

# SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY NEWS BULLETIN

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Table of Contents .....	1
New Members.....	1
News from Members.....	8
Obituaries .....	24
By-Law on Ethics .....	26
Sponsors.....	26
Order Form .....	26
Membership Application.....	26
Contributions to the Endowment and Dedicated Funds 2001–2002 .....	27

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## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

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(Xiaoming Wang, international editor; [xwang@liu.edu](mailto:xwang@liu.edu))

### **CANADA** (Kevin Seymour, editor; [kevins@rom.on.ca](mailto:kevins@rom.on.ca)) **Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia**

Members of Brian Hall's lab have begun contributing short articles to the Palaeontological Society's newsletter concerning topics of interest to both EvoDevoists and paleontologists. The recent article can be accessed from the "PalAss" Web site ([www.palass.org](http://www.palass.org)). Tim Fedak (MSc student) is traveling this summer to examine prosauropod material at the ROM, AMNH, Peabody, Pratt, and MCZ for his research on the prosauropod specimens collected in Nova Scotia. Matt Vickaryous (PhD student) continues to gather embryonic material for his examination of dermal bone. (Tim Fedak)

### **Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario**

The Renaissance ROM Project has been approved the Board, and the \$150 million Phase One has been given a green light. Half of the money has been raised already, primarily from governments. A major architectural revamping of the building and expansion of the galleries will include a glass crystal by Berlin architect Daniel Libeskind. For more information (including photos and floor plans) go to our Web site at <http://www.rom.on.ca/>, and then to the section entitled "Renaissance ROM Project." At this point one of the ideas is that the dinosaurs will be under glass and visible from the street. Expanded paleo galleries (besides dinosaurs) are under consideration at the moment.

We have received the unfortunate news that in the short term, Chris McGowan will not be replaced when he takes early retirement in December 2002. Because Hans Sues is now in senior



management, we have asked for a contract curator for the life of the new gallery project. Stay tuned for developments.

We are happy to report that Ryosuke Motani has landed a job in the Department of Geology, University of Oregon—Eugene, starting this fall. We will be sad to see him go, but are happy that he will be employed. We wish him the very best!

Sanja Hinic successfully defended her Master's thesis on prosauropod relationships and is presently considering her options for the future. (Kevin Seymour)

### ***University of Alberta***

Paleoichthyological research in the Laboratory for Vertebrate Palaeontology is centered on descriptions and analysis of the spectacular Lower Devonian agnathan and gnathostome fishes from the MOTH locality, Mackenzie Mountains, NWT, Canada. Dr. Wilson currently has three MSc students—Chelsea Hermus working on ischnacanthid acanthodian dental anatomy and systematics; Jeffrey Greeniaus studying tessellate heterostracan anatomy, scale growth, and systematics; and Lesley George who is describing several osteostracan species with an analysis of osteostracan systematics. Gavin Hanke defended his PhD last October and currently is publishing his research (three papers in press, one submitted, and six in preparation, with much more to come); the present papers cover description of several new acanthodian taxa from the MOTH locality, redescription of several known acanthodian taxa, and an analysis of acanthodian systematics. Gavin also is collaborating with Sam Davis (University College London, UK) on an analysis of diplacanthid acanthodian systematics. Lisa Budney (MSc student of Mike Caldwell) has escaped from the shackles of squamate dental research and is collaborating with Allison Murray (Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa) on the description of new catfish. Dr. Wilson, Tiiu Marss (Institute of Geology, Tallinn, Estonia), and Ray Thorsteinsson (Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary) recently published a description of several new thelodont, or thelodontlike fishes from the Canadian Arctic; the same authors will soon submit a large monograph on this Arctic fish fauna. Dr. Wilson also is preparing a summary of Mesozoic fishes of North America. For more information, see the abstracts for posters and lecture presentations based on research in Dr. Wilson's lab which were submitted for the 2002 SVP conference in Norman, Oklahoma.

Research in paleomammalogy is alive and well at the University of Alberta. Craig Scott is continuing his PhD research on a diverse and exceptionally well-preserved middle Tiffanian mammal fauna from the Paskapoo Formation of Alberta near Red Deer, with the multituberculates nearly completed. Dr. Fox and Craig are revising the Picrodontidae, with descriptions of new material from the Torrejonian and Tiffanian of Alberta, and are also continuing a long-term project on mammalian biostratigraphy of the Calgary and Foothills regions of south-central Alberta. (Gavin Hanke and Craig Scott)

### ***University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario***

At the University of Guelph, Jeff Thomason continues his biomechanical studies of extant mammals with a view to providing data relevant to the interpretation of functional attributes of fossils. One of the latest escapades is a mechanical analysis of the dynamic function of cranial sutures in sheep. (Jeff Thomason)

## **FRANCE**

### ***Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille/CNRS-UPRESA 8014***

Last June, I had a visit from Valya Talimaa (of the Lithuanian Institute of Geology in Vilnius) both in the lab and at home. Valya spent a week working on thin sections of various groups of microvertebrate remains on the high-resolution microscopes of the lab. After that she went to the lab of paleontology of the Natural History Museum in Paris.

In the opposite direction, I went to Vilnius and spent a week and a half with Valya last September to continue our collaboration on the Devonian heterostracans of Severnaya Zemlya, making plans for our next group of publications on *Tesseraspis* and other heterostracans, and later on other groups of fossils such as some strange bits from the Ordovician.

I recently had Susan Turner (Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Australia) in the lab for a CNRS three-month term from September to December 2001. Susan and I have produced a review paper on the Ordovician vertebrates from all over the world (in collaboration with G. Nowlan, Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary) for the clade book of IGCP 410, "The Great Ordovician Biodiversification Event," to be published by Columbia University Press (B. Webby, M. Droser, F. Paris, and I. Percival, eds.). The corresponding database will be published in the *Annales de la Société Géologique du Nord*, Villeneuve d'Ascq, and a paleobiogeographic interpretation will be part of the special issue of *Palaeogeography-Palaeoclimatology-Palaeoecology* published after the international meeting on Early Palaeozoic Palaeogeographies and Biogeographies of Western Europe and North Africa, held in Villeneuve d'Ascq on 24–26 September 2001 (with J. J. Alvaro and T. Servais as conveners).

Earlier in 2001, I attended the 15th International Senckenberg Conference in Frankfurt, Germany, jointly held by an IGCP 421 and a Subcommission on Devonian Stratigraphy meeting, on 14–17 May 2001. I also attended the IGCP 410 meeting at the University of California at Riverside, on 22–24 June 2001, during which the results for the IGCP 410 clade book were presented.

Finally, my last scientific publication is a joint paper with Valya Talimaa, which had been orally presented during the Ninth International Meeting on Early/Lower Vertebrates held at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff in May 2000: Blicek, A. R. M., and V. N. Karatajute-Talimaa (2001) New corvaspids from the Lochkovian (Lower Devonian) of Severnaya Zemlya, Russia (Vertebrata: Pteraspidomorphi: Heterostraci), in Elliott, D. K., and M. D. Gottfried, eds., Ninth International Symposium on Early Vertebrates/Lower Vertebrates (Flagstaff, Arizona, 15–19 May 2000). *JVP* 21(4):639–650. (Alain Blicek)

## **INDIA**

### ***Geological Studies Unit, Indian Statistical Institute***

The members of the Geological Studies Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute were profoundly shocked to learn about the sad demise of Prof. Edwin H. Colbert. Ned had a long association with this Unit since his first visit to this Institute in 1964. He and Margaret Colbert joined the geological fieldwork with our VP team and visited several Indian Gondwana basins. He had been a major source of inspiration to all the VP workers of the Unit including the young research fellows.

