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2009 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear SVP colleagues,

Please join us for the first SVP annual meeting to be held outside of North America!

I'm sure that after reading the Welcome Letter from the Annual Meeting Host Committee (below), and perusing the annual meeting section of the SVP Web site at: http://www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/index.cfm, you'll be marking your calendar and booking your flights. This is sure to be an exceptional meeting in a terrific venue.

Hope to see you there!

Blaire Van Valkenburgh
President of SVP

INVITATION TO 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

Members and Friends of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology,

The Palaeobiology and Biodiversity Research Group at the University of Bristol is excited to host the 69th Annual Meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (23–26 September 2009). This will be a momentous meeting for the Society, the first time it has met in the "Old World." The vertebrate paleontologists of the United Kingdom, and of Europe, welcome the Society, and offer a rich array of experiences.

Bristol is located in southwest England, 100 miles, and less than 2 hours by train, from London. Bristol is a long-established industrial city, with beautiful buildings dating from the past five centuries. Enjoy the Neolithic, Roman, Medieval, and later history of the region—including Bath, which is only 15 minutes away by train. In Bristol, you can see wonders of the industrial revolution, including Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s SS Great Britain (1843), the world’s oldest iron ship, and the Clifton Suspension Bridge, one of the world’s first (1864).

Bristol’s high-tech industries of today, including British Aerospace and Rolls Royce, together with the University, have earned it the title of a “Science city.” The University of Bristol, ranked in the top five in the United Kingdom, is young, and it celebrates its centenary in 2009. It is a renowned center for science engagement.

Within easy reach of Bristol are such prehistoric marvels as Stonehenge and Avebury, as well as rich buildings from the Roman, Saxon, Medieval, Regency, and Victorian periods, spanning more than 5000 years of history. London, Oxford, Cambridge, Stratford, and many other fine cities are linked by regular public transport. Geology and vertebrate paleontology were born in the south of England, and we will offer field trips to see classic Mesozoic and Cenozoic sites associated with Mary Anning, William Buckland, Gideon Mantell, Richard Owen, and other early heroes of our subject.

2009 is also Darwin year (200th anniversary of his birth, and 150th anniversary of publication of On the Origin of Species). The meeting will be a chance for Darwinians to explore the history of evolution and modern responses to Darwin—we plan special lectures, workshops, and visits to Darwin locations across England.
You are all jolly welcome (in a modest and understated way, of course) to SVP 2009 in Bristol.

See you in September!

Sincerely,

2009 SVP Host Committee

MINUTES OF THE 68TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 16 OCTOBER 2008, CLEVELAND, OHIO

At 5:02 PM, Catherine Badgley, President of SVP, welcomed everyone and highlighted SVP’s activities over the past year as follows:

- There have been a number of SVP activities that have promoted the science of vertebrate paleontology.
  - The SVP first Field and Topical Conference will be launched this summer.
  - A forum on climate change will be held at the 68th Annual Meeting. The forum will include two members of SVP and a speaker from a sister discipline. The public is invited, representing another of SVP’s strategic goals, which is community outreach.
  - The production of the “We Are SVP” video. This video will be used as a fund-raising tool, for educational purposes, and to present the face of SVP in a concise way.
- This year has brought increased media contact.
  - In 2008, SVP started to send out press releases regarding featured articles in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (JVP), the annual meeting, and other topics related to vertebrate paleontology. The releases have resulted in a doubling of calls from the press to the SVP Business Office.
  - SVP has a new media Web page on the SVP Web site featuring the SVP Media Response Team.
  - The number of press registered for the 2008 Annual Meeting has doubled over the previous year.
- Two new programs for international membership will be launched by the end of the year.
- SVP is becoming more internationally active, which is evidenced by the scheduling of its first meeting outside of North America in 2009, in Bristol, United Kingdom. SVP has seen an increase in new membership from outside of the US.

Secretary’s Report

Christopher Brochu gave the Secretary’s Report, providing the following information.

- The minutes for the SVP 2007 Annual Business Meeting were published in the Spring 2008 News Bulletin. The Secretary asked for a motion to approve those minutes. The motion carried.
- Since the 2007 Annual Meeting, the following motions were carried:
  - Approve the October 2007 Annual Executive Committee Meeting minutes with revisions.
  - Approve the 10/01–12/31/08 SVP budget.
  - Allocate $5,000 to the new International Development Program through a board designated fund, effective through 12/31/2009 and up to a $20,000 match offered for funds raised for the program in 2010.
  - Allow the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (JVP) to go to 1,200 pages/year through 2009.
  - Dollar amounts associated with most of the yearly SVP awards have been increased incrementally over the next five years.
Increasing the Morris F. Skinner Award to include covering the cost of the hotel stay of the awardee. This increase would be in addition to the current practice of reimbursing the Skinner Award winner for their transportation to and from the annual meeting (at which they receive their award).

- The name of the Student Poster Prize be changed to the Edwin H. and Margaret M. Colbert Award, in recognition of the tremendous contributions to the understanding, education, and visualization of fossil vertebrates made by both during their distinguished careers.

- Donate $7,500 to the Third Latin American Congress of Vertebrate Paleontology (IIICLPV), to be held in Neuquén Province, Patagonia, Argentina, from 22–25 September 2008.

- The SVP fiscal year be changed to a calendar (January 1 through December 31) fiscal year.

- JSTOR access should be given to all SVP members as a member benefit, once that access becomes available.

- The amount of $15,000 will be spent on student travel grants to the annual meeting in Cleveland in 2008. The Executive Committee further approves that the Membership Committee can determine whether the size of the awards will remain the same as they were last year, or that the amount will increase to the levels approved by the Executive Committee.

- SVP will provide financial support to the first SVP Field Conference as follows: (1) up to $2,000 for general expenses (this amount will not be reimbursed to the Society), and (2) $3,000 for student member scholarships.

- Increasing the amount budgeted toward Paleontologica Electronica by $1,000.

- Approval of the two Patterson Grant awardees: Emily Goble, Yale University, and Josh Miller, University of Chicago.

- Approved the creation of the Vertebrate Paleontology Education and Research Fund. This will be a temporarily restricted fund.

- The SVP Executive Committee supports the filming initiative at Cleveland based on the estimate of $2,000 from the audio-visual department at Case-Western Reserve University and a $5,000 estimate given for the final editing costs.

- The SVP Executive Committee supports the request made by Xiaoming Wang for $5,000 to support the Asian Neogene Biostratigraphy and Chronology Workshop, contingent on other funds being obtained to support the workshop itself.

- That the SVP Executive Committee approve a recommendation made by the Student Liaison Committee to apply the proceeds of the student raffle at the 2008 Annual Meeting to the Predoctoral Fellowship Grant.

- Approve $1,000 be used towards expenses incurred by Remmert Schouten, member of the 2009 Host Committee, for travel to the SVP 68th Annual Meeting in Cleveland to facilitate planning of the SVP 69th Annual Meeting in Bristol, UK.

**SVP 2008 Election Results**

- 33.17% of SVP participated in this election.

- New Executive Committee members:
  - Philip J. Currie, Vice President
  - Julia Clarke, Member-at-Large

- Retiring Executive Committee members:
  - Annalisa Berta, Past President
  - P. David Polly, Member-at-Large

**Treasurer’s Report**

Ted Vlamis, SVP’s Treasurer, discussed the sources of SVP’s income through investments. Vlamis indicated that because SVP’s portfolio is diversified the impact of the failing economy has not affected SVP as adversely as it could have.
The Vertebrate Paleontology Education and Research fund has been established to fund a variety of programs and purposes. This fund will help to ensure the health of the Society through its flexibility.
Development Committee Report

Bill Clemens gave the Development Committee Report.

- In Austin, the society received over $200,000 for student travel grants from the Jackson School of Geosciences.
- The 2007 Annual Auction brought in over $30,000 for student travel.
- The Executive Committee set up a challenge grant of $50,000 for student travel grants.
- The funds for the travel grants amounts to over $436,000.
- The Executive Committee allocated $15,000 to student travel grants for this year.
- 40 students received travel grants this year, 25 from the US, and 15 international students.
- For the 2009 meeting, the Executive Committee will allocate $30,000 to travel grants to Bristol.
- For 2009, larger grants will be given to students from countries outside of the UK, and smaller grants will be given to students from within the UK.
- The SVP Field and Topical Conferences was reestablished this year. The program was based in the Hanna Basin, Wyoming.
- Mike Woodburn will be taking over direction of the Field and Topical Conferences.
- This year's annual auction proceeds will go towards the Field and Topical Conferences Fund.
• Louis Taylor will be taking over as the Development Committee Chair. He has plans for future use of the “We Are SVP” video, and reaching out beyond the Society’s membership to garner support of SVP programs.

Developing Nations Science Program Report
Nancy Stevens gave the Developing Nations Science report.

• The Developing Nations Science Committee has been established to enable students and scientists from economically developing nations to present their research at the SVP annual meetings.
• This program is directed toward the presentation of research in any area of vertebrate paleontology, with emphasis on vertebrate morphology, biogeography, paleoecology, and systematics.
• Eligibility is limited to citizens and current residents of countries that have a ranking of “low” on the UN Development Index. The UN Development Index for any country can be found at: http://hdr.undp.org/external/flash/hdi_map/stats_hdi.html.
• The Executive Committee has allocated $5,000 to this program for 2009, and a matching grant of up to $20,000 for the year 2010.
• Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact Nancy Stevens through the SVP Web site.

Membership Committee Report
Larry Flynn gave the Membership Committee Report. The Membership Committee administers the Honorary Memberships, the Student Travel Grants, and the new Institutional Membership (electronic-only JVP) for Scientists from Economically Developing Nations.

• The Membership for Scientists from Economically Developing Nations will make the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (JVP), electronically, more widely available to areas that would not be able to access this otherwise.
• The current SVP membership has grown to 2,364.
• Regular Members and Student Members are the dominant member types.
• Members cover every part of the globe.
• Memberships from Africa and Asia have grown significantly.
• Student memberships have grown most in the past year.
• There have been 77 applicants for the Student Member Travel Grants. Of these 77 applicants, 40 were awarded grants.

Publications Committee Report
Mark Wilson gave the Publications Committee Report.

• This is the second year of the program to feature one article on the cover of the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (JVP).
• All back issues of the JVP are available to SVP Members through a link to JSTOR and BioOne.
• The JVP has grown to 1,200 pages published per year.
• The Editorial Board and Publications Committee would like the JVP to move to six issues per year in the near future.
• SVP has contracted a consultant to seek out a new publisher for the JVP. This would mean the JVP would no longer be self-published.
Information Management Committee Report
Eric Scott gave the Information Management Committee report.
- All back issues of the JVP are now available through JSTOR and BioOne.
- The Committee is still working on completing a project on the Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates.

Program Committee Report
Jason Head gave the Program Committee report.

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- The abstract submission total for the 2008 Annual Meeting is slightly lower than for the 2007 Annual Meeting, however it is still far higher than other years.
- There was a 9.5% abstract submissions rejection rate in 2008.
- There has been an increase in regular talk sessions.
- There were 31 Romer Prize abstract submissions.
- Jessica Theodor and Robin O’Keefe are rotating off of the Program Committee.

Student Liaison Committee Report
Julia Heathcote gave the Student Liaison Committee report. Julia will be the new chair of the Student Liaison Committee.
- The Student Round Table and Reprint Exchange will take place at this year’s annual meeting.
- The proceeds of the student raffle will go toward the Predoctoral Fellowship Grant. Over 300 tickets have been sold.
• Round-table topics and panelists will be featured on the new student page of the SVP Web site.
• The Student Liaison Committee is working with the Education and Outreach Committee to ensure that questions submitted through the SVP Web site are addressed by the appropriate committee.

2008 Host Committee Report
Darin Croft gave the Host Committee report. Croft said it was a great meeting and if there were any questions to see him.

2009 Host Committee Introduction
Michael Benton gave a brief introduction to the 2009 Annual Meeting in Bristol, UK.
• The 2009 meeting will be held in conjunction with the SVPCA meeting.
• The 2009 meeting will coincide with the year of Darwin in the United Kingdom.
• Sir David Attenborough will be speaking at the annual meeting.

2010 Host Committee Introduction
Chris Beard gave a brief introduction to the 2010 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.
• The Carnegie Museum of Natural History’s “Dinosaur Hall” will be remodeled in time for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

New Business
John Flynn explained new PaleoPortal projects in the areas of collections management and preparation. The improvements include glossary links, a search engine, and downloadable documents.

Catherine Badgley announced that the Asian Mammal Biostratigraphy workshop will take place in Beijing, China, in June 2009, and will be an SVP-sponsored event as an SVP Field and Topical Conferences.

Questions from the Floor
Daryl Domning expressed concern with the lack of submissions to the SVP News Bulletin. He suggested that an e-mail goes out reminding people to submit news for the News Bulletin.
Catherine Badgley and Kate VanZanten said that this would be taken under consideration.

Kevin Padian said that many student members felt that their voice has not been heard regarding an ethical issue that arose this year within SVP. Catherine Badgley responded that there has been a broad range of responses within SVP regarding this issue, and SVP has responded by adding a student to the Ethics Education Committee and adding an Ethics Table at the Student Roundtable event at this meeting.

A member asked what feedback a member should expect if their abstract has not been accepted. Jason Head, SVP Program Chair, commented that any applicant could request feedback from the Program Committee on their abstract. The member then asked if there could be an automated process where a member could have feedback automatically sent to them after the submission process ended. Jason commented that he would not want to do that because strictly confidentiality between the author and the committee cannot be guaranteed.
Annalisa Berta and P. David Polly were presented plaques in recognition for their time served on the Executive Committee.

Catherine Badgley passed the presidency on to Blaire Van Valkenburgh.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM by Catherine Badgley.

2009 ELECTION SLATE
The SVP election for 2009 will be held by electronic ballot starting Wednesday, 18 February 2009 at 12:01 AM Central Time Zone (USA) and ending Monday, 18 May 2009 at midnight Central Time Zone (USA).

The SVP Nominating Committee, consisting of: John Flynn (Chair), Annalisa Berta, and James Hopson, hereby present the following 2009 slate for consideration by the SVP membership.

For the position of Secretary, the two candidates are Chris Bell and Darin Croft.

For the position of Member-at-Large, the two candidates are David Fox and Kristi Curry Rogers.

Full biographies of the slated candidates can be viewed in the Member’s Only part of the SVP Web site at: http://vertpaleo.org/source/security/member-logon.cfm?section=unknown&activesection=home.

Members without e-mail addresses in the SVP database will be mailed paper ballots. Any member that will be without internet access during the voting period, or prefers a paper ballot may make a paper ballot request to the SVP business office at:
Phone: +1-847-480-9095
Fax: +1-847-480-9282
E-mail: svp@vertpaleo.org

— COMMITTEE REPORTS —

AUDIT COMMITTEE
Submitted by: Dale A. Winkler, 18 December 2008
Co-chairs: Dale A. Winkler and Bruce J. MacFadden
The Audit Committee reviewed the continued selection of Mann Weitz and Associates to audit the financial statements of the SVP for the Sherwood Group. Mann Weitz and Associates is a mid-size CPA firm from the Chicago area providing auditing services, especially for non-profit organizations and foundations. They employ only experienced personnel and are familiar with the management model provided by the Sherwood Group. Mann Weitz and Associates audits the finances of several organizations managed by the Sherwood Group, and there is no known conflict of interest between the firms.

The Audit Committee will continue to monitor the results of the SVP’s financial reviews as they are completed in the coming year and will review the selection of the auditing firm prior to the next fiscal year.

Bruce J. MacFadden has requested to rotate off the Audit Committee.

SVP News Bulletin No. 196
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Activities since Midyear Annual Meeting
The new chair and members of the Development Committee wish to thank Bill Clemens for his successful tenure as chair. Bill’s committee successfully raised student travel funds and instituted an exciting field and topical conferences program.

