 2,@ to be published in 1999) are all painfully obvious to me as well as you, I ask the reader to try and understand...and to be charitable and creative (inverted pictures can be easily turned over). I apologize for any confusion resulting from these mistakes. At least the occasional misspelled taxon will keep George Olshevsky busy for a while when he prepares his next list! (Don Ared face@ Glut)

C CALENDAR OF EVENTS C

CAVEPS

The next (1999) CAVEPS (Conference on Australasian Vertebrate Evolution, Paleontology and Systematics) will be held at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, 6B10 April 1999. This will include a special symposium entitled APaleontology, Biogeography and Evolution of the Rodents of Australia and South East Asia.@ The convenor is Dr. M. L. Augee (m.augee@unsw.edu.au) and full details may be found on the new CAVEPS home page:
http://bioscience.babs.unsw.edu.au/CAVEPS/homepage.htm. (M. L. Augee)

C PUBLICATIONS C

NEW VOLUMES OF THE HANDBUCH DER PALAEOHERPETOLOGIE/ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PALEOHERPETOLOGY

After a long delay the Handbuch series on all fossil amphibians and reptiles, edited by Peter Wellnhofer, Munich, will continue to be published by a new publisher, Dr. Friedrich Pfeil, Munich. Until 1989, 17 parts of this Handbook series have been published, two new parts (in English) are now available, and seven more are still in preparation. The new volumes include:

Carroll, R. L., K. A. Bossy, A. C. Milner, S. M. Andrews, and C. F. Wellsread (1997). Lepospondyli (Microsauria, Nectridea, Lysorophia, Aistopoda, Acherontiscidae). *Handbuch der Palaeoherpetologie/Encyclopedia of Paleoherpetology*, part 1:216 pp, 111 figs; Munich (Verlag Dr. F. Pfeil). ISBN 3-931516-26-1.

This work is the first comprehensive description and analysis of the anatomy and relationships of the lepospondyls, one of two major groups of Paleozoic amphibians. All known species of all the different groups are described and illustrated. This volume provides the basis for comparison of lepospondyls with modern frogs, salamanders, and caecilians, that can be used for evaluating their possible relationships.

Sanchiz, B. (1997). Salientia. *Handbuch der Palaeoherpetologie/Encyclopedia of Paleoherpetology*, part 4:296 pp, 153 figs, 12 pls; Munich (Verlag Dr. F. Pfeil). ISBN 3-931516-27-X.

This long-awaited and very important contribution to the Handbook series by Dr. Sanchiz, Madrid, contains exhaustive information on all known fossil frog species, dealing with their taxonomy and systematics, phylogeny, and evolution, presenting a complete listing of frog localities and their stratigraphy. This very up-to-date work will be an invaluable reference for anyone working on fossil anurans but for neoherpetologists as well.

Both volumes, part 1 and part 4, are available from Verlag Dr. Friedrich Pfeil, Wolfratshauser Str. 27, D-81379 Mhnich, Germany. fax: *49-89-7242772, e-mail: 100417.1722@compuserve.com. Prices: part 1, Lepospondyli, US $83.00; part 4, Salientia, US $100.00. Price includes surface mail postage and packing worldwide. Credit cards and international money order checks (in DM) are accepted. Subscribe for the forthcoming volumes now: part 3A, Primitive Tetrapods and Temnospondyli (excl. Stereospondyli); part 3B, Stereospondyli; part 8, Ichthyopterygia; part 10B, Sauria maritima; part 12A, Nothosauria; part 12B, Plesiosauria; and part 17B/II, Theriodontia II.

All back issues of the series are still available, now at a 50% reduced price. Ask for the list and complete your series. (Peter Wellnhofer)

C POSITIONS AVAILABLE C

VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGIST OR SEDIMENTOLOGIST

Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences (Preparatory Office) has an immediate opening for a vertebrate paleontologist or a sedimentologist on continental deposits. This is a new position, funded for one year with excellent prospects for becoming long term. Employment conditions will be decided in annual contract after negotiation.

Responsibilities include participation in the Joint Paleontological Expedition of HMNS to the Gobi Desert, Mongolia, research work based on the specimens collected by the activities, administrative work in preparatory office, and participation as a curator in the planning of an exhibition on vertebrate evolutionary history and paleoenvironments in the new museum (HMNS).