Since our last report, sadly enough, the number of VP workers in the Geological Studies Unit remained the lowest ever. T. S. Kutty retired from this Unit in September 2000. Sanghamitra Ray, after successfully defending her PhD, left for South Africa where she is working on dicynodont bone histology as a postdoctoral fellow in the University of Cape Town. Her papers, "Endothiodont dicynodonts from the Late Permian Kundaram Formation of India" and "Small dicynodonts from the Permian of India," appeared in *Palaeontology* and *Palaeontological Research*, respectively. She along with S. Bandyopadhyay worked on the taphonomy of the Indian Permian dicynodont community, which is awaiting publication in the *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences*. One of her research works includes the sedimentology of the fluvial succession of the Lower Gondwanas of the Satpura basin of India and will soon come out in *Sedimentary Geology*. Her other papers on the postcranial functional anatomy of *Diictodon* and on a theropod tooth from southern Africa are also in the pipeline.

Tapan Roy Chowdhury, Saswati Bandyopadhyay, and Dhurjati P. Sengupta have been collecting taphonomic data of several vertebrate assemblages occurring in different horizons of the Indian Gondwana basins for a long time. They have finally jotted down most of their results in a paper titled "Taphonomy of some Gondwana vertebrate assemblages of India" which has recently come

out in *Sedimentary Geology*. Saswati, along with Fernando Novas, has published a paper on “Abelisaurid pedal unguals from the Late Cretaceous of India” in *Palaeontological Association of Argentina*. Dhurjati is trying to organize the scattered information of the Indian temnospondyls. His paper “Indian metoposaurid amphibians—revised” has come out in *Palaeontological Research, Japan*. His other paper “Triassic temnospondyls of the Pranhita–Godavari Basin” is due to appear in the *Journal of Asian Earth Science*.

Recently one of our young technicians, Shiladri S. Das, while working in the Middle Jurassic shallow marine-shelf facies of Kutch in western India, found dinosaur bone associated with brachiopods and ammonites. This has been published in *Current Science*.

Dr. David D. Gillette of the Museum of Northern Arizona visited the Institute in November 2001 to work on the dinosaur collections. This was Dave’s third visit to the Institute. (S. Bandyopadhyay)

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

### ***University of Portsmouth and Dinosaur Isle Visitor Centre, Isle of Wight***

2001 proved a busy year here at Portsmouth. Dave Martill, Darren Naish, and Stig Walsh were occupied full time as they tried to complete the Palaeontological Association field guide “Dinosaurs of the Isle of Wight.” This eventually appeared in July, frustratingly a few weeks too late to merit mention in the BBC “Live from Dinosaur Island” project (see below).

We welcome a new PhD worker to the department, Sarah Earland. Sarah, a Portsmouth graduate, is reviewing the vertebrate fauna of the Kimmeridge Clay (a project previously given to Owen Jones, now at UCL studying sheep ecology) and is already deeply immersed in the systematics of Jurassic fish. We also welcome Sasidhorn Khanshuba from Thailand, presently working on our undescribed Weald Clay valdosaur material. During 2001 we have enjoyed visits from Oliver Wings, Nick Longrich, Derek Briggs, and Mike Benton.

Julian Hume rose to stardom in October, taking the lead role in Wall to Wall TV’s program on the dodo, part of the “Extinct” series broadcast on Channel 4. Julian’s recent trip to the Seychelles proved productive with the discovery of new fossil material of giant tortoises and landbirds. The project on the Mascarene starlings continues and Julian’s paper on the Kosrae Island starling (see *SVP News Bulletin* 177) is soon to appear in the *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists’ Club*. Julian’s paper on the evolution of the dodo in art has now been accepted for *Archives of Natural History* while that on the history of the mythical white dodo, written with Anthony Cheke, has (finally) been submitted. Julian continues to make important contributions to paleornithological art and many of his works appear in Errol Fuller’s “Extinct Birds” (2000). He has also produced the illustrations for Fuller’s chapter on extinct birds for the “Handbook of the Birds of the World” as well as for a major project on flightless rallids by Brad Livezey (Carnegie Museum of Natural History).

Dave Martill seems to be constantly busy with work on Brazilian invertebrates and pterosaurs, though new discoveries in the Oxford Clay indicate that he might soon return to his proverbial roots (see below). Together with Mike Barker and others, Dave recently published work on the fish fauna of Alassa, Cyprus, and, together with chief technician Bob Loveridge, constructed a life-sized model of a giant ornithocheirid pterosaur during June. This is currently on display in the flight exhibition in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

In September 2001 Dave and Lorna Steel attended the pterosaur symposium held at Toulouse, France. Lorna spoke about the histology of some historical specimens from the Stonefield Slate while Dave, together with Dino Frey, Marie-Céline Buchy, and Helmut Tischlinger, discussed new aspects of the soft-tissue morphology of pterosaurs as well as new ideas on pterosaur flight biomechanics. Lorna and Dave are both currently writing up their various contributions and Dave and Dino are also putting the finishing touches to papers on two new Brazilian pterosaurs, one a

new species of tapejarid and the other a crested ornithocheirid. The latter is the specimen previously reported as having choked to death on a leaf (see *SVP News Bulletin* 175).

Summer 2001 saw the publication of our *Cretaceous Research* paper on *Eotyrannus*, with Steve Hutt as first author. The hypothesis that *Eotyrannus* might be a basal tyrannosauroid proved popular in the media and news of the publication made it into most major newspapers around the world. This was all good timing as the BBC series "Live from Dinosaur Island," broadcast in a prime-time slot during June, featured the hunt for further material of *Eotyrannus* as well as of its contemporaries, *Neovenator*, *Hypsilophodon*, and the Barnes High brachiosaur. Dave, Steve, Mike, Darren, and various others all got some screen time. The series proved to be one of the BBC's most-watched science efforts ever and the japes, misdemeanors, and rumors it spawned will no doubt outlive us all: Dave's on-screen experiences with Bill Oddie proved particularly memorable. What might not have come across was the number of significant finds made—enough, in fact, to justify a special volume of *Cretaceous Research* (currently in preparation). The series also provided an excellent chance for some fieldwork and I had much fun in trying to find a *Hypsilophodon* in the so-called Hypsilophodon Bed.

Darren Naish continues his PhD research on *Eotyrannus* and is currently interested in new information gleaned from the fore limb. Much of 2001 was taken up with work on a book for Dorling Kindersley; this appeared in September. Together with Langan Turner, Dave, and Arthur Cruickshank, Darren is writing up the Wessex Formation pliosaur that Langan and others discovered on the beach at Shepherd's Chine, Isle of Wight. The specimen is probably referable to *Leptocleidus* (and hence an important additional record of this rare group), but this is proving hard to demonstrate. In August 2001 Darren submitted his manuscript on the historical taxonomy of *Aristosuchus* and *Calamospondylus*. His paper (with Dave) on the Isle of Wight theropod *Thecocoelurus* is in press and at the time of writing he is putting the finishing touches to work on a giant *Sauroposeidon*-like brachiosaur from the Isle of Wight. Work with Dave and David Cooper on the pathologies observed in some Isle of Wight theropods and ornithopods is underway. Darren's son Will was born on 20 September 2001.