Thanks also to retiring Development Committee members Kerin Claeson and Bruce MacFadden, who are moving on into new ways of serving SVP.

Welcome new members Michelle Stocker, Bill Parker, and Louis Jacobs.

SVP-Sponsored Field and Topical Conferences
The very successful Hanna Basin Field Conference, held 4–7 August 2008, set a high standard for future SVP sponsored conferences. The co-sponsorship by the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Wyoming, facilitated several aspects of the conference.

The 35 participants in SVP’s initial field conference included undergraduate and graduate students and both “professional” and “avocational” paleontologists. They were comfortably housed and well fed by Vicki Scott, who, with her husband, owns and operates The Virginian Hotel in Medicine Bow. They were transported safely and well courtesy of the organizational skills of Mark Clementz, who recruited a group of University of Wyoming students and colleagues from the Tate Museum to serve as drivers.

Participants were nourished scientifically by the outstanding program developed by Jay Lillegraven and presented by Jay with significant contributions from Jaelyn Eberle and Penny Higgins. Evenings were filled with orientations and wide-ranging discussions about the geological and paleobiological implications of what we would be seeing, the importance of field-based geological research to understanding paleo geography and, in turn, paleobiological research, and possible future research.

Karen Lloyd, who completed her MS at the University of Colorado and is now with The Wildlife Experience, prepared and submitted a report of the field conference to the SVP business office. Her report is available on the SVP Web site in the Education and Resources section.

Responsibility for planning and carrying out future SVP Field and Topical Conferences has become the responsibility of a subcommittee consisting of Mike Woodburne and Bruce MacFadden. They will work with SVP members who are willing to host field or topical conferences and seek support for the conferences.

“We Are SVP” The Video
Mr. Ray Marr, owner of Shade Tree Studios in Dallas, Texas, generously made his crew and facilities available to SVP during the past year. Beginning with the annual meeting in Austin, Development Committee member Steven Cohen worked with Adam Dunsworth and Edd Chappell to produce and direct the video. Development Committee members Louis Jacobs and Lou Taylor served as scientific consultants. The video is introduced and narrated by Sam Waterston, star of the television program “Law and Order.”

“We Are SVP” highlights our Society and its international membership by showing what vertebrate paleontologists do and why they do it. It shows the relevance of vertebrate paleontology to today’s environmental challenges and to society.
Student Raffle
The annual student raffle was initiated by Andy Farke and Karin Claeson and supported by the Executive Committee with the donations including one-year student memberships. The raffles have been a great success. Appropriately, responsibilities for this year’s student raffle have been transferred to Student Liaison Committee.

Donations
Student Travel—Generous support from our members has increased the student travel fund begun through the generosity of the Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas. This fund now totals nearly $375,000. Responsibility for managing this program has been transferred to the Membership and Honorary Membership Committee. Larry Flynn passed on the welcome news that this year travel grants were made to 15 international students and 25 students from the US and Canada.

Dean Eric Barron and SVP members Tim Rowe, Chris Bell, and their associates at the University of Texas are to be thanked again for their contributions that made the gift from the Jackson School of Geosciences possible.

“We Are SVP” Video—The “We Are SVP” video was made possible by the generosity of donors Ray Marr of Shade Tree Studios and television, stage, and movie star Sam Waterston. Mr. Marr’s donation to the Society was worth approximately $37,000. Mr. Waterston’s donation of time and talent is exceedingly generous. Steven Cohen provided countless hours to producing and directing the video, for which we thank him.

“We Are SVP” became available for viewing on the SVP Web site on 29 October 2008. It consists of a half-hour movie version and 13 in-depth “chapters” that provide greater detail of the topics shown in the movie. A separate version was prepared for use by SVP in fundraising.

Field and Topical Conferences—Fundraising continues for the Field and Topical Conferences fund. This fund serves the dual purposes of providing seed money to organize a conference and scholarships for student members to attend a conference. Currently this fund holds nearly $30,000.

Goals for the Committee for the Coming Year
A constant goal of the Development Committee is to provide funds for existing programs and awards. Although many of these have adequate support funds, there are many that operate on a year-by-year basis. Programs such as the Preparators’ Award, the Edwin H. and Margaret Colbert Award, and the Predoctoral Award need more-permanent funding. Raising money for these funds is done through members’ contributions with their dues. Specific methods of approaching members or others about these needs will be determined within the coming year.

Prepare for External Fundraising
An ultimate goal is to use the “We Are SVP” video for external fundraising for initiatives decided upon by the Executive Committee. However, given the current global economic situation, our committee will strive to become prepared to initiate fundraising when the time is right. In the meantime, Steven Cohen volunteered to approach a potential external donor about the possibility of their mission fitting with that of SVP.

Toward that end we will use the members of the committee to determine which external funding sources best fit SVP’s mission and initiatives. This means that every committee member will be involved in examining potential fundraising targets. Current initiatives for external fundraising are the Program for Scientists from Economically Developing Nations and yet to be clearly defined educational and paleontological conservancy programs.
**Program for Scientists from Economically Developing Nations**

One goal was to raise funds to support the Program for Scientists from Economically Developing Nations. The SVP Executive Committee announced that support for this program as an SVP initiative after the mid-year meeting by committing $5,000 to start the program. Our goal is to raise enough money to provide a fund from which 4% will provide about $7,500 annually. This means that we must raise $187,500 to support one scientist each year. Members attending the Donors Reception in Cleveland pledged approximately $9,000 to start this fund.

Reaching the goal of raising $187,500 in four years will be approached in two ways. First, we will continue to apply donations from the annual Donors Reception to the fund. Secondly, we will announce this initiative to the membership by way of the Web site and at the 2009 annual meeting. Finally we will approach potential external donors.

**Educational Programs**

Providing programs to enhance K–12 education is a general initiative approved by the Executive Committee. Our mission is to raise funds to support these programs once they are defined. In the meantime, a goal is to provide an educational program for children in association with the SVP annual meetings. Current thinking is to organize a children’s program during which the children and their adults could enjoy time at a local museum, followed by lunch with a paleontologist. Such a program could be both an educational program and a fundraiser. Although our goal is to raise $5,000 to begin this program, it may require seed money from the Executive Committee.

Educational programs will be joint projects of the Development and Education and Outreach committees.

**Planned Giving**

The goal of the planned-giving initiative is to make members aware of ways that they can plan donations to SVP through means such as IRA funds, insurance policies, and wills. The Development Committee Chair and the business office are working on determining appropriate methods of contacting members and informing them of planned giving.

**Paleontological Conservancy**

This initiative remains in the thinking and planning stage, but will generally involve conservation of paleontology collections and localities. It may include creating a database containing all localities, public and private, from which vertebrate specimens have been collected. It could be expanded to include training for paleontologists and others responsible for vertebrate paleontology collections in countries other than the U.S. and Canada. The Executive Committee will provide more detail about specific programs under this initiative.

**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Submitted by: Robin Whatley and Stuart Sumida, December 2008

Committee Members: Robin L. Whatley, Co-Chair; Stuart Sumida, Co-Chair; Lisa C. Babilonia, Brent H. Breithaupt, Larisa Grawe DeSantis; James P. Diffily; Anthony Friscia; Roland A. Gangloff; Joel D. Hutson; Stephanie Keep; Lorin Reid King; Brian P. Kraatz; Margaret E. Lewis; Gabrielle Lyon; Robert Martin; Robert D. McCord; Jay Michalsky; Josh Miller; Briana L. Pobiner; Judy Scotchmoor; Barbara Shaw; Mark Terry; Molly Ward; Marilyn Wegweiser.

**Evolution Town Halls**

Mark Terry and Judy Scotchmoor moderated the sixth annual Evolution Town Hall over lunch Wednesday, 15 October, at the annual SVP meeting in Cleveland. Emphasis was placed on nationwide efforts to elevate understanding of science in general and evolution in particular.
**Evolution Education Workshop**

Mark Terry and Judy Scotchmoor hosted a two-hour workshop over lunch on Thursday, 16 October, at the Cleveland meetings. Three guest presenters discussed best practices in evolution education and in dealing with skeptical student and museum visitor audiences: David Hillis, University of Texas; Ted Fremd, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument; Patricia Princehouse, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Citizens for Science.

**Educators’ Workshop—“Evolution: Investigating the Evidence”**

The Educators’ Workshop for K–12 educators was held on Saturday, 18 October 2008 at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (our cosponsor for the event). Our education point person at the museum was Kate Pierce, the Science Resource Center (SRC) Coordinator. Judy Scotchmoor, Mark Terry, and Robin Whatley hosted the event.

Because the workshop was held at the CMNH and not at the conference venue in downtown Cleveland, it was not feasible to have workshop participants attend talks as at past meetings. Instead we brought the science to the educators. Stuart Sumida gave a presentation on his research on present-day frog ancestors and how fossils can be used to teach the scientific method. David Chapman, CMNH, conducted a tour of the VP Casting Lab and talked about *Dunkleosteus* reconstructions and other fossils found in the Cleveland area. Other presenters included Judy Scotchmoor, Mark Terry, and Larisa Grawe DeSantis.

We obtained e-mail and mailing information for school superintendents in Cleveland and the eight surrounding counties from the CMNH Marketing Sales Coordinator, Kimberley Gillan-Shafran. E-mail blasts were sent out in June and September by the SVP administrative office. Workshop announcements were also included in the summer bulletin of the CMNH SRC, the fall *News Bulletin*, and the online Web site of the Cleveland Regional Council of Science Teachers. In addition, a flier announcing the workshop was sent to contacts at the Science Education Council of Ohio (home of the Ohio Chapter of NSTA), Ohio Council for Elementary School Teachers, Ohio Citizens for Science, and listservs administered by the Case Center for Science and Mathematics Education. The workshop was also promoted via a CMNH School and Teacher Services Brochure and at a Free Teacher Open House sponsored by the CMNH on 2 October.

Despite these efforts, participation was low—only 12 educators, who were nonetheless (based on their evaluations) extremely satisfied with the workshop presentations and content. It is clear that we must have more-direct cooperation via members on the ground in the host city. We are in contact with the education liaison for the 2009 Bristol meeting, Philip Anderson, who has already met with the Outreach Office at the University of Bristol about the Educators’ Workshop and the needs of local teachers.

**PaleoProfiles**

Via a link on the SVP Web site, biographical sketches and “Q & A’s” on various paleontologists are featured. We have now linked most of the existing PaleoProfiles to the PaleoPortal, where there are appropriate geographic and time period cross-references. PaleoPortal now also contains a link to the PaleoProfile homepage on its PaleoPeople page. The Committee will increase the pace of PaleoProfile development in the coming year by making clear who is setting the schedule and who is assisting with the editing.

**PaleoPortal**

Twelve partners are now represented in the collections database, including MioMap and MorphoBank. PaleoPortal invites submissions for additional Famous Fossil Flora and Fauna sites—SVP members need to be encouraged to contribute sites. There is now a link to SVP’s PaleoProfiles from the PaleoPortal PaleoPeople page. Among the PaleoPeople currently profiled are SVP members.
We encourage SVP members to contribute information to PaleoPortal to make it an even more useful tool. We should establish a link to the PaleoPeople index page from the SVP Web site.

“Customer Inquiries”
Briana Pobiner and Jeb Bevers (taking over from Mark Terry) are fielding questions from the public and, when needed, directing inquiries to appropriate SVP members. In the future, some questions, especially those related to higher education and field opportunities, may be taken be on by members of the Student Liaison Committee. Brian is developing a drop-down list of frequently asked questions that can be posted on the SVP Web site or e-mailed individually.

Since care must be taken in any sort of communication. Briana, Jeb, and the Committee may need to bring specific questions to the Executive Committee if there appears to be ethical or legal issues related to an inquiry. So far, responses, when SVP members have been asked for support in answering individual questions, have been excellent and readily forthcoming.

Evolution Education Poster Session
We proposed a mini poster session to accompany the Evolution Education Workshop. It has been approved for the Pittsburgh meetings (2010). An education poster session would benefit the membership by providing a convenient method of sharing successful strategies in evolution education, without competing with SVP members’ principle research presentations.

SVP Press Release on Louisiana Science Education Act
E&O Committee members, in cooperation with the SVP leadership, prepared a press release calling on the repeal of the recently adopted “Science Education Act” in Louisiana. The Act grows out of a campaign to find another way around the prohibitions against teaching creationism or its close cousin, intelligent design, in the nation’s public school science classrooms. SVP’s press release puts the organization on record publicly condemning such strategies and supporting sound science education.

Boycott of States That Legislate Loopholes for Creationism in Public School Science Classes
Several organizations have proposed publicly boycotting, for future meetings, states that support the teaching of intelligent design creationism or provide loopholes in their science standards so that such teaching cannot be challenged (currently, Louisiana). This is unlikely to succeed in pressuring states to change their positions unless many organizations join the effort.

SVP Participation in COPUS/Year of Science 2009
SVP joined COPUS (Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science) during the last year, and is now actively engaged in shaping activities for Year of Science 2009. Most of SVP’s involvement is focused on the month of February, which has been designated to highlight the science of Evolution.

We Are SVP Video Outreach
We hope to help make the We Are SVP video widely accessible to educators for paleontology education and outreach by sending out an announcement letting educators know where they can access the video, and who they can contact in their local areas if they are interested in knowing more about paleontology, fossils, evolution, etc (see SVP Ambassadors below). This information should also be stated boldly on the video Web site.

SVP Ambassadors
Many SVP members are active in their communities and local school systems where they may make several presentations a year about vertebrate paleontology, evolution, or other related science topics. We propose to send out an invitation to SVP members who would be willing to be on call to make presentations about a range of basic topics in their local communities. A list of
members who would like to participate in this public education campaign would be made available to K–12 teachers through organizations like the NSTA.

To support this program, we also propose to put together a series of uniform teaching modules (likely in the form of Powerpoint presentations, possibly including fossil casts sometime in the future) that can be used by SVP Ambassadors to talk about subjects like evolution, transitional fossils, adaptation, cladistics, the scientific method, geologic time, etc. (final subjects yet to be determined). This would require the formation of an Education and Outreach curriculum sub-committee to work on the subject matter for the modules, although some of these materials may already exist.

Committee Leadership and Member Participation
At the October 2008 meeting, Education and Outreach Committee members suggested a number of new initiatives the Committee can engage in to broaden the public’s interest and knowledge in paleontology, evolution, and science education. The following are among the proposed new education and outreach initiatives:

- Development of a stronger relationship between SVP and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) (Stuart Sumida is pursuing this through contacts at his institution).
- Enhanced role for graduate students.
- Development of SVP presence on FaceBook and/or YouTube.
- Junior membership category in SVP to support the growing number of high school and undergraduate members who are actively pursuing an education in vertebrate paleontology.
- Development of higher profile participation by SVP in COPUS and the Year of Science 2009 by putting together a “how to participate in COPUS” item for distribution to SVP members via the Web or by e-mail.
- Re-establish the SVP Outstanding Speaker program.
- Encourage SVP members to conduct Science Cafés on paleontology and “Reverse Science Fairs.”
- Reach out to clergy and denominations that want to know more about fossils and evolution, possibly through a town-hall meeting on evolution format at the Pittsburgh annual meeting. This initiative will be discussed by the Executive Committee in its mid-year meeting before further action is taken.
- Develop how-to documents for SVP members explaining how to conduct Science Cafés and Reverse Science Fairs so that members are more likely to engage the public through these kinds of outreach and education activities.
- Institute a way of giving recognition to SVP members who are conducting public education and outreach, either through an SVP award (recently proposed to Blair VanValkenburgh by Briana Pobiner with support from the E&O Co-Chairs) or through a list of events conducted by SVP members that is maintained on the SVP Web site.