This position will be responsible for working with the other staff of the HMNS office and Mongolian researchers and workers in preparing and performing the joint expedition in Japan and the Gobi Desert, and museum planning as a curator.

The successful applicant will have demonstrated communications skills in both Japanese and English, research abilities, and exhibition planning for the museum. Wide background in vertebrate and general paleontology and geology is required for an applicant in vertebrate paleontology; and for an applicant in sedimentology, that in sedimentology and stratigraphy on continental deposits (Mesozoic preferable) and basics of paleontology. Postgraduate degree or equivalent research experience is preferred.

For further information on this position, contact, by October 24, 1997: Mahito Watabe or Chikako Uenishi; Hayashibara Museum of Natural Sciences; Shimoishii 1-2-3, Okayama 700; Japan. Tel: +81-86-224-4311; fax: +81-86-233-3363; e-mail: jdb00042@niftyserve.or.jp. Applications will be reviewed beginning October 31, 1997. (Mahito Watabe)

ON-SITE CONTRACT FOSSIL PREPARATOR

New Mexico Museum of Natural History Foundation, Albuquerque, New Mexico, is seeking an on-site contract fossil preparator for the term of 1 February 1998 through 31 January 1999. Scope of work includes: perform 50% of the work to mount three large cast Triassic mounts, one small tetrapod and cast with subsequent trim, cleanup and tinting of full body mold of a large tetrapod. Individually mechanically prepare five large phytosaur jackets, a variety of small specimens and perform miscellaneous duties asociated with exhibiting Triassic fossils. Workspace, tools, and materials will be provided by us. Annual salary: $25,000.

Contact: Peter Reser, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, Aubuquerque NM 87104; ph (505) 841-2865; fax (505) 841-2866; e-mail reser@ darwin.nmmnh-abq.mus.nm.us.

Send rJsumJ and arrange for telephone interview before 31 October 1997. RJsumJs also accepted and interviews will be conducted at the SVP meeting in Chicago, 10 October 1997, in the graduate speakers= ready room 5:30B7:30 P.M. (Peter Reser)

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION/GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

NYCEP, The New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology, is a graduate training program in all aspects of the behavioral and evolutionary biology of primates, funded by an NSF Research Training Grant. The faculty includes over 30 researchers drawn from the City University of New York (CUNY), Columbia University, New York University (NYU), the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). NYCEP faculty and student research focuses on human as well as nonhuman primates from the perspectives of comparative morphology, paleontology and systematics, molecular and population genetics, behavior and ecology, and conservation biology. A description of current VP-related research at NYCEP is included in the news section above.

NYCEP is now seeking applications for a one-year resident postdoctoral position (at AMNH) to begin July 1, 1998, and for four to six graduate student fellowships distributed among the three participating universities. NSF requirements limit eligibility to U. S. citizens, nationals, and permanent residents.

Postdoctoral applicants should consult the more detailed notice in the October or November Newsletter of the American Anthropological Association.

The graduate fellowship program provides full tuition and a stipend of $16,000 annually for three years of coursework and a dissertation write-up year. Students formally enroll in the Anthropology Department at one of the three universities but participate in an integrated and overarching doctoral program which unites students and faculty of all five institutions. Minority students are especially encouraged to apply to NYCEP, and special funding support may be available to them. Application is made jointly to NYCEP and to one or more of the cooperating universities. Foreign students may apply for university funding and participate in all NYCEP activities other than stipend support.

Application forms and information about the postdoctoral position, all three schools, and the consortium may be obtained from Dr. E. Delson, Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, AMNH, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York NY 10024-5192; phone (212) 769-5992; fax (212) 769-5842. E-mail to NYCEP@email.gc.cuny.edu. All applications are due January 5, 1998. NYCEP and its component institutions are Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employers.

-OBITUARIES -

Alan J. Charig, 1927-1997

Alan J. Charig died on July 15 just two weeks after his 70th birthday, having suffered a severe stroke on June 12. He had been engrossed in the description of the postcranial anatomy of *Scelidosaurus* over the preceding months, but on the day he fell ill he was due to take a break in the Scottish Highlands.