Throughout the summer of 2001, Stig Walsh played an integral part in our Isle of Wight fieldwork and also put a lot of time into the Palaeontological Association field guide. Despite these distractions, Stig completed his doctoral thesis (on a new Neogene bonebed from Chile) in August 2001. His viva was held in October and...congratulations Dr Walsh! Stig's paper on the avifauna of the bonebed, written with Julian, appeared in *JVP* 21(3) while his paper on the monachine seals, written with Darren, is in press for *Palaeontology*. Stig is presently preparing manuscripts on the cetaceans and penguins from the deposit and on the role that tectonics play in bonebed formation.

The final event of summer 2001 was the official opening in September of Dinosaur Isle Visitor Centre, the Isle of Wight's new dinosaur museum and the official replacement of the diminutive and over-crowded Museum of Isle of Wight Geology. The dinosaur and pterosaur models and skeletons in the museum represent months of hard work by Steve Hutt and colleagues. The text for the museum's display boards was written by Dave and Darren together with John Martin (Leicester) and Mike Bishop (Isle of Wight County Council) while Lorna was responsible, among others things, for renovating the "Walking With Dinosaurs" *Ophthalmosaurus* so that it could be put on display. The museum features the world's only mounted skeleton of *Neovenator*, a life-sized model of *Eotyrannus* and much more, and has proved attractive and popular.

Elsewhere in the British geological column, two of Dave's undergrad students, working in a Middle Jurassic Peterborough clay pit, were lucky enough to discover remains of a large specimen of the giant pachycormid teleost *Leedsichthys*. We hope to excavate the specimen during summer 2002. This discovery couldn't have been more timely as another of Dave's PhD students, Jeff Liston (based at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow), is currently reviewing this enigmatic fish. (Darren Naish)

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region (Robert L. Anemone, editor; [anemone@wmich.edu](mailto:anemone@wmich.edu))

Howard University, Washington, DC

Although we have not reported in since 1997, plenty has been going on in our lab all this time—we've just been too busy to report it! This summer we are facing a total upheaval and move of our labs and offices into newly renovated space across the street, so this is an apt time to bring you up to date.

Our doctoral students Nardos Fessaha and Irina Koretsky both graduated in 1999–2000. Nardos has gone on to a job at the National Institutes of Health, while Irina is still with us as an anatomy instructor/postdoc (and Research Associate at the Smithsonian). In fall 2000, two new students moved in to replace them: Brian Beatty and Shundong Bi. Brian has already finished and moved on (see below); Shundong is working on his PhD with Ray Bernor; and new student Lorelei Crerar will start a doctoral project with Daryl this coming fall.

After two years of studying the Late Oligocene desmostylian *Cornwallius sookensis* (now known from some excellent skulls and mandibles collected by the late Douglas Emlong), and twice visiting a *Cornwallius* locality in Baja California on Los Angeles County Museum expeditions with Larry Barnes and others, Brian Beatty has ably defended his Master's thesis on this interesting beast. He is now on his way to study biomechanics and comparative anatomy at Ohio University in Athens. We enjoyed having him with us, and wish him the greatest success in his doctoral studies!

While working on her PhD, Irina Koretsky was also Co-Principal Investigator (with Bob Emry) on a National Geographic grant, collecting terrestrial mammals and seals in the Early Miocene of the Vienna Basin, Slovakia (1997–1998). Their finds included a skull of a Badenian-age true seal (only the second of that age and the tenth one of any age known in the world). Her doctoral dissertation has just come out as a monograph (in *Geologica Hungarica, Series Paleontologica*, Budapest, Fasciculus 54), and she has several important works in press, including among others: a monograph with Clayton Ray on eastern North American fossil phocids; a report on the oldest known phocid (Late Oligocene, South Carolina; with Al Sanders); and the description of a new, very primitive seal from the early Middle Miocene of central Paratethys (with P. Holec)—all in *Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology*.

Suvi Viranta joined our department in fall 1998 as a postdoc/instructor. She has received research funding from the Finnish Academy and the Emil Aaltonen Foundation. She is continuing her work on spatial and temporal distributions of Miocene carnivores using the NOW (Neogene Old World) database; the first part of this work is still in review. After her fieldwork in Madagascar last year, Suvi has become more interested in Recent fauna, and morphometric works on Malagasy carnivores (with Luke Dollar, CERC) and on eastern coyotes and clouded leopards (with Carl Terranova, Howard U.) are in progress.

Taseer Hussain is now in the field in Pakistan (safe, we hope), and will report his doings in a future *News Bulletin*.

For the last three years, Ray Bernor and Miranda Armour-Chelu have had an active field research program in Hungary. Having completed their fieldwork at Rudabanya, they have pursued a collaborative research effort with Laszlo Kordos (Budapest) and Craig Feibel (Rutgers) surveying middle and late Miocene vertebrate localities around Lake Balaton. They focused their efforts particularly on the rediscovered Turolian locality of Baltavar, where they excavated for two years. This is a data-rich site that is being investigated now by Ray, Miranda, and several European colleagues. This work has further extended into the exploration of early and middle Miocene vertebrate localities of Croatia with colleagues at the National Natural History Museum of Croatia, Zagreb. Ray's graduate student Shundong Bi participated in last year's fieldwork and will work with Ray on the fossil suids from these sites.

Ray and Mike Woodburne are back at it again with their mutual interests in hipparion evolution. Mike's principal focus is on the *Cormohipparion* "occidentale-group" radiation as the basis for understanding the initial radiation of Old World hipparions. Ray meets Mike's interest by making a focused study on the early MN 9 hipparion radiation across Eurasia and Africa. Ray is further following up on the evolution of the *Hippotherium primigenium* group and newly recognized species of *Hippotherium*. Ray will further investigate the "*Sivalhippus*" complex, and in particular the relationship between the Indo-Pakistan and east African members of this clade.

Daryl Domning's fieldwork has also been fruitful. Work in the Lower Miocene of Sonndorf, Austria, led by Peter Pervesler of the University of Vienna, concluded satisfactorily with their 2001 publication (in the Senckenberg *Abhandlungen*) of a major monograph on *Metaxytherium krahuletzii*. A second field project in the Upper Eocene of Taulanne, France (led by Myette Guimar of the Réserve Géologique de Haute Provence), was wrapped up in even more spectacular fashion with the opening of both an on-site permanent display (a huge bedding-plane exposure full of sirenian bones, all under glass) and a new museum in the nearby tourist center of Castellane, mainly dedicated to interpreting the Taulanne sirenians. Study of these fossils was entrusted to doctoral student Claire Sagne (MNHN, Paris) for her dissertation, which she successfully defended in fall 2001. This proved a happy choice indeed, as she worked up a painstaking and insightful cladistic analysis, using many original characters, which convincingly showed that the Taulanne sirenians represent not garden-variety *Eosiren* but a new species (*Halitherium taulannense*) likely ancestral to the familiar Early Oligocene *Halitherium schinzii* found all over Europe. This elegantly plugged a gap in sirenian phylogeny; but maybe even better was an unexpected byproduct: Sagne's analysis resuscitated an attractive idea (which Daryl once held but later reluctantly abandoned) that manatees (trichechids) are derived from protosirenids rather than from primitive dugongids!