MEDIA LIAISON
Submitted by: Darin Croft, 17 December 2008
Committee Members: Darin Croft (Co-Chair), Lars Werdelin (Co-Chair), Jon Bloch, Kristi Curry Rogers, Mike Gottfried, Jason Head, Nick Fraser, John Long, Luo Zhe-xi, and Claudia Marsicano.

Media Response Team (MRT)
The role of the MRT in the SVP continues to be defined. Together with the business office, we have created a Web page to make members who can discuss paleo in a public context easier for interested media persons to find. This Web page includes contact info and specialties for each of the MRT members. The team was inaugurated with a conference call and a gathering at the annual meeting in Cleveland.
In the upcoming year, we plan to:

- Continue to promote the use of the MRT both for conducting interviews and as a nexus for international press that SVP should feature online.
- Continue to build our list of press contacts; the MRT will help immensely in this effort, particularly in other countries.

The redesign of the media portion of the Web makes contacting the MRT a more streamlined connection for the media. Although the Web page is in place, we will undoubtedly wish to make changes to improve its functionality.

**Media Web Page**

The “Media” page on the SVP Web site has been redesigned to make it easier to navigate. The new format includes connections to the MLC and MRT, an archive of SVP press releases, as well as links to other items (PaleoProfiles) on the site.

Along the same lines, we’ve created an option for the business office’s voicemail system directing callers to the Web site for further instruction, and this should be enabled soon (once a new module has been added to the phone system).

**Annual Meeting Publicity and Press Conference**

We were reasonably successful with publicity for the 2008 annual meeting, and the number of press participants was greater than usual. We were pleased to see members of the local press at the press conference, in addition to the science journalists who regularly attend the meeting. We are now putting together a list of press contacts for the 2009 meeting. This will be a bit more challenging than usual being the first meeting in Europe, but we plan to enlist the assistance of SVP members in the area in addition to members of our committee.

In the upcoming months we plan to examine whether the format of the press conference should be changed. We plan to get the opinions of members of the press in this regard to find out what they would find most useful.

This item requires headquarters support in terms of housing a database of press contacts, in managing media registration for the meeting, and possibly printing/e-mailing other organizations.

In the upcoming year, we plan to:

- Work with the Bristol Host Committee to contact local media, link in with other related activities, etc.
- Review format of annual meeting press conference based on feedback from members of the media.

**Media Training Workshops**

The MLC hosted a media training workshop at the 2008 annual meeting for interested members of the Society. Unlike 2007, when we had assistance from the University of Texas–Austin, the 2008 workshop was organized and carried out entirely by the MLC. More than 15 members attended. Two members of the media also participated—Sid Perkins (*Science News*) and Angela Botzer (*National Geographic*)—and provided their perspective on popular science.

Goals for the upcoming year include:

- Plan media training workshop for 2009 Bristol meeting.
- Invite local member of the media to present a Eurocentric view of popular science (perhaps from BBC Bristol?).

**JVP and Other Press Releases**

The MLC worked with *JVP*’s Editorial Board to streamline the process for writing and editing press releases. We now have a calendar of what needs to be done and when, and
responsibilities for each step have been assigned. Kate and others have been instrumental in getting these releases out to widely distributed media outlets.

The MLC has had an increasing role in crafting press releases related to SVP’s larger goals. Press releases from the Society are reaching much larger audiences, and adding the SVP perspective to controversial topics.

Goals for the upcoming year include working with the Education and Outreach Committee to help promote the use of the “We Are SVP” video by teachers.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Submitted by: Lawrence J. Flynn, 18 December 2008
Committee Members are: Larry Flynn (Chair), Thomas Adams, Allison Beck, Pat Holroyd, Dany Kalthoff, Lorin King, Margaret Lewis, Kathleen Muldoon, and Julia Sankey (plus E.Dewar).

New member Eric Dewar replaces long-serving member David Fox.

At the time of the annual meeting in Cleveland, the Society membership numbered 2,364, of which about one-fourth are student members. This represents modest growth since 2007. Subsequently, a new, healthy stream of applicants for membership perhaps signals anticipation of the meeting next year in Bristol.

The Membership Committee convened for its annual business meeting on 16 October in the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel. The composition of the Committee will be changing somewhat, with new member Eric Dewar warmly welcomed and exiting member David Fox warmly thanked for his several years of service.

This year our Committee approved three paleontologists for Honorary Membership: James Hopson, Paul Martin, and Michel Brunet. They were honored with great applause at the annual banquet. We look forward to seeing new names in candidacy for Honorary Membership in 2009.

From a field of 77 applicants, our Committee was pleased to select 15 international and 25 North American students as recipients of Jackson School travel grants to the annual meeting. The process will be somewhat different in 2009, with a different timeline (still through the Web site) and a different award structure. All applicants should note: you must be (or become) a member now, have your talk or poster accepted, and explain how attendance at the meeting will help your career. Remember that the Committee does not see abstracts, so your explanation should be written with care, and mention the significance of what you will be presenting.

2008 Support


The Membership Committee crafted a process for promoting science at institutions where individuals cannot easily afford full membership. Via the SVP Web site, members can nominate institutions for "Institutional Membership" which entails free access to all electronic publications by the Society. Check it out!
Our Committee is also beginning to examine what a “Junior” membership category might entail. This is part of our mission to serve more of the public, particularly those youngsters who show an interest in paleontology, but are a bit young for membership under the current structure. Margaret Lewis will head a subcommittee to study this.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Submitted by: John Flynn, 4 December 2008
Committee Members: John J. Flynn, Chair; Annalisa Berta, James Hopson.

The Nominating Committee met and proposed the candidates for the 2009 SVP officer elections, proposing two candidates for each of the positions to be filled (Member-at-Large, Secretary).

PREPARATORS’ COMMITTEE
Submitted by: William J. Sanders, 18 December 2008
Committee Members: William J. Sanders, Chair; Kyle Davies, Co-Chair; Akiko Shinya, Web Site; Bill Amaral, PrepListServer; Matt Brown, Professional Development; Bill Simpson, Collections Management; Joe Groenke, Preparators Grant Committee; Greg Brown, recent past Chair; Amy Davidson, Continuity Officer; Marilyn Fox, recent past Co-Chair; Remmert Schouten, Preparators Session 2009; Mason Jane, FAQ page; Doug Boyer, Student Representative

We had a very successful Preparators Session and associated posters at SVP 2008 in Cleveland, with the main topic of field methods. In addition, we were pleased to again have a well-staffed preparators table that provided a wealth of information about preparation techniques and materials, a hands-on station for users to try out airscribes and airdent machines, professional preparators constantly on-site to answer prep questions, and a good number of prep-related publications to give interested parties a chance to see what resources are available.

Matt Brown did a comprehensive preparators survey, designed to get an idea about the state of training, experience, compensation, job classification, and opportunities for career development among professional preparators; we are expecting a summary of this survey to come out by the next SVP meeting. We appointed a small subcommittee to work with Matt Brown to develop a thorough overview of ideal standards of training, skills, and knowledge of materials, safety, and equipment for preparators, as a way of enhancing professional standards in our discipline.

We also appointed a small subcommittee to work with Mason Jane to organize the wealth of information that she has collected for the FAQ page, and hope to see their recommendations ready for implementation by SVP 2009.

We discussed several options to help raise money to support the preparators’ grant; among these are making paleontological-themed calendars; having “heroic” specimen casts made available for auction in 2010 at SVP (we need to have some encouragement by the Executive Committee of relevant institutions such as the AMNH, Field Museum, University of Michigan, UC Berkeley, University of Oklahoma, University of Nebraska, the National Museum, etc., to supply these specimens for auction); and developing technical preparation guides for sale by the Society.

We are planning a combined Preparation Session between SVP and SPCC/SVPCA for Bristol 2009, which should have a good representation of conservation-themed talks and posters. In addition, we are working to arrange a workshop on adhesives, which is a very relevant topic for a conservation-themed Prep Session. We anticipate having this workshop just prior to the meetings and likely for about 40 attendees. We may need some funds from the Society for printing of handouts associated with the workshop, but it is too early to estimate cost.
Thanks to Matt Brown, we held a preparation workshop and symposium, including field-site visits, at the Petrified Forest in Arizona last spring, that was attended by about 40 preparators, and will have a publication forthcoming with papers from the symposium; we anticipate having a similar event at the Tate Museum in Casper, Wyoming, this spring, hosted by J. P. Cavigelli (Second Annual Fossil Preparation and Collections Symposium). These are important events for transmission of information among professional preparators, and for job training for less experienced preparators.

Finally, the editors of The Geological Curator, a quarterly publication with a long and respected history, have offered to dedicate a volume marking the occasion and results of the joint SVP/SVPCA/SPPC Preparators Session in Bristol, 2009. This will cost the Society nothing, but we would like to recognize the Society in the publication by having the SVP logo added to the journal for that issue—this will require action by the Executive Committee. I have already mentioned this initiative to the Society President, and she recommended that we move forward with it by bringing it to the attention of the Executive Committee. Remmert Schouten is working as the point man on this issue.

We will likely appoint a new person to organize the Preparators’ Session for SVP 2010, at the SVP 2009 meeting. Also, Kyle Davies will stay on as Chair of the Preparators’ Committee, but Bill Sanders will be rotating off as Chair, and will stay on the Committee as Recent Past Chair. Greg Brown will accordingly rotate off the Committee. It is my personal recommendation that the Executive Committee and Society President consider Matt Brown as the new Co-Chair; he brings an incredible amount of energy, hard work, novel ideas, and accomplishments to the Committee, and we need to promote some of the younger members to positions of responsibility—Matt would be a very sound choice. If Matt takes on that role, we will need to appoint a new Professional Development person, and there are many alternatives who would do a fine job; among them, Scott Madsen, Steve Jabo, Mike Getty, Erin Fitzgerald, and perhaps above all, Ian Morrison of the Royal Ontario Museum.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Submitted by: Jason J. Head, 23 September 2008
Committee Members: Jonathan Bloch, Matthew Carrano, Kristi Curry Rogers, Ted Daeschler, David Fox, Nadia Froebisch, Anjali Goswami, Michael Gottfried, Kerin Claeson, Johannes Müller, Emily Rayfield, William Sanders, Mary Silcox, Rebecca Terry.

2008–2009 activities included:
- Review of 69th Annual Meeting symposium proposals: 16 submitted, five accepted.
- Review of 69th Annual Meeting abstracts scheduled to begin 22 April.
- Membership changes: Robin O’Keefe and Jessica Theodor have rotated off the Committee. Joahnnes Müller (Humbolt Museum, Berlin), Kerin Claeson (UT–Austin), and Mary Silcox (University of Winnipeg) have joined the Committee.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Submitted by: Mark V. H. Wilson, 6 January 2009
Committee Members: Mark V. H. Wilson, Chair; Jason Anderson, Nicholas J. Czaplewski, Susan E. Evans, Nicholas C. Fraser (Media Relations Liaison), Laura Healy (Managing Editor), Pat Holroyd, Jim I. Mead, Robert R. Reisz (Senior Editor, JVP), Jessica M. Theodor (Information Management Liaison).

BioOne and JSTOR
The Publications Committee is pleased to report that a new agreement is in place with BioOne, which is a nonprofit organization of journal publishers that collectively sells subscriptions to electronic versions of their journals. SVP receives revenue from BioOne according to a set
formula based on number of accesses via subscribers to JVP articles on the BioOne site and sales of individual articles to nonsubscribers. Revenue from BioOne helps to defray the cost of publishing JVP. During the current fiscal year, BioOne revenue amounted to $38,970 and the year-over-year trend is for significant increases.

With the help of the Information Management Committee, the Publications Committee is pleased to report that JVP and the SVP Memoirs are now available at JSTOR, with a three-year moving wall (the three most recent complete years of the journal are not posted on JSTOR, but are available from BioOne). There will also be a revenue stream from JSTOR in the future, as a result of our joining this consortium.

Access to JVP articles by SVP members is being changed to direct members to the BioOne and/or JSTOR sites for full-text PDF files, because BioOne and JSTOR offer additional features such as reference linking that JVP cannot duplicate at its own Web site.

**Backlog, Journal Pages, and Issues per Year**
The time to publication for JVP articles declined when JVP increased its pages per year from 800 to 1,000 several years ago (Fig. 1), but has once again been creeping upward, so that an article accepted today would take about nine months to appear in print. The editors do not want this situation to become worse than it is now, preferring a six to eight month delay at the most between acceptance and publication. Manuscript submissions per year are also increasing and have the following recent history:

- 2003 – 122
- 2004 – 205
- 2005 – 187
- 2006 – 190
- 2007 – 199 mss

![Figure 1. Number of JVP pages published per year since Volume 1.](image)

International participation in the journal is growing, as is international distribution of articles through electronic means. All of these factors point to a growing journal with an increasing audience.

The rejection rate for JVP manuscript submissions remains fairly high (rejection includes outright rejection and Major Revision decisions). The rejection rate for the 199 new manuscripts submitted during 2007 was 85/199 or 42.3%.

There are two ways in which we might address the problem of climbing time-to-publication: increase the pages per issue, or increase both pages and the number of issues per year. Some
historical data are provided. There is a general but not tight relationship between the number of subscribing members in SVP and the number of pages that JVP has published since 1991 (Fig. 2).

Recent issues of JVP have fluctuated between 228 pages and 312 pages in size:

- March 2007: 260 pages
- June 2007: 292 pages
- Sept 2007: 228 pages
- Dec 2007: 300 pages
- March 2008: 276 pages
- June 2008: 312 pages

The editors feel that 300 pages is the most that should be bound into one issue, and even that number might lead to premature breakdown of the binding. Over the long run, however, we will probably need to increase the number of issues per year, currently four, to five or six, while also increasing total pages. A scenario of five issues per year might include a special issue (double issue mailed out together with a quarterly issue), but the planning for such a special issue has not begun. The normal next step would be to move to six issues per year on a bimonthly schedule, and to decrease the size of each issue slightly to about 200–225 pages, resulting in a total page count of 1,200–1,350 per year in the near term. This scenario is more costly, because not only would the total pages increase, but so also would the shipping and mailing costs.

**Negotiations with Commercial Publishing Houses**

For many years, JVP has been self-published by the Society through use of companies that offer printing and distribution services (formerly Allen Press, and more recently Sheridan Press) rather than complete publishing solutions including copy editing and marketing. The SVP Executive Committee has mandated that the Publications Committee investigate alternatives, and accordingly, a subcommittee held preliminary discussions with Springer, Taylor & Francis, and Blackwell-Wiley. More recently, the Executive Committee has retained the services of a publishing consultant to prepare a RFP and conduct negotiations with potential publishing houses. The consultant has been provided with relevant data and is currently working on the RFP.
STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE
Submitted by: Julia Heathcote, 18 December 2008
Committee Members: Julia Heathcote, Chair; Steve Brusatte, Doctoral Student; Kerin Claeson, Doctoral Student; Stephanie Drumheller, Doctoral Student; Eugenia Leone Gold, Graduate Student; Amanda Northrop, Undergraduate Student; Mark Young, Doctoral Student.

The Committee consists of seven students. Kerin Claeson stepped down as chair at the 2008 Cleveland meeting and Julia Heathcote has taken over as co-chair. Kerin will remain on the Committee until the 2009 SVP meeting in Bristol. Amanda Northrop and Mark Young have joined the Committee.

The Cleveland meeting incorporated the student roundtable and reprint exchange. This year, the highly popular “Applying to Graduate Programs” table was split into two sections for Master’s programs and PhD programs. Following from the allegations earlier in the year of academic dishonesty and plagiarism within the vertebrate paleontology community, we added a new discussion entitled “Academic Honesty and Ethics.” This was a general discussion to encourage students to think about how they will behave as professionals. Outgoing president Catherine Badgley and incoming president Blaire Van Valkenburgh sat at the table during the roundtable event, and it was a popular topic.