Alan Jack Charig was born on July 1, 1927. He was educated at Haberdashers= Aske=s School, Hampstead, London, and then went to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1944. His undergraduate education was interrupted twice. Firstly, he did National Service in the Royal Armoured Corps and trained as a tank driver. He accidentally knocked down a stone wall during trainingCone of his funniest of anecdotes. Subsequently, after volunteering for an Inter-Services Russian Course at Cambridge, he served as a Russian interpreter in Germany from 1946 to 1948. On graduating in zoology in 1951, he remained at Cambridge as a postgraduate student, supervised by the late F. R. Parrington and gained a Ph.D. in 1956 on Triassic archosaurs from Tanganyika (Tanzania). After a short spell as lecturer in zoology in the Gold Coast (Ghana), Alan took up, in 1957, a post in invertebrate paleontology in the Palaeontology Department at the British Museum (Natural History) as it was then known; he remained at the museum for the rest of his career, moving to a position as curator of fossil reptiles and birds in 1961 and was promoted to principal scientific officer in 1964.

Life at the museum suited him well. A gregarious and sociable person, he enjoyed meeting the public, especially children, and was an accomplished and entertaining lecturer, having an especial gift for explaining complex science in an easily understood fashion. His collaboration with the BBC to write and present a ten-part series on vertebrate paleontology, ABefore the Ark,@ televised in 1974, and his authorship of the accompanying book of the same name, did much to kindle interest and inspire many who have now gone on to careers in the same field. His second semipopular book, AA New Look at the Dinosaurs@ (1979), had an even greater impact and was translated into several languages. He devoted his energies to exhibition work, too, notably a major contribution to the Fossil Mammal Gallery which opened in 1970 and gave way to the present Ecology Gallery in 1988. He retained his fluency in Russian from his Army days and took time out of his impossibly busy life to conduct classes in conversational Russian, including readings from the Russian version of Winnie the Pooh, for his colleagues in the museum. Alan also greatly enjoyed playing host and entertaining colleagues from around

the world on their visits to the museum. He was ever loquacious, although this was not matched, on his own admission, by a similar propensity in letter writing.

Alan was a clever and gifted extrovert with a lively intellect. He could be mercurial, frank, hilarious, and exasperating, and working for him, as I did for 11 years, was sometimes a challenge, but it was always stimulating and interesting. He was the sort of boss who always remembered your birthdayCand went to considerable trouble to find the right card. It was always a funny one, for Alan had a great sense of humor, often very self-deprecating. That and his ebullient, friendly manner and the inexhaustible store of jokes and funny stories, made him excellent company.

Alan worked particularly on dinosaurs and their immediate Triassic ancestors, but also on topics as varied as amphisbaenians, together with Carl Gans, and on a gastropod mollusc, *Thatcheria*, from the Miocene of Fiji. Although the naming of it had no connection with a certain Prime Minister, Alan was sufficiently amused to send her a reprint and was somewhat mortified that he did not receive any response. Despite extended periods of poor health, he made many original contributions to dinosaur science, including a hypothesis to explain the unusual pelvic structure in plant-eating dinosaurs which he referred to informally as Athe femur knocking on the pubis problem. Evolutionary theory and classification were a continuing strand throughout his career; he enjoyed vigorous and often heated debates opposing the gradual and now almost universal adoption of phylogenetic systematics and cladistic classification by vertebrate paleontologists. In the mid-1980s he found himself defending the Natural History Museum=s most famous fossil, the original specimen of the earliest known bird, *Archaeopteryx*, the authenticity of which was challenged by Professor Sir Fred Hoyle. Alan and other members of the museum=s staff were accused of not only concealing the alleged 19th century forgery but enhancing it here and there. He bitterly resented the many hours spent over the affair but he led the response, published in *Science* in 1986, with a characteristically robust and thorough refutation.

Alan had a great sense of our branch of science as a social community. He supported conscientiously the annual British Vertebrate Palaeontology symposia which began in 1952, while he was a research student at Cambridge, and he was proud of the fact that he missed only a handful of those meetings in 45 years. He was, however, renowned for his propensity to fall asleep during lectures. He did this invariably, but when woken by the applause still managed to be ready with highly relevant questions. He even nodded off while chairing sessions and on one occasion, actually fell off his chair.