Daryl's own field project at the Middle Eocene site of Seven Rivers, Jamaica, continued with the collaboration of Ross MacPhee (AMNH). A preliminary description of the Seven Rivers seacow, *Pezosiren portelli*, appeared in *Nature* in 2001. This four-legged, amphibious beast is a neat intermediate between terrestrial condylarths and fully seagoing sirenians. Replicas of the skeleton (courtesy of Jon Kramer's Potomac Museum Group) are, or soon will be, on display in Kingston, Jamaica; at Tokyo's National Science Museum; and in a traveling exhibit in the US. This Jamaican discovery was also highlighted in a new exhibit on sirenians at the Calvert Marine Museum in Maryland. Pending renewed funding from National Geographic, excavations at Seven Rivers will continue.

Thanks to its "missing-link" value as anticreationist ammunition, *Pezosiren* was also featured this spring in the *Reports of the National Center for Science Education*. In fact, more and more of Daryl's time has been going into essays, book reviews, and other activities related to the creation-evolution dispute, both its scientific and its theological aspects. At least this is an improvement over a couple of previous years in which the writing of repetitious review papers and encyclopedia articles seemed to soak up all of his research time. One of these, however, was a major and hopefully worthwhile synthesis of three decades of his work on sirenian paleoecology (*Palaeo-3*, 2001). (Daryl Domning)

**Southeast Region (Richard C. Hulbert, Jr., editor; [rhulbert@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:rhulbert@flmnh.ufl.edu))**  
**Florida Museum of Natural History**

Bruce MacFadden has been working on the Cucaracha mammals from Panama, an interesting middle Miocene assemblage from the Galliard Cut, former Canal Zone. He also has been editing a volume on incremental growth based on the Bozeman SVP symposium and writing a paper with Joann Labs, Irv Quitmyer, and Doug Jones on the Eocene shark *Otodus obliquus* from the Eocene of Morocco. Gina Gould and Bruce have a paper on body size and phylogenetic analysis submitted to a volume of the *AMNH Bulletin* in honor of Malcolm McKenna. Bruce and co-authors have submitted another paper on Florida sirenian isotopes. During much of the past year Bruce



also has been busy coordinating "Tusks!," a new traveling exhibit on Florida's Pleistocene mammoths and mastodons that is currently on display at the FLMNH and will then travel to other museum venues. In the spring Bruce taught Vertebrate Macroevolution to 16 students and led two weekend digs at Thomas Farm. In June Bruce led a museum trip to the Nebraska badlands.

Richard Hulbert and Art Poyer supervised 100 volunteers this spring at the second session at our new late Miocene site, Tyner Farm. Combined with the fall 2001 session, over 2,900 specimens have been collected with taphonomic data. Most common taxa are the rhino *Aphelops* and the equid *Nannippus*. Both are well represented with mandibles, crushed skulls, and limb elements. A significant microfauna is building as screenwashing of matrix and picking of concentrate proceed through the summer. A poster on this site will be presented at the SVP meetings in Norman.

Jay O'Sullivan successfully defended his dissertation titled "Paleobiology of *Archaeohippus* (Mammalia; Equidae), a three-toed horse from the Oligocene-Miocene of North America." Jay is helping Gina Gould with the fossil hall and Bruce MacFadden with the Tusks! Talkers weekend naturalist program, as well as teaching a lecture in the second half of the summer. He is interviewing for permanent positions for the fall, so watch out—Jay may be coming your way.

The FLMNH exhibition hall is making great progress with their new permanent exhibit, "Florida Fossils: Evolution of Life and Land." The 5,000-square-foot exhibit will have thousands of specimens on display, to include invertebrates, vertebrates, and plants. Signature displays



include a spectacular array of fossil shark jaws, a reconstruction of an Eocene limestone quarry with a Pleistocene fissure deposit, and a 12-foot-tall Pliocene deposit from the Sarasota shell pits, one of the most diverse marine invertebrate deposits in the world. To accompany these specimens, we proudly announce commissioned artwork by some of the most well-known paleoartists in the world, including Mauricio Anton, Rob Barber, Carl Buell, Jay Matternes, and David Miller, who will reconstruct some of Florida's most famous fossil sites. (Jay O'Sullivan)

### **LSU Museum of Natural Science**

A new report on the Fort Polk Miocene has been completed: Schiebout, J. A., S. Ting, D. R. Wilhite, and P. D. White (2002) Paleofaunal and paleoenvironmental research on Miocene fossil site TVOR SE on Fort Polk, Louisiana, with continued survey, collection, processing, and documentation of other Miocene localities on the post. Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District. Open-file report. Let Judith Schiebout ([schiebout@geol.lsu.edu](mailto:schiebout@geol.lsu.edu)) know if you want a copy and have not received it. TVOR SE Miocene site continues to yield surprises. I'll leave you in suspense until SVP and our poster, but the response of one person familiar with the site about a recent find was, "You're kidding!".

Suyin Ting participated in a research trip to Mongolia for work on the Paleocene/Eocene boundary in June, working with Meng Jin and Paul Koch, in cooperation with IVPP. Mike Williams ran our acid lab and supervised ongoing curation while Dr. Ting was in Asia and is beginning research on the Gulf Coast Miocene. Ray Wilhite is currently finishing up the portion of his dissertation on alligator limb musculature and continues to work on his computer models of sauropod hind limbs

Judith Schiebout has recently been notified that she will receive a 2002 Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Outstanding Educator Award at their annual meeting this fall. (Judith A. Schiebout)

### **University of Tampa**

Mason Meers has been at the University of Tampa for two semesters now, where he is part of the Biology Department. He currently has a paper in press on crocodylian humeral cross-sectional properties, including some fossil taxa. The paper, due out later this year, suggests that croc long bones do not respond predictably to Wolff's Law, presenting some difficulties with paleobiological reconstructions. He continues to revise a manuscript on soft-tissue anatomy in the fore limb of extant and extinct archosaurs, and hopes to submit it soon. Mason's fieldwork in collaboration with Richard Hulbert of the Florida Museum of Natural History was funded through several sources this year, and together, he, Richard, and countless volunteers recovered a new middle Pleistocene fauna which will be presented at SVP this fall, though there were very few crocs or alligators. This spring, he wrapped up his work with Walters and Kissinger (visit [www.dinoart.com](http://www.dinoart.com)) on the installation of a new Pleistocene paleo exhibit, Land of Giants, for the Fort Myers Historical Museum. The exhibit features specimens recovered from last year's dig. Mason's newest projects include a 3-D computer simulation of joint mechanics in the crocodylian fore limb, a collaborative project with Jim Farlow and Peter Brazaitis on croc limb proportions and body mass, and computer modeling of shark vertebral pathologies in collaboration with a number of individuals, though the paleontological connection here remains a mystery even to Mason at this point. He welcomes any contact regarding preserved vertebral pathologies in fossil chondrichthyans. (Mason Meers)

### **Midwest Region (Glenn W. Storrs, editor; [storrsqw@email.uc.edu](mailto:storrsqw@email.uc.edu))**

No news items were submitted.