Student Raffle
Student Liaison Committee members sold over 500 raffle tickets at the 2008 meeting. The raffle and refreshments brought record numbers of students to the round table and reprint exchange. The Executive Committee funded two student memberships, and a further two anonymous donations of memberships were made during the reprint exchange. This year the annual raffle benefitted the Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Grants. This is a valuable event at the annual meeting, and we are particularly grateful to Louis Jacobs, Lorin King, Christopher J Bell, Jerry Harris, Robert Sullivan, Anjan Bhullar, Kevin Padian, Louis Taylor, Ted Daeschler, John Flynn, Chris Brochu, and many others for their generous purchases of raffle tickets.

Student Presentation Evaluations
Student presentation evaluations were, for the second year running, not conducted at the annual meeting due to a lack of interest. We would like to inform students about this program earlier in 2009, when the first abstract reminders are sent.

2008/2009 Goals
Annual Meeting Mentoring/Guide Scheme
Responsibility, Eugenia Leone Gold
A mentoring scheme to support first-time SVP attendees is proposed. Volunteers, mostly from the student body, would guide new attendees around the conference area and provide a point of contact before and during the meeting.

Supporting Statement from Eugenia Leone Gold
My first SVP meeting was in Ottawa in 2006, and I was fortunate enough to know a few graduate students who were able to share with me a hotel room, and also act as a guide for SVP. They showed me where to get my badge and packet, where each room was located in the hotel, provided company for meals, and also, nightly entertainment. Without the help of these people, I would have been clueless as to how SVP functioned and what was expected of me, as a new member.

I realize now how many other new members are without this sort of help. I think it would be helpful to have a group of volunteers available to help first-time SVP attendees get accustomed to the convention. The volunteers would minimally need to lend a small portion of their time on the first day to help these newcomers. If they wanted to, they could also help usher the newcomers to special events, like the Welcome Reception or the Student Reprint Exchange.
This idea could also be very beneficial to international attendees. Volunteers with the knowledge of multiple languages could easily help these people and make them feel not only welcome, but comfortable in a new country. Volunteers could be identified by a button (like the raffle ticket button) with stickers available for language choices, or maybe a ribbon on the name badge.

**New Student Welcome Luncheon**
*Responsibility, Steve Brusatte*

A luncheon was proposed during the 2007 Development Committee meeting as an opportunity for new students to introduce themselves in a friendly environment. Getting to know people on the first day of a meeting is critical to a successful experience. The first student luncheon would ideally be held on the first day at the Bristol Meeting where attendance will be relatively low. Students would indicate at the time of online meeting registration if they will attend.

A small budget of $800 is requested to provide boxed lunches. This boxed lunch would be open to first time student attendants at the annual meetings as well as a handful of senior student members free of charge. A low price for any other student wishing to attend should be available ($5 or less including one drink).

The 2007 meeting was attended by 54 new student members, and the 2008 meeting was attended by a similar number of new students. With an estimate of roughly $16 (£10) per person and a generous showing of up to 50 new students at the Bristol meeting, costs for the first year would reach roughly $800. The Student Committee will make the effort to obtain donations from local vendors to reduce the costs of the event (e.g., drinks, snacks, etc.), so as such this estimate is a full-price estimate and likely to be considerably lower. Any remaining money would be saved for subsequent events. The event will be organized by the Student Committee and volunteers, as with the roundtable and reprint exchange. This is our chance to reach out to new students from the European community who we hope will enjoy the meeting so much that they join SVP forever!

**Round Table Website Features**
*Responsibility, Kerin Claeson/Julia Heathcote*

On the new student page of the SVP Web site, we hope to have profiles featuring roundtable panel members. Panel participants are being asked to provide a short summary telling the students who they are, how long they have been in the Society and what advice they can give to students at the roundtable event. This will become a regular source of information for amateurs, students, and post-docs—the “early-stage academics” of the Society. The Web page will go live shortly, and the design as it exists will include a home page listing the topics and participants, along with a featured topic that will be rotated every few months.

**Message Centre, Education/Outreach**
*Responsibility, Kerin Claeson/Julia Heathcote*

Members of the Student Liaison Committee will discuss with the Education and Outreach Committee the use of keywords for filtering enquiries to the Society that pertain to student members and can therefore be answered by our Committee. This may be expanded to develop a Frequently Asked Questions section on the student Web page.

**Membership Changes**
*Chair: Kerin Claeson to be replaced by Julia Heathcote. Kerin will remain on the Committee for one more year. Steve Brusatte and Eugenia Leone Gold remain on the Committee. Stephanie Drumheller, Amanda Northrop, and Mark Young join the Committee. They may be joined by Dave Demar.*
RICHARD ESTES MEMORIAL GRANT COMMITTEE
Submitted by: Paul Barrett, Chair, 8 December 2008
Committee Members: Jason Anderson, Paul M. Barrett (Chair), Susan E. Evans, Catherine A. Forster, Francisco Poyata-Arizo, Stuart Sumida

The 2008 competition received nine valid applications (an increase of three on the previous year), with a 7:2 male to female ratio. All applicants were from North America (one from Canada, eight from the US). There was a strong bias towards projects focused on reptiles or general microvertebrate studies and no projects dealing specifically with fish, lissamphibians, early tetrapods, or basal synapsids were received. This year the Estes Committee used a new Web-based evaluation scheme for proposals, which focused on specific aspects of project quality and innovation. Proposals were scored using this scheme and then ranked in descending order: the highest ranked proposal was awarded the grant.

The 2008 awardee was Anna Lawing, of the University of Indiana, for her project on “Ecological sexual dimorphism in reptiles and its implications for species determination in the fossil record.” We extend our congratulations to Anna and thank the other applicants for submitting their interesting and exciting proposals.

Stuart Sumida indicated that he planned to retire from the Committee following the 2008 competition due to other SVP commitments. Stuart was thanked for his service on the Committee over the past few years. A replacement will be sought, with preference given to someone who works on either basal amniotes or synapsids: this search is currently underway. Other members of the Committee are continuing in their current roles. Johannes Müller (Berlin Museum für Naturkunde) has been asked to step into this role.

GREGORY AWARD COMMITTEE
Submitted by: Greg F. Gunnell, 17 December 2008
Committee Members: Greg F. Gunnell, Chair; David W. Krause, Alison Murray, Doris Nagel, Nick J. Czaplewski, and Suzanne G. Strait.

2008 Activities
Recruitment of new Committee members and new Committee Chair:
- Member Alison Murray joined the Committee in 2008.
- Previous member Gina Gould rotated off the Committee.
- Greg F. Gunnell became the Committee Chair, replacing John Wible who rotated off the Committee.

Determination of the 2008 Gregory Award Recipient:
- Mark Wilson was selected as the 2008 recipient of the Gregory Award; there were three nominations for the award.
- Mark Wilson accepted the Gregory Award at the SVP annual meeting in Cleveland.

2009 Goals
- Recruitment of more award nominees—the Committee solicited nominees last year but this process was cumbersome and not entirely satisfactory.
- Procedures will be sought to streamline and broaden the nominating process.

JOHN J. LANZENDORF PALEOART PRIZE COMMITTEE
Submitted By: Lawrence M. Witmer and Farish A. Jenkins, Jr., 17 December 2008
Committee Members: Farish A. Jenkins, Jr., Chair, currently on leave; Lawrence M. Witmer, Interim Chair; Paul C. Sereno; Chris Sloan; Zhe-Xi Luo, departing member; Robin O’Keefe, new member; and Mark Uhen, new member.
2008 PaleoArt Prize Competition

There were 26 submissions to the Lanzendorf Paleoart competition in 2008, three more than last year. The distribution is as follows: four in the Scientific Illustration category (five less than year), 15 in the Two-Dimensional Art category (five more than last year), and seven in the Three-Dimensional Art category (three more than last year).

Copies of the submissions were submitted to all Committee members and to Kate VanZanten (ex-officio). Collation of scores and judgments by Committee members was discussed by the Committee in a conference call in mid May, and the winners were notified on 21 May.

The winners in the three categories are:

- **Scientific Illustration**: Carol A. Abrazinskas (Chicago) for her magnificently detailed rendering of a distal carpal and manual digit I of *Massospondylous carinatus*. Inasmuch as Carol works for Paul Sereno, Paul abstained from judgment.
- **2D PaleoArt**: Luis V. Rey (London) for his animated, beautifully detailed rendering of a confrontation between *Gigantoraptor* and *Alectrosaurus*.
- **3D PaleoArt**: Tyler Keillor (Chicago) for his elegant, lifelike reconstruction of *Tiktaalik roseae*, the 'prototetrapod' elpistostegalian fish. Inasmuch as Tyler works for Paul Sereno, and Farish Jenkins participated in the discovery and description of *T. roseae*, both Paul and the Committee Chair abstained in the matter.

BRYAN PATTERSON AWARD COMMITTEE

Submitted by Patrick O'Connor, 16 December 2008

Committee Membership: Patrick O'Connor, Chair; Susan Evans; Gregg Gunnell; Ryosuke Motani; and Mark Uhen.

The Patterson Committee received 27 applications for the 2008 award cycle. This equals the number received during the last cycle. Committee members for the 2008 cycle included: Patrick O'Connor (Chair), Susan Evans, Gregg Gunnell, Ryosuke Motani, and Mark Uhen.

Although the majority of applications originated from institutions in the United States and Canada, the Committee also received applications from students at several (~4) European and two South American institutions. The majority of proposed project locations included North American locales; however, other applicants proposed projects to be conducted in Europe, South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Peru), Asia (China), and continental Africa (Angola, Kenya, Morocco). Subsequent to the individual ranking of each proposal by Committee members, a compiled ranking resulted in a tie between two applications. Similar to the situation in 2007 competition, the Committee proposed that the 2008 award be split between the top two projects. This proposal was sent to the SVP Executive Committee and was approved by ExCom in April 2008. The two funded proposals were submitted by Emily Goble, Yale University; project title: *Faunal Shifts and Precessional Climatic Forcing in the Chemeron formation, Tugen Hills, Kenya*; and Joshua Miller, University of Chicago; project title: *Global Warming, Beast of Ice: Ancient Carcasses from Rapidly Melting Glaciers Provide Evolutionary and Paleoecological Insight*.

The Patterson Committee wants to encourage applications from all students interested in doing paleontological field exploration—there are still many more fossils to find out there!
PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARD GRANT
Submitted by Christian A. Sidor. 18 December 2008
Committee Members: Christian Sidor, Chair; Rick Blob; Matthew Mihlbachler; Natalia Rybczynski; and Florian Witzmann.

**Activities**
- The Committee reviewed five applications and awarded the PFAG to Sterling Nesbitt at the SVP annual meeting at Cleveland.
- The Committee met at the SVP conference and evaluated the online application. We will incorporate several changes to the application system for this year.
- Applications for the PFAG will continue to be accepted electronically through the SVP Web site.
- Julia Clarke and Mark Uhen stepped down from the Committee at the SVP conference. The Committee welcomes Matthew Mihlbachler and Florian Witzmann as its newest members.

**Goals**
- The Committee Chair (Sidor) will work with the SVP administration in early 2009 to update the PFAG online application.

PREPARATORS’ GRANT COMMITTEE
Submitted by Joseph R. Groenke, 9 December 2008
Committee Members: Joseph Groenke, Co-Chair; Kyle Davies, Co-Chair; Marilyn Fox; William Sanders; and William Simpson.

All members except current co-chairs Kyle Davies and Joseph Groenke have rotated off the Committee. We have requested and received membership intention from Don DeBleuix, Ellen-Threse Lamm, and J. P. Cavigelli. We recommend that the Executive Committee approve these members as we move forward with our work on the Preparator’s Grant.

**Nomination of the 2008 Preparator’s Grant**
This year’s Preparator’s Grant was awarded to Bolortsetseg Minjin.

PROGRAM FOR SCIENTISTS FROM ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPING NATIONS
Submitted by Nancy J. Stevens, 18 December 2008
Committee Members: Nancy J. Stevens, Chair, Larry Flynn; Eva Koppelhus; Octávio Mateus; Sifa Ngasala; and Anne Schulp.

The primary goal of this program is to enable scientists from nations with developing economies to present research at the SVP Annual Meeting. This program offers annual awards to promote opportunities for international scientists who are otherwise unable to attend the annual meeting of the SVP. The award provides travel expenses to enable the recipient to present research in any area of vertebrate paleontology at the annual meeting.

Since the mid-year meeting, the program has been formally established and members have been recruited for the new Committee, tasked with reviewing applications each year. Members recruited in 2008 include: Nancy Stevens (Ohio University, US), Larry Flynn (Harvard Peabody Museum, US), Eva Koppelhus (University of Alberta, Canada), Octávio Mateus (Lourinhã Museum, Portugal), Sifa Ngasala (Michigan State University, US, and University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania), and Anne Schulp (Maastricht Museum, The Netherlands). Additional Committee members will be sought as necessary in future years.
The primary goals for the Committee this year are to review applications for the 2009 award, and to solicit a large number of applications for the next award.

All 2009 Developing Nations Scientists Committee members will review applications and participate in the selection process of the award recipient. Committee members will actively promote the program at the Bristol meeting and beyond in order to facilitate a sustained and competitive applicant pool.

The Executive Committee has contributed sufficient funds for one award to be offered for the 2009 Bristol meeting, and funds are being assembled to establish an endowment that will allow one to two scientists to be supported by this program each year. The Development Committee Chair, Lou Taylor, has been active in seeking new contributors, and Kate VanZanten has offered to act as a contact person on the Web site to facilitate other donors interested in supporting this program.

ROMER-SIMPSON MEDAL
Submitted by Bruce J. MacFadden, 4 January 2009

Committee Members: Bruce J. MacFadden, Chair; Peter Dodson; Jeremy Hooker; Martin Sander; and Rebecca Terry.

In 2008 the Romer-Simpson Medal Committee considered two nominees, and their recommendation was accepted by the SVP Executive Committee to award the medal to José Bonaparte of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Bonaparte received the medal at the SVP Awards Banquet in Cleveland on 18 October 2008.

After the SVP 2008 meeting in Cleveland, the membership of the Romer-Simpson Medal Committee was revised according to its charter to consist of five members, two in one class (rotating off in 2009), and three in the other (rotating off in 2010), as indicated above. The three new Committee members were appointed by SVP President Van Vankanburgh.

The following changes have been made to the Romer-Simpson prospective and guidelines since October 2008:

- At the request of the new Committee Chair MacFadden, the “service” component of the Medal was removed. This change was considered by the SVP Executive Committee and approved.
- In December 2008 a cogent argument was made by a SVP member to remove the restriction of a total of three letters for a prospective nominee (i.e., including the letter of nomination and no more than two “seconding” letters). This request was approved by the SVP President and the new language allows for a nominating letter and at least two other seconding letters of support for the nomination packet.

The current prospectus listed on the SVP Web site reflects these changes:
http://www.vertpaleo.org/meetings/romersimpsonmedal.cfm

The Committee will review applications/nominations for the Romer-Simpson Medal after the due date of 20 April 2009 and make a recommendation to the SVP Executive Committee for their mid-year meeting in May.
MORRIS F. SKINNER AWARD
Submitted by Nancy Stevens, 4 December 2008
Committee Members: Nancy Stevens, 2008 Chair; Xiaoming Wang, Past Chair; Paul M. Barrett; Rodolfo A. Coria; Kristina Curry Rogers; Daniel Goujet, 2009 Chair; John M. Harris; and Brian Kraatz.

The primary goal of the Morris F. Skinner Award Committee is to evaluate proposals to honor individuals who make “outstanding and sustained contributions to scientific knowledge through the making of important collections of fossil vertebrates—it shall also be made to those persons who encourage, train or teach others toward the same pursuits”.