Alan acquired an unquenchable thirst for travel through such youthful exploits as mountain climbing in Peru and visiting Timbuktu in a Morris Minor. Expeditions and field work were a feature of his museum career, too. He organized and led museum expeditions jointly with other institutions to many parts of the world: to Zambia and Tanzania in 1963, to Lesotho in 1966B1967 during which the oldest articulated fossil mammal skeleton, *Megazostrodon*, was discovered in rocks of Early Jurassic age, and to the Early Cretaceous of Queensland in 1978 which turned up one of the earliest herrings. The British Council=s AAcademic Links with China@ scheme afforded Alan a privileged

visit to China in 1979 with Stanley Westoll, Barry Cox, and Mahala Andrews. That proved to be the forerunner of a cooperative field expedition in Sichuan Province between the museum and the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Beijing, in 1982 in which Angela Milner and Ron Croucher accompanied Alan. In the following year, a rather less exotic location, a brick pit near Ockley, Surrey, provided the most exciting research project of Alan=s career, the unique fish-eating dinosaur *Baryonyx walkeri* from the Early Cretaceous.

Following his retirement in 1987, Alan continued to work at the National History Museum as an active retired researcher. He took up a two-month research fellowship awarded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science shortly after he retired; more recently in 1995, his travels took him on an arduous tour of fossil sites throughout Argentina with JosJ Bonaparte. His most recent scientific publication, a monograph on the Surrey dinosaur *Baryonyx*, jointly authored with Angela Milner, was published at the end of June.

Alan=s wife, Marianne, died in 1987. He is survived by his daughter Nicola, sons Mark and Francis, and six grand children. (Angela Milner)

Richard J. Seltin, 1927B1997

Richard J. ADick@ Seltin, Professor Emeritus of Natural Science at Michigan State University and Adjunct Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the MSU Museum, died of heart disease at his home in East Lansing, Michigan, on 22 June 1997. He was 69 years old. Dick was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 4 November 1927 and graduated from the Chicago Public School System in 1945. He attended Coe College in Iowa for two years before transferring to the University of Wyoming where he majored in geology. At Wyoming, Dick particularly relished working for two years as Paul McGrew=s field assistant and preparator. Dick received the BA at Wyoming in 1949, the same year he became a member of SVP.

After beginning graduate school at the University of Chicago in 1949 he was drafted into the U. S. Army, eventually serving in Germany, and was discharged as a sergeant in 1952. While in Europe he visited several classic fossil localities. Returning to Chicago to graduate school in 1953, he married Edith Hulet, a partnership that lasted for 36 years until Edith=s untimely death. Dick and Edith had three sons, Christopher, Kyle, and Jason, and one grandson, Patrick. At Chicago, Dick studied Permian vertebrates from fissure deposits in Oklahoma for his master=s and advanced captorhinomorphs for his doctorate. Both degrees were supervised by E. C. Olson, who was to become his longtime colleague and friend. *Fieldiana: Geology* published Dick=s dissertation as AA Review of the Family Captorhinidae.@

During his Chicago years Dick was a field assistant to Olson in the Permian red beds of north-central Texas and served as a preparator at the Walker Museum. Two fossils collected by Seltin were named *Trematopsis seltini* Olson, 1956 and *Kahneria seltini* Olson, 1962. Ultimately, E. C. Olson turned over his collecting program in the Vale and

Choza formations of north-central Texas to Seltin who collected in these deposits from 1958B1966. Occasional reports on the geology and paleontology of the Vale and Choza formations were to follow. These Permian collections presently form one of the most important holdings in the VP collections at the Michigan State University Museum and Dick was still preparing specimens from the Texas trips at the time of his death.

A dedicated teacher and administrator, Dick served at Michigan State University for almost 34 years. He first was Acting Chair, then became Chair of the Department of Natural Science at MSU between 1968 and 1984. He started as a Research Associate and finally became an Adjunct Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the MSU Museum. Dick served on most of the graduate committees in vertebrate paleontology and was never too busy or preoccupied to give his complete attention to any undergraduate or graduate student seeking him out. He was very active in various VP seminars in the museum.

Dick was deeply committed to the concept of general education and was very broadly educated himself. He enjoyed the finer things in life: good food, good wine, classical music, and foreign travel. But most importantly, he was a truly gentle and caring person, who was always cheerful and kind. He was exceptionally well-liked by colleagues and students alike. Dick SeltinCvertebrate paleontologist, teacher, administrator, and friendCwill be sorely missed by those of us fortunate enough to have known him. (Al Holman and Dan Brinkman)

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

By-Law on Ethics

AArticle 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 reponsibility 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 admininstered 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 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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1996B1997

As of August 28, 1997

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.

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