### **Southwest Region (Christopher J. Bell, editor; [cjbell@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:cjbell@mail.utexas.edu))**

#### **Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, Corpus Christi, Texas**

This has been a busy and productive year at the Corpus Christi Museum. Last summer we presented an exploratory program for school children ages 7–12 in which they were exposed to paleontology and archaeology. "Mini-digs" were conducted on site, preceded by classroom work explaining field methods and laboratory techniques. The 10–12-year-olds also participated in an actual archaeological dig conducted by Dr. Robert Drolet, who jointly represents both the Museum and Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi. The program was so well received that we



are offering it again this year.

I had the fortunate opportunity to be in Las Cruces, New Mexico, this spring and was able to spend two weeks exploring the Abo Formation in the Rebledo Mountains. I was specifically looking for and found an extensive trackway of *Dimetrodon* tracks (Permian) mixed with various other critter footprints. It's a great exposure that would be an excellent exhibit and study project for the right institution.

Work continues on the "Taylor Mammoth." The matrix contains such a variety of faunal material that the work proceeds more slowly, to conserve it as well as the mammoth. Things look good for the coming year. (Gwen F. Hall)

### ***Mesa Southwest Museum, Mesa, Arizona***

Doug Wolfe continues his work in the Zuni Basin. He just returned from an expedition there, which included Brenda Chinnery, Sterling Nesbitt, and his loyal band of volunteers. He reports the discovery of many new sites! Doug is hard at work with the description of his coelurosaur with Jim Kirtland, Bob Denton, Tom Holtz, and Sterling Nesbitt. He is also excited about the arrival of the *Zuniceratops* mount from Bob Gaston.

Bob McCord is enjoying playing with his new Trimble GPS units. He is mapping in all his Cretaceous sites in the Fort Crittenden and the Shellenberger Canyon formations as well as mapping geology, to incorporate into the museum's GIS system. He also started prospecting the Cretaceous American Flag Formation.

The 111 Ranch project grew to include many collaborators. These include Bob McCord, Rich White, Andria Skaff, Larry Thrasher, Eric Scott, Mary Thompson, Greg McDonald, Dave Steadman, Ev Lindsay, Kevin Seymour, and Dave Gillette. We are planning to have a special symposium in January 2004 on the 111 Ranch and vicinity. We made many exciting discoveries at these old localities, and look forward to sharing them at the symposium.

Sterling Nesbitt, of Berkeley, is prospecting the Moenkopi Formation under a permit to the museum. He discovered the remains of many reptiles, amphibians, and a coelacanth. His most exciting discovery is a partial skeleton of a rauisuchian. Helping him are Bob McCord, Dylan Rust, Brenda Chinnery, Robin Whatley, and Tom Olson. (Bob McCord)

### ***Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona***

Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona, just completed the first year of its ongoing inventory of known fossil localities, starting with the vertebrate sites. To date (June 2002) there are over 260 documented vertebrate localities in the park, of which over 30% have been relocated and fully documented using photography and GPS technology. Due to a lack of data a good portion of the sites may never be recovered so if you conducted research in the park in the past and know where your dusty old field notes are, please send a copy to Bill Parker at the park. It would be greatly appreciated. A huge amount of data from over 80 years of research has been compiled into a usable database, but so much more is missing.

During the course of the inventory, much new material was uncovered and excavated including two partial phytosaurs, sphenosuchian material, and most notably a skeleton of the aetosaur *Stagonolepis wellsi*, which was excavated earlier this spring with the help of Dr. David Gillette from the Museum of Northern Arizona. In addition, much of this work was conducted with the help of GSA interns Sue Clements and Trent Hall, as well as PEFO interns Daniel Woody and Randall Irmis.

Drs. Adrian Hunt (NMMNH) and Sidney Ash are currently conducting research in the park. Adrian is successful in his continuing research regarding early dinosaur sites in the park and Sid is

finishing up and publishing descriptions of two of the trees. Starting in the fall, Barry Albright from the MNA and NAU graduate student Daniel Woody will begin another detailed project regarding the Sonsela Sandstone that will serve as the basis for the completion of a geologic map of the park.

Besides conducting the inventory and excavations, Bill finished a manuscript correlating the plethora of vertebrate locality names and numbers from the park. This paper will be released in the next *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin*. In addition, in odd hours outside of his 60-hour workweeks and getting married, he hopes to complete writing of his Master's thesis from Northern Arizona University, describing a new specimen of the aetosaur *Desmotosuchus haplocerus* and to begin preparation and description of the park's new aetosaur. (Bill Parker)

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

The important things first: program growth and our graduate students. In the growth department, we look forward to welcoming three new VP students in the fall: Christian George from Florida, Eric Ekdale from San Diego State, and Patrick Wheatley from Tennessee. Their personalities and expertise will add some interesting and exciting new dimensions to our program.

Three of our students moved into a new phase of their research this last semester; Ted Macrini, Chris Jass, and Gabe Bever passed their PhD proposal defenses and now can (theoretically) concentrate on completing their dissertations. We look forward to brilliant science from all three of them.

Ron Tykoski was very busy over the past year. He continues to spend much of his time preparing and examining theropod material from the Kayenta Formation of Arizona. This labor proved fruitful; he uncovered a good deal of new morphological information pertinent to his study of coelophysoid theropods. Ron also was involved with keeping the VPL's collections out of harm's way during ongoing construction projects. He was busy on the publishing front as well, and he and several co-authors had two manuscripts accepted in the *JVP*. These include a description of a new crocodyliform from the Kayenta Formation, and also a report of an interesting find in the skeleton of *Syntarsus*. Much of the rest of Ron's minimal "free" time was monopolized the past few months by frantic but successful efforts to rewrite (with Tim Rowe) the Ceratosauria chapter for the upcoming new edition of "The Dinosauria".

Chris Jass briefly defected to the world of invertebrates for at least one recently published paper on snails. His attention returned immediately to VP and he is diving into his study of middle Pleistocene faunas from the western US. Jonathan Franzosa continues to work on his PhD dissertation on theropod brain evolution. He recently reconstructed endocasts from *Herrerasaurus* and *Acrocanthosaurus*, and plans to present some of these results at the SVP meeting in the fall. Jeri Rodgers managed to find research projects in fossils and vertebrates, but the study of fossil vertebrates still escapes her! Her study of nannobacteria extended to the possible role of nannobacteria (still highly controversial) in fossilization. Meanwhile, she accumulated nearly 300 ruminant artiodactyl hearts for a detailed study of the occurrence, prevalence, morphology, and possible function of the os cordis (a minimally studied bone in the heart).

Holly Nance is spending the summer working on her thesis, which involves a study of the phylogenetic relationships among gerrhosaurid lizards. Her preliminary results will be presented at Norman. She is also working on a manuscript with David Cannatella on pipoid phylogeny. Dennis Ruez finished his fieldwork at Hagerman, and will try to visit a few museums as he attempts to write his dissertation. Both Holly and Dennis plan to finish in May 2003, making them Chris Bell's first graduate students to finish. All plans, however, are subject to change pending Bell's reading and commentary on the first few drafts.

The Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory (VPL) is still dealing with construction projects that hampered access to the basement and at times the main collection range. Collections Manager Pamela Owen is happy to report that the climate control system for the basement is about ready to go on line (the basement is currently cooling) and, as our summer gets rolling, the specimens are already "breathing sighs of relief" from humidity fluxes. Specimen access is still somewhat restricted, but we hope to be fully functional by the end of the summer. Please contact Pamela about potential visits to VPL or specimen loans.

Pamela is still busy with her curatorial duties and is preparing to move the Recent vertebrate skeletal processing operation to a new building (the former site of the radiocarbon laboratory) within the next month. She also managed to find time to present a paper on the cranial anatomy of taxidiine badgers at the American Society of Mammalogists meeting in June and continues her role as a consultant to the Texas Zoo in Victoria.

Chief Preparator Bob Rainey says he is happy to be back on preparation of *Deinosuchus* after a two-year casting and molding project for "Dino Pit," an outdoor paleontology exhibit at the Austin Nature and Science Center. VPL played a substantial role in the development of this project, which will be open to the public in the fall of 2002. Bob says "I will honor y'all with my presence at the SVP meetings in Oklahoma!"

Last year in Bozeman Ernie Lundelius was awarded honorary membership in SVP. We were all delighted to share in the celebration, but Ernie now seems to expect all local Austinites to honor him all the time. Getting used to this could take us some time.

Tim Rowe and Chris Bell are still here. They can still find their ways from home to the office and back (most nights). They are frantically chasing research projects and dodging committee work this summer in full recognition that their fall teaching load (collectively, five courses) might slightly restrict productivity. (Dennis, R. Ruez, Jr., and Chris Bell)

**Rocky Mountain Region (Brent Breithaupt, editor; [uwgeoms@uwyo.edu](mailto:uwgeoms@uwyo.edu))  
**Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office****

The Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite, managed by the BLM, was formally dedicated on 22 May 2002. This Middle Jurassic tracksite contains approximately 1,000 tracks preserved in an oolitic limestone in the Sundance Formation, and probably represents a tidal flat. Prior to the scientific study of this tracksite, the Sundance Formation was considered a wholly marine unit in this part of the region. The tracks, apparently all theropod in origin, range in size from ca. 8–30 cm in length.

The tracksite has been developed for visitors, and includes a wooden walkway overlooking the main track concentration, picnic tables and shelters, restrooms, and interpretive signs. It is located about five miles south of US Highway 14 near Greybull, Wyoming, and alongside the Red Gulch/Alkali Backcountry Byway. Approximately 150 people attended the ceremony, dampened by a cool rain. Several institutions involved in research of the tracksite were represented, including the University of Wyoming, Dartmouth College, Indiana University, and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. BLM's new Washington Office paleontologist, Mike O'Neill, traveled out to attend the tracksite dedication, along with two of the regional paleontologists, Laurie Bryant and Dale Hanson.

It was again a banner year in Wyoming for paleontological research, with 54 active permits representing about 40 researchers. Dinosaurs and Eocene mammals continued to be the big draw, but several consulting permits were also issued, reflecting a trend of increasing assessment and mitigation work, primarily related to energy development.

The University of Wyoming Geological Museum finished up a cooperative agreement with the BLM for exhibits and a brochure featuring Big Al, the *Allosaurus* collected from BLM-administered

lands in 1991. The University of Colorado Museum completed a synopsis of known paleontological localities for BLM's use in land-use planning and assessing impacts from surface-disturbing activities. This database, for use by BLM only, covers most of the important collecting areas in southwestern Wyoming.

The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology began a multiyear assessment and stabilization effort of a large, in-situ Eocene tree and related paleobotanical localities. This site is designated as an Environmental Education Area by the BLM and is visited by numerous schoolchildren in northeastern Wyoming. The tree, approximately 5 ft in diameter and 12–15 ft tall, was slowly falling apart due to exposure to the elements and past vandalism. Efforts at stabilization include assessment of subsurface structures, condition of the material, and future use. (Dale Hanson)

### ***Garden Park Paleontology Society and Dinosaur Depot, Canon City, Colorado***

Since our last report, major changes have taken place at Dinosaur Depot Museum. We completely tore out the exhibit hall just after Thanksgiving and were up and running again before the holidays. We have transformed from a white box with inadequate fluorescent lighting to a dramatic new setting with museum lighting. We have gone from visitor center interpretive panels with a predominantly historic focus, to three-dimensional museum exhibits interpreting the paleontology and geology of eastern Fremont County, Colorado. The best of the historic story is now portrayed in the new lobby area and in "notebooks" in the exhibit hall.

The highlight of the new exhibits is the first permanent display of the small *Stegosaurus stenops* specimen collected here by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in 1992. Our agreement with the Denver Museum for preparing the 6½-ton body jacket, was a full cast of the specimen prepared by volunteers working under Ken Carpenter. The cast arrived in the fall and was assembled and finished by our volunteers and is getting rave reviews from our visitors. It takes up one whole wall of the hall with Tony's Tree, our 20-ft Jurassic conifer log, lying in front of it. We have a Jurassic environment mural, the genus type dinosaurs of the Garden Park Fossil Area represented by replica skulls, and much more.

In our public view preparation lab, we continue to work on the Marsh/Felch quarry blocks borrowed from the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. These are the first of many blocks collected by Marsh in the 1880s which were never prepared. Our volunteers are having a great time working on this historic material, but there is a lot of complaining about the well-cemented sandstone the bone is embedded in. Perhaps this has something to do with Marsh not pursuing completion of the work on this "less important material."

This year's work included finishing exhibit details in the hall and working up a Discovery Room on the second floor. The new facility gives visitors, especially kids, more of interest. It also gives us the opportunity to pass on more of the story we want to get to visitors, in a way that is fun for them. Everything in the room is touchable and there are activities that can be explored informally by families, and more formally by school groups. We are also offering tours of the Garden Park Fossil Area and the Skyline Dinosaur Tracksite. If you haven't been to see us recently, we urge you to come take a new look at Cañon City's place in the history of the earth. For information, please call (800) 987-6379, access our Web site at [www.dinosaurdepot.com](http://www.dinosaurdepot.com), or stop by at 330 Royal Gorge Blvd. #A, Cañon City, Colorado 81212. (Donna J. Engard)

### ***University of Colorado Museum, Boulder***

It's been a very busy centennial year for our museum! We moved out of our old building last fall, which was then promptly demolished. The move into our new building was accomplished within two weeks, and we worked hard to get unpacked and settled throughout the fall and into the spring semester. With the help of a dedicated team of volunteer and student workers, our collections were completely unpacked six months after moving, but much work remains to be

done repairing and stabilizing specimens which received mostly minor damage during the move. Centennial-year festivities took place during spring 2002, and an associated exhibit featuring the research of past and present UCM scientists was opened in April.