There were two valid nominations for the Morris F. Skinner Award in 2008. Both nominations were very strong and highly deserving of an award. After careful consideration, the Committee selected Chuck Schaff as the 2008 awardee.

One new Committee member was recruited in 2008: Nancy Stevens (Ohio University). Additional Committee members will be sought for the 2009 review cycle.

Daniel Goujet has agreed to assume the role of Skinner Award Committee Chair for 2009. As before, all 2009 Skinner Award Committee members will review applications and participate in the selection process of the award recipient using the SVP online system.

--- COMMITTEE LISTINGS ---

Click here to search for committee information:
http://www.vertpaleo.org/society/committees.cfm

--- AWARD WINNERS ---

EDWIN H. AND MARGARET M. COLBERT AWARD—Tatsuya Hirasawa
I was born in Tokyo, Japan. As long as I can remember, I have had a fascination with nature and animals, and I have wanted to be a scientist since my childhood. When I was around 12 years old, I read some books on dinosaurs, in particular a book written by Philip Currie, and at that time I made up my mind to be a vertebrate paleontologist. Therefore, I entered the University of Tokyo to study mainly biology and geology. In a course of biology, I learned the respiratory anatomy of birds, and I developed a great interest in its evolutionary origin.

From the third year of my undergraduate studies, I entered the Department of Earth and Planetary Science of the University of Tokyo. This was also the time when I began to attend the SVP meetings and met Leon Claessens (Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA) for the first time. Since then, I have been corresponding with Dr. Claessens and he has provided valuable support in my studies. In the fourth year, I started to work on the geology of the Lower Cretaceous of northeastern Japan under the supervision of
Tatsuo Oji (invertebrate paleontologist). In the field, I conducted taxonomic and taphonomic studies of plant fossils.

When I started the Master’s program at the University of Tokyo, I tried to begin studying ribcages of theropod dinosaurs. Due to vertebrate fossils being very rare in Japan, researchers face considerable difficulties in conducting such paleontological studies of vertebrates. In the beginning, I investigated mainly the Tyrannosauridae at the museums in US and Canada, because this taxon is represented by relatively many complete skeletons. In my Master’s thesis, I focused on the articulation between the vertebra and the rib (costovertebral articulation), as well as rib morphology. I have paid much attention on the costovertebral articulation to reconstruct ribcage kinematics in theropods.

Currently I am in the PhD program at the University of Tokyo, and I am still working on theropod ribcages. I aim to reveal the evolutionary process of the ribcage morphology (the topic of this poster), and to reconstruct ribcage kinematics and breathing mechanisms in theropods. I am struggling with dissections of birds and crocodilians, in addition to examinations of fossils. Moreover, I believe experiences of fieldwork will bring me new insights, thus I recently joined in the Japan-Mongolia Joint Paleontological Expedition to the Gobi Desert, Mongolia, in 2008.

The deeper I study, the more interested I am becoming in natural history. After my graduation (scheduled for 2010), I intend to work abroad (US, Canada, or Europe) as a postdoc, and to be active in the frontline of vertebrate paleontology research.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Tatsuo Oji, Makoto Manabe (National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo), Leon Claessens, and Patrick O’Connor (Ohio University, Athens). Without their assistance, I could not have conducted these very exciting studies.

**RICHARD ESTES MEMORIAL GRANT—A. Michelle Lawing**

Living in Texas most of my life I have had an opportunity to become acquainted with the diverse herpetofauna of the state, for which I have developed an endless curiosity. After receiving my BS in biology at the University of Texas at Arlington, I decided to pursue research studying microhabitat preferences of squamate reptile assemblages in both Texas and Kansas. I received my MS in biology from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2007 with the thesis “Monte Carlo Analysis of Refuge Site Selection: Statistical Properties and an Empirical Example,” supervised by Daniel Formanowicz. While working on my Master’s degree I took several statistical and mathematics classes that inspired me to include quantitative methods in my research program. I started my PhD studies at Indiana University in 2007 with supervisor David Polly where I am pursuing a double major in the Department of Geological Sciences and in the Department of Biology. My dissertation research topics will broadly include quantitative methods for studying evolutionary paleontology, phylogenetic comparative methods, morphologic variation in species, both spatially and temporally, and assessing the effects of climate and climate change on species distributions and morphology. I am very thankful to be selected as the award recipient for the Estes Memorial Grant. The grant will support a project focused on identifying evolutionary patterns of sexual dimorphism from both neontological and paleontological evidence.
JOSEPH T. GREGORY AWARD—Mark V. H. Wilson

Mark Wilson grew up in Toronto, Canada, where he attended the University of Toronto in honors geology and zoology. He received his BSc in 1968. Important early experiences include four summers with the Geological Survey of Canada in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, in the Atlantic Provinces, in the Hudson Bay lowlands, and on a geophysical research cruise to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Having been introduced to vertebrate paleontology by Loris S. Russell, Mark enrolled in graduate school under Russell’s supervision in the Geology Department and the Royal Ontario Museum, receiving his MSc in 1970. After Loris Russell’s retirement, Mark was supervised by A. Gordon Edmund and received his PhD in 1974. The subject of both MSc and PhD was the Eocene freshwater fishes of British Columbia.

Mark worked for one year as Assistant Professor at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, before moving to Alberta to take a position in the Department of Zoology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, where he has remained ever since. He is now Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and Curator of Fossil Fishes in the Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology. Mark taught vertebrate paleontology for many years with R. C. Fox, along with chordate anatomy. Mark and Joe Nelson established a course in principles of systematics that Mark continues to teach today, along with paleontology of the lower vertebrates and mechanisms of evolution.

Research early in Mark’s academic career emphasized freshwater fish fossils of Eocene and Paleocene age, with additional examples from the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous, together with studies of taphonomy. Beginning in 1989, Mark developed an interest in the paleontology of early vertebrates and the transition from jawless to jawed vertebrates, publishing on fossils of heterostracans, thelodonts, osteostracans, acanthodians, and putative early chondrichthyans from the Silurian and Devonian of northern Canada and elsewhere. The incredible diversity and excellent preservation at the MOTH locality in the Mackenzie Mountains, Northwest Territories, has led to many important discoveries. His undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows have written theses and published on early vertebrates, fish taphonomy, systematics of Mesozoic and Tertiary fishes, and the osteology and phylogeny of extant fishes.

Mark was an active participant in IGCP (UNESCO International Geological Program) 328 and 491, and was co-leader of IGCP 406 (Circum-Arctic Palaeozoic Vertebrates), a role that involved organizing meetings and collaborations in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Scotland, and Sweden. He also publishes a newsletter and Web site for international researchers on Mesozoic fishes, participates in the international meetings on early/lower vertebrates and on Mesozoic fishes, has served on committees for the Alberta Government and the Geological Society of Canada, and has co-hosted a meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Mark’s SVP involvement began with the 1969 meeting at AMNH, New York. He has served on the Membership Committee, the Program Committee, and the Publications Committee, of which he is currently the chair. His involvement with the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology has included terms as Associate Editor, Co-Editor, Senior Editor, and most recently Receiving Editor.
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP RECIPIENTS

Michel Brunet

Michel Brunet spent most of his childhood in a farm in Poitou (southwestern France). He entered the Sorbonne in Paris where he studied natural sciences and paleontology. He defended his doctorate in paleontology in 1966. Then he went to the University of Poitiers to study Paleogene mammals and completed his natural sciences state doctorate in 1975 and became a tenured professor of paleontology in 1989. In 1976 his research concentrated on hominid paleontology in Afghanistan and Iraq. Due to the dangerous political situation in both countries, he turned his attention to Africa where he decided to explore western Africa for ape and hominid fossils.

His first surveys took place in Cameroon in 1984 and in Chad in 1993 when he received a research permit from the Chad government to conduct excavations in the Lake Chad basin, today the Djurab Desert. He founded the Mission Paléoanthropologique Franco-Tchadienne (M.P.F.T.) to research the origin, the evolution and the environments of early hominids. In 1995 he described a new hominid dated to 3.5 My, Australopithecus bahrelghazali, the first australopithecine known west of the Rift Valley. He nicknamed it “Abel” in honor to the memory of a colleague and close friend who died during a field mission in Cameroon. In 2002 and 2005, he published the earliest hominid yet found (7 My): a nearly complete cranium, lower jaws and isolated teeth from Toros Menalla, Djurab Desert (northern Chad). The fossil, nicknamed Toumaï (meaning “hope of life” in the local Goran language), was classified in Nature by him as: Sahelanthropus tchadensis.

More recently he has also led field surveys and diggings for fossil mammals and primates in Libya and Egypt (with the Al Fateh University of Tripoli and Cairo University).

Michel Brunet is currently Professor of the College de France, Chaire de Paleontologie humaine, in Paris, and a member of the Institut International de Paleoprimatologie et Paleontologie humaine: evolution et paleoenvironnements (I.P.H.E.P.) UMR CNRS 6046 of the University of Poitiers.

James A. Hopson

I had the good fortune to be born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, where proximity to Yale’s Peabody Museum of Natural History stimulated my early interest in fossil vertebrates. Taking advantage of a scholarship from Yale, I decided to attend this conveniently nearby college, scarcely understanding the wonderful opportunity being offered me. An introductory geology course in my second year inspired me to major in geology and to combine it with my youthful interest in fossils. I approached Joseph T. Gregory, then the VP at Yale, who invited me to participate that summer in a dinosaur dig in Utah. In the fall, I took Joe’s undergraduate VP course and the next year audited his year-long graduate course. As his bursary student assistant I worked in the vertebrate fossil collections, identifying and cataloguing specimens.

I chose to do graduate studies at the University of Chicago, where the Paleozoology program of Everett C. (Ole) Olson offered the freedom to remedy my deficiencies in biology. I came well prepared in classical VP, but Ole showed me that fossils also had much to say about macroevolutionary patterns. When an older graduate student dropped out, Ole offered me his
thesis material. This was a collection of the tritylodontid *Bienotherium*, which had been collected in China in the late 1940s under the auspices of Father Harold Rigney, a former student of Ole’s and, until the Communist takeover, Rector of the Catholic University of Peking (Beijing). This windfall set the future direction of my research to “mammal-like reptiles” and the origin of mammals. My “real” life also changed for the better when I met my future wife, Sue, then an undergraduate at the University.

Yale came back into the picture in 1962, when new curators Elwyn Simons and John Ostrom asked me to take on an NSF-funded curatorial assistantship at Peabody Museum with duties to reorganize the vertebrate fossil collections. Sue and I spent the following five years in New Haven, where our two sons were born. In 1964, A. W. (Fuzz) Crompton joined the Museum as its new director, bringing with him from South Africa a wealth of therapsid material. These fossils gave me an exceptional education in therapsid morphology and greatly improved the PhD thesis that I submitted in 1965. I stayed at Yale for two more years as a research associate with Fuzz. The principal outcome of our research was a 1969 review of the origin of mammals, which argued for a monophyletic origin from a *Morganucodon*-like ancestor.

In 1967, Sue and I, with sons Andrew and Peter, moved back to the University of Chicago, where I began as Assistant Professorship in the Department of Anatomy (later to become Organismal Biology and Anatomy). I taught undergraduate chordate biology, first with David Wake and then, for 18 years, with Eric Lombard. I shared the graduate VP course with Ole, Len Radinsky, and Leigh Van Valen, but after Ole left for UCLA I took over all of the non-mammalian vertebrates, which in later years I taught with John Bolt, Eric Lombard, and Paul Sereno. In addition to my appointment in anatomy, I became a research associate at the Field Museum and a member of the Committee on Evolutionary Biology.

My research has centered on the morphology and phylogeny of therapsids and early mammals, with a few excursions into dinosaurs. I have greatly enjoyed my fruitful collaborations with colleagues such as Herb Barghusen, Edgar Allin, and James Kitching, with postdoctoral fellows John Wible and Guillermo Rougier, and with former students Jim Clark and Chris Sidor. In addition, I wish to acknowledge the influence of Eric Lombard and John Bolt, as well as my other University of Chicago colleagues, on my development as a scientist and teacher over the past 40 years.

Though officially retired since 2001, I am still actively involved with my fossils. Sue and I have made a new home in western Michigan, among forest and sand dunes, where we continue with our professional work, though at a less intense pace.

The SVP has played an important role in my professional life since I attended my first meeting at the American Museum in 1955. For more than 50 years I have watched the Society grow and prosper beyond anything I could have imagined then. I was honored to have served as president of the SVP in 1984. I am now honored to have been elected an Honorary Member of the Society.
Paul Martin
Excerpts from noted vertebrate paleontologists, about Paul Martin:

“Although Paul is not a paleontologist by academic training, he has certainly had a profound role on the science, especially for the late Quaternary Period.”

“He is possibly best known for his ‘Overkill Hypothesis’ for the extinction of Pleistocene megafauna. He has stimulated quantities of research and publications (pro and con) throughout the world.”

“Paul is not only known for the research and publications which are the results of his brilliant mind. It is also important to recognize the generations of gifted scholars who had the opportunity to be inspired by Paul, or to work with him…that have greatly enhanced our view and understanding of the late Pleistocene past…and provide a small glimpse of what the future holds.”

Paul is a visionary, a source of intriguing hypotheses, plus intellectual and scientific challenges to ‘status quo’ thinking. His expertise is wrapped in a congenial personality that befits a gifted scientist and gentleman.”

—Excerpts from Larry D. Agenbroad

“Martin’s name has come to be almost synonymous with the idea that over-hunting by humans was the crucial factor driving the late Pleistocene extinction of large-bodied vertebrates in North America and around much of the rest of the world. Even in the minds of people outside our immediate discipline, he is thus associated with a critical event in the recent history of vertebrate faunas.”

—Excerpt from Daniel C. Fisher

“When it comes to Quaternary paleontology, one cannot but be overwhelmed with the amount of impact Paul has had on the study of Quaternary, especially with the late Rancholabrean extinctions. It is Paul that has made us all think critically about the extinction event.”

“His books, his articles, and his provocative speeches have illustrated that Paul is the leader in the study of global extinctions due to the arrival of humans.”

—Excerpts from Jim I. Mead

“I think it is fair to say that Paul has done more than just about any other Quaternary vertebrate paleontologist to raise awareness of the importance of vertebrate paleontology in conservation biology and in the public eye, and he has been instrumental in the discipline. His work in the 1950s and 1960s, when he first began to talk about the impacts of humans on megafauna, was way ahead of its time.”

“In the past five years or so, Paul’s interpretations of human impacts in the Pleistocene have become a parable in conservation biology. Most recently he has been one of the architects of a bold new plan in conservation biology, so-called Pleistocene rewilding, which (in his own words) seeks “the resurrection of the foraging behavior of animals now buried in the graveyards of near time.”

—Excerpts from Tony Barnosky
LANZENDORF PALEOART PRIZE WINNERS
Two-Dimensional Art—Luis V. Rey

Luis V. Rey is a Spanish/Mexican artist resident in London (MA in visual arts from the San Carlos Academy in Mexico, UNAM). Painter, sculptor, journalist, and author that evolved from personal art roots in surrealism, hyper-realism and general fantasy, comic, and science fiction book cover illustration to currently devote most of his time to promote science in general and paleontology in particular.

He is of the opinion that popularizing paleontology is a must and that imaginative paleo-illustration opens the channels for an important level of mass education regarding, above all, the teaching and understanding of evolution.

He did his first dinosaur book when he was 12 as a gift for his parents and his love for paleontology never went away. After becoming specially inspired by the dinosaur renaissance during the 1980s time was ripe to finally approach dinosaurs not as dusty bones in a museum, but as what they were: once-living animals. Moreover a change of image was very much needed: dinosaurs were not just extinct or obsolete, green-gray creatures but forerunners of their colorful living descendants, the birds. Many years later, as full-time paleo-artist he has taken the colorful essence of dinosaurs very seriously. His main aim is to be provocative, break conventions, and make dinosaurs look and feel dynamic as a different class within reptiles (while keeping to his paleontological and anatomical homework scrupulously).

His paleo-art publishing breakthrough was a children's dinosaur book for Usborne Publishing in 1992 and a dinosaur comic for Marvel just before that. He continued to study and championed the "Birds Are Dinosaurs" cause with a vengeance (inspired by the likes of Greg Paul, Robert Bakker, and Phil Currie). His first paleo-art book as author was "Extreme Dinosaurs." After becoming a member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology thanks to the personal patronage of John Lanzendorf (several of his works are in his famous collection) he has continued through the years with many collaborations including four books for Random House from the "Pictureback" and "Step Into Reading" collections with his old hero Bob Bakker (all dedicated to young audiences), the rather imaginative "A Field Guide To Dinosaurs" with Henry Gee, and more recently Random House's "Dinosaurs: The Most Complete Up-to-Date Encyclopedia for All Ages" with Thom Holtz, which he considers his most important collaboration to date. His many other collaborations include works with/by Per Christiansen, Anusuya Chinsamy, Charlie and Flo Magovern, Darren Naish, and David Martill.

He has recently put aside his old acrylics and inks on boards to develop new digital painting techniques, where he has found a completely new world to discover.

His Web site <www.ndirect.co.uk/~luisrey> is (unwittingly) a famous landmark in the World Wide Web.
Three-Dimensional Art—Tyler Keillor

Tyler Keillor is passionate about creating scientifically accurate and lifelike sculptures of dinosaurs and other ancient beasts. Working with fossils, Tyler also conducts research and comparative analysis with living analogs (birds, crocs, and other reptiles) in order to better understand the appearance of their long extinct relatives.

Since 2001, Tyler has had the unique experience of preparing fossils on a daily basis at the University of Chicago’s Fossil Laboratory, and then applying that intimate hands-on specimen knowledge to his paleontological reconstructions. In addition to working on Paul Sereno’s many new discoveries, Tyler’s skills have been applied to the juvenile tyrannosaur reconstructions at the Burpee Museum in Rockford, Illinois, and the transitional fish/tetrapod Tiktaalik roseae’s flesh-model. Other reconstructed species include Rajasaurus narmadensis, Rugops primus, Nigersaurus taqueti, Saharastega moradiensis, Herrerasaurus ischigualastensis, and other soon-to-be-announced wonders from the past.

Tyler is grateful to John Lanzendorf for introducing him to so many inspiring paleo-artists and paleontologists, as well as for encouraging him to join SVP; since becoming a member, Tyler has been proud to present talks or posters at the Society’s annual meetings. Tyler also thanks his wife Kari for her support and paleo-patience.

Scientific Illustration—Carol Abraczinskas

A graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Carol Abraczinskas began her career as a professional artist in 1989 at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, documenting Egyptian and Nubian artifacts. Later that year, she joined Paul Sereno’s team at the University of Chicago, accompanying him on field expeditions to Texas and Niger as a scientific illustrator.

Her award-winning drawings have been featured in exhibits at the Field Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, as well as in national magazines and scientific journals such as Science, Nature, National Geographic, and Newsweek.

She has contributed her expertise to workshops for Project Exploration as well as to graduate classes at the University of Chicago, where she has taught advanced courses since 1994. Carol has worked as an artist for the Epigraphic Survey of the Oriental Institute from 1998–2000 in Luxor, Egypt, where she recorded wall reliefs from the 18th dynasty chapel at Medinet Habu for publication. Most recently, Carol’s work was featured as cover art for the December 2007 issue of the journal Cladistics and the January 2008 issue of the journal Evolution.
BRYAN PATTERSON MEMORIAL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Emily Goble
I entered Arizona State University pursuing a degree in history and exited with an additional degree in anthropology. The course work convinced me I was in love with paleoecological research. I was less convinced about the fieldwork. A career involving months of camping had never been in any variation of my original plans. I decided the best way to determine whether or not I could live with several filthy people for weeks on end was to participate in a field school. In 2003 I went to Makapansgat on the Institute of Human Origin’s South African Field School. Camping out with a ragtag group of students and spending my days poring over mammal bones I fell in love with field work. The experience also ignited my love of paleoecology. I realized I cared less about taxonomic names given to hominins and more about what they might have been doing in their environment and how they evolved.

Under the wonderful guidance of Kaye Reed I was directed to Curtis Marean’s zooarchaeology lab. I spent my senior year ruining my eyesight on micromammals. Curtis offered me my second field opportunity as an excavator at Pinnacle Point Cave 13B in Mossel Bay, South Africa. Curtis was asking interesting environmental questions and using techniques that have influenced my graduate career. He encouraged using GIS not only to model the cave but to aid in building testable hypotheses to take to the field.

Applying for graduate school Kaye steered me toward Yale University and the work of Andrew Hill. My interests in biogeography, faunal change, climatic forcing, and exploiting new technology to enhance research have been supported and nourished under his guidance. As part of the Baringo Paleontological Research Project I have been involved in fieldwork in the Tugen Hills for the last three years. My dissertation research Faunal Shifts and Precessional Climatic Forcing in the Chemeron Formation, Tugen Hills, Kenya combines remotely-sensed images, modern ecology, faunal analysis, and, of course, time in the field. The majority of my research will take place in the National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi, where our specimens are housed. Funding from the Bryan Patterson Memorial Award will support additional fieldwork in the Chemeron Formation to increase the sample size at each site during a poorly-known time period. This project addresses questions about environmental impact on lineages during a critical time in hominin evolution. The interval between 2–3 Ma is one of marked change in our lineage with the emergence of two new genera, the first stone tools, and the first butchery sites.

Joshua Miller
My interests in science (and taphonomy) were jump-started during summer family vacations to Washington’s Pacific Coast where I spent countless hours exploring the mussels, crabs, and other life filling rocky tide pools and inching my way across beaches covered in the shells and other remnants of those same critters. My interests in biology were later fostered in a one-room elementary school that believed in hands-on learning and field trips to national parks and active science labs where we were encouraged to poke around and make our own discoveries. That same philosophy of learning through first-hand exploration, careful consideration, and discussion was a major theme in high school, where Mark Terry (The Northwest School; Seattle, WA) first exposed me to the nitty gritty of vertebrate paleontology during a field trip to Oregon’s John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. Prospecting across those outcrops, discovering fossils imbedded in rock, touring the preparation facilities,
and gazing at undescribed species imprinted upon me the excitement of scientific pursuit and the wonders of paleontology.

While attending Macalester College in Saint Paul, MN, Jerry Webers and Ray Rogers helped me explore sedimentology and paleontology more seriously and helped foster those interests into my main academic focus. One trip to the Cretaceous of Madagascar later and exposure to the questions and community of scientists involved in the Mahajanga Basin Project permanently hooked me into questions of ancient biodiversity, paleoecology, and taphonomy.

My work focuses on the ecological data contained within death assemblages to (1) refine paleoecological and evolutionary interpretations of fossil accumulations, and (2) provide historical ecological insight into modern ecosystems where biomonitoring efforts have been inconsistent or only recently initiated. Although recent increases in melting rates of glaciers around the world are a geographic tragedy with measurable detriment to nearby ecosystems, the release of previously entombed carcasses and other biological remnants of extinct species and populations provide a unique but rapidly decomposing window into the ecology and evolution of many lineages. Assemblages of frozen carcasses and their geographic distributions provide paleoecological, evolutionary, and climatic contexts for extant species and populations. In addition, these carcasses provide important glimpses of pre-industrial, pre-agricultural, and even pre-human ecological baselines—such data are rare but essential for establishing the effects of current climate trends and anthropogenic assaults on global biodiversity.

The Patterson Award provides essential support for the time-sensitive retrieval of these fragile and quickly-vanishing paleobiological resources. I greatly appreciate the support of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP GRANT—Sterling J. Nesbitt

I was born in the deserts of the southwestern United States—Mesa, Arizona. Many camping trips to the edge of the Colorado Plateau fueled my love of discovering ancient life and being outdoors. I didn't have to go far to collect fossils, during 1997, a mammoth was found near my house. I spent the next three weeks excavating the specimen in July in the Phoenix basin; I was hooked and I have been doing fieldwork every summer since. I completed by undergraduate degree in integrative biology at the University of California–Berkeley. Under the direction of Kevin Padian, I collected, prepared, and fully described the Middle Triassic suchian Arizonasaurus babbitti for my senior thesis. My investigation in to the relationship of Arizonasaurus sparked my interest in early archosaurs. I am currently a PhD candidate at Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History.

My primary research interest focuses on two main areas: the relationships of basal archosaurs and early radiation of the group following the Permian-Triassic boundary. To accomplish this, I have conducted fieldwork in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, North Carolina, Tanzania, Mongolia, and Madagascar to collect new specimens from the Early to the Late Triassic. My dissertation has focused on the relationships of suchians (rauisuchians and poposaurusids), the stem leading to Dinosauria, and the stem leading to Archosaurus. Additionally, I have examined the Coelophysis Quarry assemblage, one of the world's most extensive and remarkable Late Triassic
accumulations of vertebrates, and I have also traveled to museums all over the world inspecting basal archosaurs.

I am excited and honored to be awarded the SVP's Predoctoral Fellowship Grant for 2008. I wish to thank the selection committee and the generous letters of recommendations from Paul Olsen, Mark Norell, and John Flynn. The award allows me to continue my examination of the early archosaur radiation in the Triassic. I will travel to China to study early archosaurs from the Middle to Late Triassic of Asia. These taxa serve as a comparison among similar taxa from North America, South Africa, and Tanzania.

PREPARATORS' GRANT—Bolortsetseg Minjin

Bolortsetseg Minjin was born in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and received a bachelor's degree in geology and a master's degree in invertebrate paleontology from the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. While a graduate student, she joined the paleontological expeditions of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). This included the last expedition to Mongolia led by the late Malcolm McKenna, in 1997. With the support of the AMNH, Bolortsetseg received her PhD in earth and environmental sciences at the City University of New York. Her dissertation was on the postcranial skeleton of Multituberculata, with an emphasis on specimens from the Late Cretaceous of Mongolia.

Bolortsetseg has conducted extensive fieldwork in Mongolia, starting with geologic mapping while an undergraduate. Since that time, she participated in five paleontological expeditions with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the AMNH, three as co-leader of a joint expedition with Georgia Southern University, and three as expedition leader of a joint expedition with the Museum of the Rockies. Just last year, she founded the nonprofit Institute for the Study of Mongolian Dinosaurs (ISMD) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The goals of the Institute are to develop a self-sustaining, active community of Mongolian paleontologists and a museum in Mongolia to preserve dinosaurs and other national treasures. Rapid progress has been made, and with the support of donors, a research facility with preparation lab has been constructed in Mongolia.

In 2008 Bolortsetseg accepted a post-doctoral research position with Jack Horner of the Museum of the Rockies to work on the paleobiology of the Cretaceous dinosaur Psittacosaurus. Since 2005, Jack has worked with Bolortsetseg in Mongolia and has actively supported her efforts to improve Mongolian paleontology. With the exception of Bolortsetseg, all PhD vertebrate paleontologists in Mongolia are approaching retirement age, and there is not a young cadre of well trained paleontologists in Mongolia to carry the torch. This is obviously a problem for Mongolia, which has a very rich fossil record, but the potential absence of Mongolian paleontologists threatens the long standing tradition of collaboration between Mongolian and foreign scientists. The ISMD is feverishly working to fix this problem; it is supporting two Mongolian students with graduate fellowships and another student has been accepted by the Museum of the Rockies for PhD studies. A third is currently taking language classes at Montana State University.

A key component of creating a sustainable community of Mongolian paleontologists is having a collection of Mongolian fossils in Mongolia that is available for study by Mongolian students. Through her expeditions, Bolortsetseg has amassed a large collection of Mesozoic and Cenozoic fossils in Mongolia, but few specimens have been prepared because the Institute does not have a fully trained, full-time preparator. Fortunately, Baasanjav Ugtbayar, a graduate of the Ulaanbaatar University, Mongolia, has agreed to join the ISMD as the head preparator. Baasanjav, who prepared over 40 fossil rodent skulls for her senior thesis, is looking forward to learning more sophisticated preparation techniques. With the support of the Preparator's Grant, she will receive
detailed training on the preparation of small fossils, acid preparation, molding, and casting, as well as the preparation of histological sections of fossil bone. The Museum of the Rockies has graciously offered the time of three of their preparators and their lab to train Baasanjav. Upon completion of her training, Baasanjav will return to the ISMD in Mongolia and train other Mongolians in the skills she learned at the Museum of the Rockies. She and the team she leads will then be able to prepare many of the specimens at the ISMD, providing an invaluable source of fossil specimens for Mongolian students and scientists for years to come.

ROMER PRIZE—Joshua Miller
See biography under Patterson Award.

ROMER-SIMPSON MEDAL—José Bonaparte
I was born in Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina, on 1928. My childhood in Mercedes, 100 kilometres west from Buenos Aires, Argentina, was very modest. I was raised with my three brothers by my mother. I used to sell knitting and embroidered works made by my mother and also several rural works until I was 14 years old. After attending primary school, and having learned mechanical and carpenter work, I met a group of young anarchists interested in social and cultural problems of the society. I followed them and became interested in evolution and read, “On the Origin of Species.”

Fortunately for me, in Mercedes lived an old collector retired from the La Plata Museum with several Pleistocene bones from the Luján River, the area on which Florentino Ameghino (at one time he had the largest collections of fossils in the world) when he was preceptor of a Public School of Mercedes, in about 1879 or so. The Glyptodon bones in the Andres Canesa home and the books written by Ameghino were so fascinating to me that I fell in love with vertebrate paleontology of mammals and, like Ameghino, became very interested in the archaeology of Buenos Aires.

Through the combination of my mother’s enthusiasm and the social ideas of my group of friends, we opened a small Museum of Natural Sciences in 1947 in a Socialist Party house, which had been closed by the Peronist government. The Museum progressed under “custody policies,” supported by the local professional people. The publication of the second report of the Museum in 1958 resulted in my receiving an invitation from the National University of Tucumán, northern Argentina, to work at the School of Natural Sciences as curator of vertebrate paleontology under Osvaldo A. Reig.

So, at 31 years old I began my academic life under an excellent student of evolution and surrounded by anatomists, zoologists, geologists, entomologists, and other professionals. Their influence stimulated and improved my general knowledge, as did attending courses and collecting at the Triassic localities of northwestern Argentina. Professor Reig inspired me to develop research on the Cynodontia from the Ischigualasto Basin, a subject that even now is of great interest to me.

In 1964, A. S. Romer visited our Triassic collection in Tucumán and invited me to the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, where I spent two long seasons thanks to the Guggenheim Foundation. My Harvard stays in 1968 and 1973 opened quite few doors for my scientific work on triassic faunas from South America; a subject that occupied my whole scientific activity. In 1974, the Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, honored me with the formal title of Dr. Honoris Causa. In 1976 I began explorations on Jurassic and Cretaceous localities of Patagonia supported by the National Geographic Society.
In 1979 I moved to Buenos Aires through the invitation of the Director of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales to organize the vertebrate paleontology division that was rich with mammal collections. For several years I worked with dinosaurs because of the discovery of a late middle Jurassic assemblage of Cerro Condor, western Chubut, and early and late Cretaceous assemblages at La Amarga, Cerro León, Plaza Huincul, in the province of Neuquén, and some localities of Santa Cruz and Río Negro provinces (all too long to detail here, except to mention that the first nest of Late Triassic prosauropods was from El Tranquilo, Santa Cruz, and that there are extraordinary localities with dinosaurs and mammals from the Neuquén and Río Negro provinces).