Peter Robinson is looking forward to retirement in late September 2002, and has collecting plans in the Green River, Powder River, and Uinta basins this summer. Karen Chin had a busy first year here at CU and has lots of field projects to work on this summer, including an ongoing project in southwestern Utah. Emmett Evanoff is teaching a lot at CU and at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. This spring he and Paul Murphey cotaught a new class on the Cenozoic paleontology and geology of the Rocky Mountain region. Emmett also has a variety of field projects, including an ongoing project in the White River Formation at Badlands National Park, South Dakota, and in northeastern Colorado. Bert Covert recently returned from sabbatical leave during which he was continuing his field research in Viet Nam. Emily Bray continues her work on the eggs and eggshell from the Kaiparowits Formation (Campanian). She is also continuing description of eggshell from the Lance and North Horn (Maastrichtian) formations. Judith Harris is making great progress on her terrestrial paleoecology book, along with co-author Paul Murphey, and is enjoying retirement in Chama, New Mexico. Paul Murphey is excited to be teaching the new multidisciplinary field class for our Museum and Field Studies graduate program this summer, and will also be working on ongoing stratigraphy and taphonomy projects in the Bridger and Piceance Creek basins. Dena Smith and her students are working on a variety of research projects based on both fossil and modern insects and spiders. Malcolm McKenna, who is an adjunct curator at the UCM since his retirement, is busy with a number of exciting projects, including an intriguing Paleocene fauna from California. Dave Daitch is in the exploratory phase of his doctoral research, and will be visiting a number of museums this summer looking at modern and fossil carnivores. Joe Daniel is starting the laboratory work for his Master's thesis this summer, which is a study on the role of bacteria on the preservation of bone. This fall we are excited to welcome new Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology Jaelyn Eberle, as well as incoming graduate students Marie Worley and Amy Cleveland. (Paul Murphey)

### ***University of Wyoming, Laramie***

Jason Lillegraven and his students Jessica Scott, Kelli Trujillo, Burt Davis, and Regan Dunn continue to work on their respective research projects. The specimen catalogue of the Collection of Fossil Vertebrates in the Scientific Collections at the University of Wyoming is currently on line. Mike Cassiliano (Collections Manager) suggests perusing the Web site at [http://paleo.gg.uwyo.edu/Paleo\\_Home.html](http://paleo.gg.uwyo.edu/Paleo_Home.html). To conduct a search, simply follow the directions.

At the University of Wyoming Geological Museum, Brent Breithaupt, Thomas Adams, Beth Southwell, and Neffra Matthews (National Science and Technology Center, Denver) completed a fifth field season studying the Middle Jurassic dinosaur tracks of northern Wyoming. Several thousand theropod tracks are now known to occur in the eastern Bighorn Basin. Preliminary results and interpretations of their research was presented at the Geological Society of America, Rocky Mountain Section Meeting in Cedar City, Utah, in May. The title of their presentation was "Middle Jurassic dinosaur community dynamics in northern Wyoming: Theropod family values." Additional work on the fascinating life and times of this previously unknown dinosaur community will be presented later this year. In the museum, the displays dealing with "Big Al" the *Allosaurus*, the museum's *Apatosaurus*, and other Mesozoic animals continue to draw visitors and media from around the world. (Brent Breithaupt)

### ***Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum, Vernal, Utah***

Change is in the air as we face into building a new museum, constructing exhibits, and moving collections. Partnership between Uintah County and Vernal City with the Utah Field House has provided a new site for our new facility. So instead of closing for an extended period of time, the museum will close only briefly in late 2003 to early 2004 as we move into the new building. Our new site is still in downtown Vernal, just a couple of blocks east of the current museum. A group

out of Seattle is doing exhibit planning, so we soon will have an entirely new experience for our visitors.

Although most of UFH staff time is spent on the museum planning process, we manage to find some minutes for research. Steve Sroka, Park Manager, has two areas of interest—Morrison dinosaurs as well as Green River plants and animals. He is coordinating a seasonal dig in the Morrison Formation on Bureau of Land Management property near Dinosaur National Monument. Interagency cooperation has been great, as we work to recover a variety of dinosaur specimens from the interface between the Salt Wash and Brushy Basin members.

Sue Ann Bilbey continues to wear a variety of hats, which has allowed her to be involved in the discovery and study of several new vertebrate fossil sites. Of course, she and her husband, Evan Hall, are continuing to do research on and writing about the nearly complete sauropod recovered from the Williams Company pipeline near DNM in 1999. Evan and crew (Dee Hall, Alice Hall, and Kelly Buckley) spent a very intensive two weeks doing scientific photography of the entire specimen. A “photo” studio with professional lighting was set up in the UFH Geology Hall and scaffolding allowed them to rise high above individual bones. In addition, Uinta Paleontological Associates, Inc., has discovered several new vertebrate fossil sites during pipeline and well site monitoring in the lower Duchesne River Formation. As the collections made from the Uinta Basin are curated here, we are working with them and we are cooperating with Wade Miller (Brigham Young University) and his student, Steven Sandou, to study these important new mammal specimens. We are also relocating old quarries in the Uinta Basin, to further clarify the stratigraphy, sedimentology, and depositional environments of the Uinta Formation, its members, and the overlying Duchesne River Formation. (Sue Ann Bilbey)

**West Coast Region (John M. Harris, editor; [jharris@rcf.usc.edu](mailto:jharris@rcf.usc.edu))**

***Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center***

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP) Paleontology Society volunteers have recently focused their attention on the recovery of a pair of juvenile tusks from the Mammoth Cove area in the western Borrego Badlands. The complete meter-long tusks and some maxillary material are from an animal of about 25 AEY. Relatively high in the Ocotillo Conglomerate, they date to about 0.7 Ma.

Seven new volunteers completed the State Paleontology Certification Training in May. The program, which starts each year in November, is designed to teach volunteers those skills needed to assist in ABDSP paleontology resource management, and includes hands-on field, laboratory, and collections work.

Gary Girty and students, San Diego State University, report that a geological map for Picacho State Park, located along the Colorado River in southeasternmost California, has been completed. Unfortunately so far, no fossils have been found in the latest Eocene through Miocene terrestrial stratigraphic sequence.

Visiting researchers included Eric Scott, San Bernardino County Museum, who has been examining our Equidae. Fred Croxen, Arizona Western College in Yuma, and Chris Shaw, of the Page Museum, were both interested in comparing ABDSP materials to their finds from El Golfo, Sonora, Mexico. Phil Gensler, formerly of Northern Arizona University and now the NPS paleontologist at Hagerman, is putting the wraps on his Master’s work on the Irvingtonian age assemblage from Ash Wash, Coyote Canyon.

Becky Doresy, University of Oregon–Eugene, and team members Susanne Janecke, Utah State University, Gary Axen, University of California Los Angeles, and Bernie Housen, Western Washington University, have been mapping the geology of the southern Santa Rosa Mountains. However, more importantly, they are also recovering ash and paleomagnetic samples along a transect through the late Miocene Split Mountain Formation, late Pliocene Imperial, and Plio–

Pleistocene Palm Spring groups in order to refine the earlier work of Opdyke, Johnson, Lindsay, and others. The approximately 8-million-year-long sample line crosses the Plio–Pleistocene and Blancan/Irvingtonian boundaries in the terrestrial part of the section.