The discovery of cretaceous mammals in South America was quite unexpected and drove me to investigate further because of the exciting new information they might hold. We intensified our explorations, always supported by National Geographic Society, at the La Amarga (Early Cretaceous) and Los Alamitos (Late Cretaceous) from the former eight skulls and postcranial, and from the later more than 200 isolated teeth of mammals. For years I was devoted to the Los Alamitos mammals, and only briefly on the La Amarga Vincelestes, both of which are today generally present in every research of Mesozoic mammals. It was a fascinating experience to study the Los Alamitos mammals, with brief but significant help from G. G. Simpson (Mesungulatum) and M. McKenna (Dryolestidae). Everything discovered was quite different to all information known from the northern continent.

After several years, conclusions were beginning to take shape, including paleogeography, parallel evolution, survival of ancient mammals on South America, and so on. In 1986 I published an attempt to explain the biogeographic long isolation of the Laurasian and Gondwanian terrestrial tetrapods after the long barrier made by the Tethys sea since the Jurassic and during the most of the Cretaceous.

Another chapter of my activities was developed in the Museu de Ciencias Naturais and in the Universidade federal de Rio Grande do Sul, both in the city of Porto Alegre, Brazil. The intensive explorations were developed in the middle section of the late Triassic by a group of Brazilian and Argentine colleagues and assistants supported by the National Geographic Society. A varied assemblage of small tetrapods were recovered and studied, notably the very small, derived cynodonts of the family Brasiliodontidae exceptionally preserved and bearing unexpected information to relate them with the Morganucodonta. Jim Hopson, F. Crompton, and Xe Zhi Luo were of significant help in understanding properly these derived, small cynodonts.

I have been married twice and have three children. After my retirement in 2006 from the Buenos Aires Museum, I moved to Mercedes where I am writing a book on “Protomamíferos y mamíferos mesozoicos de América del Sur” in an attempt to put altogether numerous information on the subject.

**MORRIS F. SKINNER AWARD—Chuck Schaff**

My humble beginnings began in the borough of Queens, NY, on 18 June 1941. Interest in paleontology was developed at very early age by my mom and dad taking me to the American Museum of Natural History and touring the paleontology fossil halls. From then on I was pretty much hooked on vertebrate paleontology. I was curious why fossil animals did not look like modern ones.

After graduating from high school, I enrolled in the geology/paleontology program at West Texas State University in Canyon, TX. Today it is known as West Texas A&M University. My interest in vertebrate paleontology was further nurtured by the university’s close proximity to Palo Duro Canyon and other fossiliferous locations in and near the Texas Panhandle.
Going from New York to Texas was like going to another planet. I went from skyscrapers and city life to flat rolling plains and cowboys—and I loved every minute of it. It didn’t take long before this Yankee strapped on his first pair of boots and cowboy hat. Soon I was walking though the second-largest canyon in the United States dressed like the Duke and learning first hand about rock formations; it was a great time of discovery and growth.

After receiving my degree from West Texas State University in 1964, I began my professional career at the Princeton University Museum of Natural History working with Glenn Jepsen and Donald Baird. I also had the honor of being introduced to Mike Archer, undergraduate student in the prep lab, and Bob Rainey, whom I credit for providing much of what I know today about vertebrate paleontology. I still use Bob’s methodology when introducing students and other professionals to the world of vertebrate paleontology.

In 1967, I applied for a preparatory position at the Yale University Peabody Museum working under the direction of A. W. (Fuzz) Crompton, Director of the Peabody Museum. This position introduced me to a new exciting world to work in and new time periods. I would now be focusing on the early Tertiary and Mesozoic periods looking for and preparing the earliest mammals.

In 1969, Fuzz asked me if I would be interested in a position at Harvard, at the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) to continue my fossil preparation career on Mesozoic mammal skeletons from South Africa. I accepted and began working at Harvard University in 1970. I enjoyed working the last 37 years at the MCZ as a collection manager with Farish A. Jenkins, Jr., Curator of the Vertebrate Paleontology Department, and Bill Amaral, Chief Preparator. I recently retired on 31 August 2007.

The fieldwork experience during my time at Harvard was instrumental in helping me learn how to participate and train myself in both field and lab techniques. As I look back on my career, I am very proud of my contributions to this dynamic field of study. I really enjoyed teaching students how to find fossils on the outcrops while doing fieldwork in remote areas.

I am a lucky man to have had such a rewarding career that was more of a passion than a job. It allowed me to travel to many places, both domestic and international, and meet many great people. Besides family and friends, I wish to thank my colleagues who supported and worked with me throughout my wonderful career. Again, I am lucky to have been surrounded by such a fine group of professionals that share the same passion.

I had the privilege to work with Morris Skinner at the Frick Lab at American Museum of Natural History during the summer of 1961. As a result, this award is very special to me, and I am extremely honored to be its recipient on this night.

— CALL FOR NOMINATIONS —

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http://www.vertpaleo.org/awards/index.html
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NEWS FROM MEMBERS

CANADA (Kevin Seymour, Canada Editor, kevins@rom.on.ca)
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario
David Evans and colleague Michael Ryan (Cleveland Museum of Natural History) had a tremendously productive four weeks in southern Alberta, collecting a juvenile hadrosaur bone bed and two partially articulated hadrosaur bones from poorly documented Oldman and Foremost formation strata. Ian Morrison oversaw excavation of one of the hadrosaur bones. One jewel of the field season was a complete pachycephalosaur dome from the Milk River Formation, found by Caleb Brown from the University of Calgary.

David and Grant Zazula (Yukon Government) led a small crew to the Late Cretaceous Bonnet Plume Formation in the northern Yukon Territory, Canada, in August. They did not find the dinosaurs they hoped for, but did locate a productive fossil leaf site (currently being worked on by Matt Vavrek, McGill University) in spite of the bad weather. David and Grant plan to return to this area in the summer of 2009 in hopes of finding vertebrate material. David will be returning to South Africa to excavate prosauropod nests in February 2009, and will be back in Alberta in July 2009.

SVP News Bulletin No. 196 49/64
PhD student Ryan Schott continues to work on the ontogeny and systematics of pachycephalosaurids from the Belly River Group in Alberta. A revision of *Colepiocephale lambei* is now in press in *JVP*, and a paper revising “*Prenocephale* brevis” is in the works.

PhD student Nicolas Campione continues his work on hadrosaurine hadrosaurid evolution, with a particular focus on *Edmontosaurus* ontogeny and systematics. David and Nic are currently working on a paper documenting brain–body size relationships in hadrosaurines.

Kevin Seymour has been on research leave since September, trying to finish up a number of projects that were put aside due to gallery development in the past five years! Needless to say, by the time the leave ends in March, he will still be backlogged, but at least there will be progress. He would like to remind everyone about the Fritz Student Travel Award deadline of 15 March 2009. See the ROM Web site for details: www.rom.on.ca/collections/history.php. (David Evans and Kevin Seymour)

**Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Drumheller, Alberta**

Planning is underway for a turtle conference in honor of Gene Gaffney this fall. The conference is being called the Gaffney Turtle Symposium, and will cover all aspects of turtle paleontology. Information is available on the RTM Web site: http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com/events/turtlesymp09.php.

David Eberth has been using well logs to correlate the Horseshoe Canyon Formation with equivalent formations across southcentral Alberta. For the first time, this has allowed the stratigraphic position of localities in the St. Mary's River Formation in the Crowsnest Pass area of Alberta and localities around Edmonton to be placed stratigraphically relative to localities in the Red Deer River near Drumheller.

François Therrien has been working on mechanics of the dentary in carnivorous archosaurs, particularly crocodiles and dinosaurs, relating cross-sectional shape with feeding behaviors. He has also been working on nests and the environments of nests from southern Alberta with Darla Zelenitsky of the University of Calgary.

Don Henderson has been working on mass estimates of dinosaurs and other archosaurs. Recently, he has been working on mass estimates of pterosaurs.

Craig Scott had a full summer of relocating and collecting from vertebrate microfossil localities of the Late Cretaceous and early Paleocene in the search for mammals, and located several new localities of interest. Currently he is working on an early Paleocene locality from south of Calgary. He is also working on a review of multituberculates from the Judith River Group with Richard Fox.

Jim Gardner is now fully entrenched in his research position, and is undertaking several projects on amphibians, including a study of albanerpetontids from the Isle of Wight with Steve Sweetman, and a study of albanerpetontids from Hungary and Romania with Marton Venzel of Romania and a study of amphibians from Utah in conjunction with Jeff Eaton.

Mike Newbrey is undertaking a postdoc jointly at the University of Alberta and the RTM. He is studying fish from the Late Cretaceous. In addition to isolated elements from microvertebrate sites, he is working on two articulated small teleost specimens that were recently collected from the Scollard Formation. He is planning further excavations in the search for additional material next year.

Tai Kubo, recently graduated from the University of Tokyo, is doing a post doc at the RTM, studying tracks and interpreting locomotion patterns from trackways. He will be starting a project looking at the biomechanics for the foot of ceratopsians and other dinosaurs.

SVP News Bulletin No. 196
Don Brinkman has accepted the position of Director of Research and Preservation at the Tyrrell. However, research projects are continuing, with the focus currently being on fish remains from microvertebrate sites through the late Cretaceous and Paleocene. A series of turtle projects are also in progress, including study of turtle material from Xinjiang collected by Jim Clarke and Xu Xing, being undertaken jointly with Andreas Matzke, and a study of turtles from the Bowser Basin of northwestern British Columbia. (Don Brinkman)

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No news submitted

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Northeast Region ([Margaret Lewis, Regional Editor, lewism@stockton.edu])

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
The vertebrate paleontology group is alive and well at Dartmouth College! Kathleen Muldoon (departments of Anatomy and Anthropology) had a successful summer field season in Madagascar, and started a new study of raptor and carnivore predation on small mammals in Ranomafana National Park, with Sarah Karpanty (Virginia Tech University) and Patricia Wright (Stony Brook University). She looks forward to returning to the field in 2009! In addition, undergraduate involvement in vertebrate paleontology is on the rise! Rachael Kandath (class of 2010) has put in many hours melting breccia in search of microvertebrates from Anjohibe Cave, Madagascar. Bridget Alex (class of 2008) will be working on an isotopic and trace element study of diet in the extinct giant lemurs of Madagascar this winter. Brendan Anderson (class of 2009) has crossed disciplinary lines and started the Paleontology Reading Group, bringing together undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty from the departments of Anthropology, Biology, and Earth Sciences to “talk paleo” over lunch twice a month. The future of vertebrate paleontology at Dartmouth is looking bright! (Kathleen Muldoon)

Howard University, Washington, DC
Since our last News Bulletin appearance in Spring 2007, Daryl Domning has made two sallies into the Old World—first in June 2007, when with Peter Pervesler (University of Vienna) he studied new Miocene sirenian material from the Vienna Basin, and sketched out a promising solution to the century-old puzzle of “Thalattosiren” petersi. This Middle Miocene species or genus, of uncertain validity, never seemed to fit well into the grand scheme of Mediterranean-Tethyan seacow evolution. It now appears to have been just a localized population of Metaxytherium that got enclosed in the increasingly-isolated Carpathian Basin during the later Badenian, and acquired some marginally-peculiar traits that might qualify it as a distinct species at most. If this view holds up under further scrutiny, it will neatly simplify one branch of the sirenian phylogenetic tree.

Daryl then spent a week at the British Museum, looking at ear bones of the Jamaican ur-sirenian Prorastomus and comparing them with his slightly more derived Jamaican beast Pezosiren (they are surprisingly different, reinforcing evidence of significant sirenian diversity by the very start of the middle Eocene). Silvia Sorbi (doctoral student of Giovanni Bianucci at Pisa; since graduated) was visiting at the same time to study Neogene sireniens, so she and Daryl were able to log a lot of useful time together over the sirenian collection in general, including sampling tooth enamel of several taxa for stable isotope studies with Mark Clementz (some appearing soon in Geology).

In July–August 2008, Daryl spent three weeks in Sunil Bajpai’s lab in Roorkee, India, where they finished the preparation and descriptions of two new genera and species of sirenian they had begun the previous fall when Sunil was in Washington. One is an Eocene protosirenid and the other a Miocene dugongine, both from the growing and exciting collection of new seacows from Kutch in western India. On the way home, Daryl again stopped in the UK to compare these
descriptions with related critters from Libya, housed in London and Bristol. On these visits the help of Jerry Hooker and Andy Currant in the BM collections, and Liz Loeffler in Bristol, was essential and most appreciated.

As a byproduct of these two years’ study visits, Silvia Sorbi and Daryl are planning to publish, at long last, those important Libyan specimens, which were included in the 1973 dissertation of Geoffrey Heal (a student of the late Bob Savage) but never published. They are also collaborating on publication of various chapters of Silvia’s dissertation updating the record of Euro–North African Neogene Sirenia.


Taseer Hussain and his colleagues were busy for some time in studying the evolution of sound transmission in archaeocetes. Finally, they published a paper in 2007 in The Anatomical Record (290:716–733), entitled “Sound Transmission in Archaic and Modern Whales: Anatomical Adaptations for Underwater Hearing.” In this paper they have established that the ear structure of land ancestors of whales was designed to hear in air. It later became adapted to hear under water. This change took place in a relatively short time, less than ten million years of evolution. The outer ear and external auditory meatus were functionally replaced by the mandibular fat pad, which contacts the tympanic plate posteriorly. Some other changes include functional replacement of the tympanic membrane by a bony plate, and changes in ossicle shapes and orientation.

Since last year they have been working on the archaeocetes from the Kuldana Formation (Middle Eocene) in northern Pakistan. The Kuldana Formation is a transgressive unit, which indicates different depositional environments. They have described two new species of Pakicetus from this formation. This paper has been accepted for publication in JVP.

Ray Bernor is currently on loan from us to the National Science Foundation, where they keep more than busy reviewing your VP grant proposals. He, along with Miranda Armour-Chelu who is heavily engaged in teaching, will report on their numerous research projects at a later time.

Irina Koretsky has also been very busy and productive. With Larry Barnes and Clayton Ray, she published two articles in the Dan Grigorescu festschrift (2007). In September 2007 she traveled to Lake Baikal in Russia to speak on the biogeography of Baikal seals at a conference there on the lake’s ecology, followed by museum work in Kiev, Ukraine. In 2008, she and Clayton published a major work on the Pliocene seals of the eastern US—doubly noteworthy because it appeared in the long-awaited fourth and final volume on the geology and fossil fauna of the Lee Creek Mine, North Carolina, which Irina helped edit along with Clayton, Dave Bohaska, Buck Ward, and Larry Barnes. She and Larry also published the chapter on phocids in Janis, Gunnell, and Uhen’s monumental work on Evolution of Tertiary Mammals of North America. Finally, in September 2008 she returned to Ukraine for field and museum work aimed at further clarifying the occurrences, relationships, and paleobiology of Paratethyan seals. She found there the first known fossils of cystophorine phocids. Irina and collaborators also have papers in press on a new species of Leptophoca (in the Repenning festschrift), on a new genus of phocine from The Netherlands (in Deinsea), and on Miocene carnivores from Kazakhstan (in JVP).