George McDaniel and George Jefferson presented their work on a newly discovered *Gomphotherium* specimen at the California State University Desert Symposium, held at the CSU Zzyzx field station. The edentulous maxillary and dentary fragments, from a 3.6-Ma horizon in the Palm Spring Formation, represent a significant range extension for the taxon. Kesler Randall presented his preliminary examination of the Camelidae from ABDSP. Skull and dental materials, and/or the proportions and characteristics of metapodials and first phalanges suggests that *Blancocamelus*, *Camelops*, *Hemiauchenia*, *Paleolama*, *Gigantocamelus*, and *Titanotylopus* are all represented. Kesler continues his Master's work on the Irvingtonian-age fauna from the Coyote Canyon Bautista beds. (G.T. Jefferson)

### **Member-at-Large**

With the help and cooperation of Luis Chiappe (LACM) and Kristi Curry-Rogers (SMM), Mark Hallett has begun research on a possible pattern of osteoderm armor as a prelude to sculpting a 1/35 scale model of the titanosaurid sauropod *Rapetosaurus krausei*. Mark and Kristi previously worked out a tentative cranial/postcranial reconstruction of *R. krausei* that was published in the 8/02/00 issue of *Nature*. (Mark Hallett)

### **Occidental College, Los Angeles**

Don Prothero just received a three-year, \$50,000 grant from the Petroleum Research Fund to study the paleomagnetism of the Gualala block, on the California coast north of Fort Ross. He will also be up in the Olympic Peninsula in August, sampling the Makah Formation (famous for its fossil whales).

Book projects and deadlines have been zipping by one after the other. After "Magnetic Stratigraphy of the Pacific Coast Cenozoic" (Pacific Section SEPM) appeared in December, and "Horns, Hooves, and Flippers" (Johns Hopkins University Press) went to press (it will be out in time for SVP), he sent the second edition of "Bringing Fossils to Life" (McGraw-Hill) to the publisher (also out this fall), and then the symposium volume from the 1999 Penrose Conference, "From Greenhouse to Icehouse: The Marine Eocene–Oligocene Transition" (available from Columbia University Press this fall). He then put the SVP program together, notified all the speakers by e-mail, and sent the final volume camera-ready to Allen Press. Finally, he worked on the seventh edition of Prothero and Dott, "Evolution of the Earth" (McGraw-Hill), which should be out next year.

Don was selected to be on the GSA Penrose Committee (reviewing applications for future Penrose Conferences), and also has been asked to be an Associate Editor of *Geology* magazine. He also started another three-year rotation as department chair, his fourth time since he started at Oxy.

Jonathan Hoffman is starting his senior year, after having given talks last spring at WAVP and CalPaleo on his study of the paleomagnetism of the Miocene Rattlesnake Formation of Oregon (due to be published in Ted Fremd's John Day Symposium volume). Elizabeth Draus also presented her work on the paleomagnetism of the Mascall Formation of Oregon at WAVP. Both will be presenting similar papers at SVP this fall, and scouting for graduate schools. Two new students (both juniors) are starting careers in paleo: Joshua Ludtke and Francisco Sanchez. That's the largest crop of paleo students we've ever had at Oxy! (Don Prothero)



# OBITUARIES

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## **ELAINE ANDERSON**

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology has lost another of its members. Dr. Elaine Anderson passed away at her home here in Denver the weekend of 23–24 March 2002. Elaine is best known for her work on Pleistocene mammals, but she also taught osteology at the Denver Museum of Natural History, where she was a Research Associate. In recent years, Elaine was busy collaborating with Russ Graham on specimens from Porcupine Cave, a high-altitude site in the Colorado Rockies. Please direct all inquiries to Russ Graham: [rgraham@dmns.org](mailto:rgraham@dmns.org). (Ken Carpenter)

## **WILLIAM ANTONY SWITHIN SARGEANT, DSC, FRSC, 1935–2002**

Family and friends mourn the passing on 8 July 2002 of William “Bill” Antony Swithin Sargeant, geologist, paleontologist, avid book collector, fantasy writer, folksinger, Sherlockian scholar, and heritage advocate.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Margaret “Peggy”; his devoted daughters, Nicola (Peter Ryan), Rachel (Neil Sarjeant-Jenkins), and Juliet (Michael McKague); his grandsons, Tristan and Rowan Sarjeant-Jenkins; his aunt, Winifred Llewellyn, and cousins, Cynthia and Trevor, of England; and long-time friend David Spalding of Pender Island. He was predeceased by his parents, Harold and Margaret (née Cantrell) Sarjeant, and his uncle, Reginald Llewellyn.

Bill was born on 15 July 1935 in Sheffield, England, and married Peggy in April 1966. Following a career as an academic geologist at Nottingham University, he and his family immigrated to Canada in April 1972, where he took up a position as Professor of Geology at the University of Saskatchewan, a position he held until his passing. His research work focused on the study of marine microfossils and on the history of the earth sciences, fields in which he was widely published and professionally recognized. In later years he expanded his field of studies to include that of fossil footprints. In 1995 he was proud to be elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada. Bill was devoted to his students and supported them at every opportunity.

Nonacademic writing was also a big part of Bill’s life. His interest in detective fiction and Sherlockian studies led to the publication of numerous articles in that field and to the co-authorship with Alan Bradley of “Ms. Holmes of Baker Street.” Under the name of Antony Swithin, he wrote a fantasy quartet entitled “The Perilous Quest for Lyonesse”; he continued to write other novels in the series up to the time of his death.

Traditional folk music was a passion. Bill performed with the local folk group, “The Prairie Higglers,” and sang from his repertoire of British folk songs with great gusto.

Bill will be remembered in the larger Saskatoon community for his work in heritage preservation. Through his tireless advocacy the City set up its Special Committee for the Identification and Listing of Historic Buildings in 1974, which he chaired from 1974–1979. He co-authored, with Bill Delainey and John Duerkop “Saskatoon: A Century in Pictures” in 1982. His major contribution to the preservation of Saskatoon’s history, however, has been in the editorship of the Saskatoon Heritage Society’s annual journal, *Saskatoon History Review*, from 1989 to 2002.

His other contributions to the community include serving on the boards of the Saskatoon Environmental Society, the Saskatoon Nature Society, Nature Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Archives Board, SaskCulture, the Saskatchewan Heritage Advisory Board, and the Canadian Folk Music Society.

The family would like to thank Bill’s physicians, the Palliative Care Team, and the nursing staff at



the 5000 ward at the Royal University Hospital for their compassionate care.

The funeral service was held at Saint John's Anglican Cathedral on Monday, 15 July 2002. Charitable donations may be made to the William A. S. Sarjeant Memorial Fund, University Advancement, 223 – 117 Science Place, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SK, S7N 5C8. (Sean D. Bell)

### **LOUIS THALER**

Louis Thaler died in June 2002, after a car crash. He was 71 years old. His wife, H  l  ne, was severely injured.

After studying in Paris, Louis came to Montpellier in 1962 where he studied fossil rodents. He was professor of vertebrate paleontology in the same university in 1970. He founded the Institut des Sciences de l'  volution in 1982. He retired in 1995, but was, until his death, always busy and enthusiastic.

You can send messages to his son, Olivier: [othaler@crit.univ-montp2.fr](mailto:othaler@crit.univ-montp2.fr). (Jean-Louis Hartenberger)

### **OTHER DEATHS**

**Ann Forst  n** (March 2002).

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**AS OF 22 JULY 2002**

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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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