Ray’s graduate student Dominik Wolf has fulfilled the requirements for advancement to candidacy for the PhD, and is busy studying Old World hipparions for his dissertation.
Jorge Vélez-Juarbe is in his second year of graduate study with Daryl, having come to us from Puerto Rico where he has been collecting some fine new skulls and other remains of sirenians. His dissertation will describe these along with other important new specimens from South Carolina, southern California, and Yucatan, and hopefully clarify some phylogenetic problems of dugongines, as well as the origins of the widespread halitherine *Metaxytherium*. In winter 2007–2008 and summer 2008, Jorge conducted fieldwork in northern Puerto Rico, searching for fossils in the San Sebastián Formation, Lares Limestone, and Mucarabones Sands, the first of Early Oligocene age and the other two of Late Oligocene age. He collected a sirenian postcranium and crocodylian vertebrae and scutes from the San Sebastián Formation, part of a pelomedusoid turtle carapace from the Lares Limestone, and a sirenian mandible and parts of a pelomedusoid turtle shell from the Mucarabones Sands. (Daryl Domning)

**Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ**

Vertebrate paleontology is still alive and well at Rowan University. Luke Holbrook is in his tenth year at Rowan and is now a full professor and currently chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. He is still working on perissodactyl phylogeny and related studies, and is currently working on several manuscripts dealing with early Eurasian perissodactyls and their relatives. Frank Varriale and Matt Travis have joined the department as temporary instructors for the last two years. Frank is finishing his dissertation on ceratopsian feeding, working with Dave Weishampel at Johns Hopkins. Matt came to Rowan fresh from completing his PhD with Mike Bell at Stony Brook, studying functional morphology and evolution of sticklebacks. Despite heavy teaching loads, both Matt and Frank have been enthusiastic contributors to our new biology curriculum, which includes a four-course introductory sequence that starts with an introduction to evolution. Both Frank and Matt were on abstracts for the SVP meeting in Cleveland. Mike Bell presented his work with Matt on the fascinating varved stickleback deposits in Nevada that allow them to study evolution of a fossil population at an unusually fine level of time sampling, and how they can integrate the data from the fossils with known stickleback genetics to follow changes in allele frequencies in a fossil population. Frank was in the Colbert Prize session for best student poster and was a finalist. Luke was actually on abstracts for three Cleveland talks, one with Wighart von Koenigswald and Ken Rose on evolution of enamel microstructure in perissodactyls, one with Matt Mihlbachler on the early Asian perissodactyl *Danjiangia*, and his own presentation on hyracoid premolars. All told, Rowan University had five abstracts at SVP, certainly more than it’s ever had! (Luke Holbrook)

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

Margaret Lewis is on sabbatical this year and has been off gathering data on North American fossil carnivorans. In October, she travelled to Arizona State University to meet with Kaye Reed and Lars Werdelin. While she was there, John Babiarcz kindly allowed her to study his *Xenosmilus* specimen. Margaret also published two articles in December. The first article discussed the femur of the extinct giant otter *Enhydriodon*. This paper was part of an issue of *C.R. Palevol*. devoted to the proceedings of a workshop that Margaret attended in May at the University of Poitiers, France, as a member of the NSF Revealing Hominid Origins Initiative, Analytic Working Group—Carnivora. The second article was published in *JVP* with lead author Lars Werdelin (Swedish Natural History Museum) and names a new species of extinct hyena, *Crocuta eturono*, from Kenya.

Michael Lague is in the middle of his third year towards tenure. Mike recently published an article on variation in the mandibular corpus morphology of *Homo* in the *Journal of Anatomy* with Brian Richmond and Bernard Wood (George Washington University) and Nicole Collard (Sources Archaeological and Heritage Research, Inc.). He has also been working with Margaret Lewis on the significance of variation in the postcranial morphology of felids and other carnivorans. (Margaret Lewis)
www.dinoart.com
Bruce Mohn has nearly completed a three-dimensional skeletal reconstruction of *Rhamphorhynchus muensteri* for the Carnegie Museum's “Dinosaurs in Their World” exhibit. Once that is put to bed, Bruce plans to devote time to cleaning and mounting an emu skeleton for his own collection and research purposes. (Bruce Mohn)

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*Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center*  
George Jefferson spent several days at UT Austin, passing judgment on Lyn Murray's doctoral dissertation defense; congratulations, Dr. Murray! He also managed a day in the collections measuring *Paleolama* teeth from Ingleside in an attempt to resolve the identity of a partial upper dentition recovered by Harley Garbani from the Hueso Formation. The Irvingtonian-age Anza-Borrego specimen appears to be considerably larger than the Texas materials.

The intensive survey, led by Senior Park Aide Arnie Mroz, of the Truckhaven Rocks on southern flank of the Santa Rosa Mountains continues to yield new sites. Articulated partial limbs of *Camelops* and vertebrae *Equus* are among the most recent discoveries. Arnie has started a detailed geologic/stratigraphic mapping effort in an attempt to track the fossiliferous horizons across several km² of badlands.

Senior Park Aide Jeannie Johnstone has exposed additional vertebral elements of the partially articulated *Camelops* skeleton previously reported. Interestingly, a second sub-adult *Camelops*, represented by a complete femur, has been uncovered in this quarry-sized operation.

George has set his retirement date for the end of September 2009, but has agreed to stay on part time to insure, among other things, that the new District Paleontologist gets off to a good start. (G.T. Jefferson)

*John Day Fossil Beds National Monument*  
With the number of major localities cooperatively managed on federal lands in the John Day Basin now exceeding 750, the sheer amount of exposures and laterally variable sequences continues to yield enhanced records of Bridgerian through Hemphillian lithostratigraphic assemblages. It's almost overwhelming out here! In 2008 a variety of publications were either published or in press by us, including a long-awaited description in *Paleobios* of the Mascala stratigraphic column of importance to the Barstovian biotas; a new appraisal of the paleomag with an associated biostratigraphic range chart for selected genera in the Turtle Cove (John Day Formation) sequence appeared in *The Journal of Geology*; "Miocene Tectonics and Climate
Forcing of Biodiversity” published in Geology; description of a significant new microvertebrate assemblage deposit from a basin north of the classic localities, and taxonomic efforts including work with nimravids, canids, and others. It is expected that the John Day Basin symposium volume will be completely compiled, with many new additions, next year.

As usual, we’ve had a nice roster of graduate students and interns working with us this summer at a variety of sites. Ted completed regional science advisor paleontological onsite work at Joshua Tree, Golden Gate, and Lava Beds and remotely worked with several other parks, a role he looks forward to pursuing more regularly after his retirement from the NPS May Day, 2009—so this will be his last posting on behalf of the park. Scott Foss is now with the BLM in Utah, but as Oregon is included in his fiefdom, it’s almost like he never left. Regan Dunn (Miss Paleobotanic Nearctic) is pursuing her PhD at the University of Washington and will continue to expand our knowledge of the superb botanical records interbedded with the verts, so it’s almost like she never left, either. Matt Smith is now doing freelance preparation from his old home in Florida. Scott was replaced with Chris Schierup (a Parrish student) in collections, and the preparator slot went to Jennifer Cavin (a Jim Martin student), who has begun replacing Matt in the lab (if that’s possible) with enthusiasm. (Ted Fremd)

Occidental College, Los Angeles
Don Prothero's trade book "Greenhouse of the Dinosaurs" finished proofreading, and is now ready for release next summer. The eighth edition of his historical geology textbook, "Evolution of the Earth," is also done with editing, and due out next fall.

Don continues doing speaking engagements and book signings in support of his best-selling book, "Evolution: What the Fossils Say and Why it Matters." In January, he gave talks at the AMNH (along with two days of looking at fossils) and NYC Skeptics, followed by appearances in Charlotte, NC, and Columbia, Charleston, and Greenville, SC. In February, he celebrated Darwin’s birthday week by giving talks in upstate New York: Syracuse, Colgate, SUNY Oswego, and the Paleontological Research Institute. In March, he gave talks in Tulsa, OK, and then in Calgary and at the Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller.

Don just received a grant from the NSF to do paleomagnetic analysis of the Eocene–Oligocene floral sequence of the Warner Mountains of northeast California. His students Victoria Rutledge and Nadia Rivera continue to work on grant-funded projects, including fieldwork near Coalinga, CA, supported by the PRF grant.

A bunch of new papers (coauthored with colleagues and former students) appeared in the New Mexico Museum Neogene volume (Bulletin 44), including systematic reviews of the dromomerycids, blastomerycids, and leptauchenine oreodonts, description of a new species of giant Arikareean rhino, review of the Sharktooth Hill land mammals, and a study of variability in Pleistocene ground sloths. There were also numerous paleomagnetic studies on the Miocene beds of the western US, including the Pawnee Creek beds of Colorado, Split Rock and Moonstone formations of Wyoming, Massacre Lake and Thousand Creek beds of Nevada, Sharktooth Hill and the Caliente Formation of California, the Blakeley Formation of Washington, as well as the Pliocene Gaetoge beds of Mongolia. These and all the other recent papers are now available as PDFs on Don's Web site, www.faculty.oxy.edu/prothero. (Donald Prothero)

University of Washington
This year Christian Sidor published two articles in JVP on the Triassic vertebrate fauna of Antarctica, one on tetrapod burrows and the second on a new, giant temnospondyl named Kryostega. Another Antarctic temnospondyl manuscript is in the works with Bill Hammer (Augustana College) and Seb Steyer (MNHN). With fieldwork in northern Niger on hold because of renewed Tuareg rebellion, Sidor has focused the last two summers on the Ruhuhu Basin of southern Tanzania. The international team has made an incredible collection of Permain and
Triassic vertebrates, some of which were highlighted in Sidor’s talk at the SVP in Cleveland. This summer he will do fieldwork in Zambia and Morocco.

Upon completing his Master’s at California State University, San Bernardino, Adam Huttenlocker has joined the UW PhD program in zoology in the fall. Adam spent much of his first quarter of taking comparative anatomy, but will be working on material from the Permian and Triassic of Africa for the remainder of the year. He is currently preparing a description of a theropod from the earliest Triassic of South Africa (among other theropod projects), has helped to set up a functional histology facility in our paleo lab, and hopes to continue his osteohistological work (initiated during his Master’s research) on Permo–Triassic therapsids. Huttenlocker will attend the International Congress of North African Paleontology in Marrakech, and conduct fieldwork in Argana Basin, Morocco in May–June.

Burke Museum collections assistant Courtney Richards has been busy cataloging over 100 fossils collected from the Bridger Formation this summer. She is also in the process of filling out graduate school applications and finishing a manuscript re-describing the mandible of the captorhinid *Moradisaurus grandis*.

Marie Weide presented a poster on new *Procynosuchus* material from the Permian of Tanzania at the SVP meeting in Cleveland. She is currently working on another fossil from Tanzania and hopes to write a short communication about it. She is applying to paleontology graduate schools for the fall 2009 quarter.

Undergraduate Rachel Simon attended her first SVP meeting in Cleveland and presented a poster on the first dinocephalian fossils discovered in Tanzania. Rachel is currently writing her first paper on these fossils and is continuing her research through a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

After giving a talk at the SVP in Cleveland, graduate student Lauren Berg has been busy writing up the manuscript of her research on the correlation between pinniped diving and orbit size. In addition to preparing and accessioning pinniped fossils, Lauren served along fellow UW paleontologists at the fossil table at the annual community outreach event hosted by the UW Burke Museum, "Meet the Mammals." Lauren plans to accompany her advisor, Greg Wilson, to the field this summer in the Hell Creek.

Graduate student Meng Chen has begun working on a new maxillary fragment of *Batrodon tenuis* with two well-preserved upper molars, discovered from the Hell Creek Formation, Montana.

During the summer of 2008, Caroline Stromberg did fieldwork with vertebrate paleontologist Jon Marcot (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Darin Croft (Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine), and Hannan LaGarry (Oglala Lakota College) for a project looking at the detailed timing of the spread of grasslands and faunal change relating to climate change at the Oligocene–Miocene boundary. Stromberg also has an NSF grant with Matt Kohn (Boise State University) and Rick Madden (Duke University) to study the relationship between climate change, the advent of open, grass-dominated ecosystems, and faunal evolution during the Cenozoic of Patagonia, Argentina.

For part of her dissertation, Regan Dunn, graduate student in the Stromberg lab, is looking at how faunal changes in hypsodonty levels relate to vegetation changes through the Eocene–Miocene section at John Day, Oregon.

Led by Research Associate John Alexander, a Burke Museum team returned to the Bridger Basin of Wyoming in July to follow up on the great discoveries of the previous year. In 2007, the fossilized remains of two different species of Eocene bird were discovered by John and David Wilcots. The first was a true raptor of falconiform-grade that includes the skull and talons. The second was the leg of a wading bird that resembles frigate birds and pelicans. Also re-examined...
was the site of the 2007 discovery of the skull of a new species of lizard. This year's highlight was
the discovery of a 3/4-complete skeleton of the palaeanodont, *Metacheiromys marshi*. This
skeleton includes a perfect skull and most of the anterior part of body. (Christian Sidor)

--- BULLETIN BOARD ---

THE REAL BRYAN PATTERSON

Bryan Patterson was born in London on 10 March 1909, but the name registered on his birth
certificate was Lionel Brown (Brian, 2008). Obviously someone had something to hide. A year
earlier his father, Lieutenant Colonel John Henry Patterson, led a safari in northern Kenya with an
English couple when the husband, distraught and ill, committed suicide. Testimony given in
Nairobi strongly suggested the colonel was having an affair with the man's wife (Brown, 1988).
Either because he returned to London to rejoin Mrs. Patterson, or strayed on safari, the birth of
the real Bryan Patterson followed.

The episode was turned into a short story by Ernest Hemingway (1936), and made into a movie,

Mysterious origins are part of the Patterson tradition: Bryan's grandparents are unknown; his son
Alan hopes to use DNA to unravel the family genealogy (Patterson, A., 2008); and Bryan is even
said to be unsure who his mother was (Brian, 2008). As far as he knew, she was Frances Helena
Gray, an accomplished woman who was a headmistress and held degrees in biology and law.

In India, Colonel Patterson gained a reputation as a tiger hunter and as an engineer, talents he
used to supervise construction of the Kenya-Uganda Railroad (Miller, 1971). The work was
repeatedly interrupted by two lions that killed an estimated 135 Indian laborers and Africans. It
took Patterson eight months to track down and kill the animals, a feat described in his (still)
films (Brian, 2008). In 1924 he sold the skulls and skins to the Chicago (Field) Museum of Natural
History for $5,000, where they were mounted and put on permanent display (Casada, 2004).

On completion of the railroad, Patterson served with distinction in the Boer War. In 1908 he was
appointed chief game warden for British East Africa. During World War I he led a battalion of
Jewish soldiers in the Middle East, the first such unit in modern times. After serving as the
governor of Sinai, he devoted himself to the cause of Zionism and the formation of Israel until his
death in 1947 (Brian, 2008).

Bryan was home-schooled in London and, from ages 14 to 16, educated at Malvern College.
When he was 17 his father sent him to the US where he was employed by the Chicago (Field)
Museum) as a fossil preparator. By 1937 he had become curator of paleontology. After becoming
an American citizen, he enlisted in the army during World War II. He was taken prisoner by the
Germans, escaped twice, was recaptured, and finally freed in 1945 (Turnbull, 1980).

As is now legend, Patterson became an authority on the systematics, evolution, and
paleobiogeography of South American and North American Tertiary mammals. He also made
important contributions to such diverse fossil groups as marsupials, birds, rodents, elephant
shrews, aardvarks, Cretaceous mammals, and early hominins. Yet, other than courses at the
University of Chicago, he was largely self-taught and held no university degrees. In 1955, he
accepted dual professorships at Harvard and in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. In 1963 he
was elected to the National Academy of Sciences (Olson, 1985).

In the mid 1960s Bryan's career intersected his father's when he led a fossil-hunting expedition to
northern Kenya, the same region Colonel Patterson visited during that fateful safari a half-century
earlier. When Bryan first applied to the National Museum of Kenya for a research permit in 1963, Louis Leakey—then in charge of issuing permits for the museum—sent him to an area that he thought would be a bust for fossils, which it was (Gibbons, 2006). But Bryan and his team persisted and in the mid 1960s found australopithecine fossils that more than doubled the known timeline of human evolution.

In 1976, when Patterson's work in Kenya ended, I invited him to join my team in the Middle Awash of Ethiopia, after we discovered paleofaunas similar in age to those he found in Kenya. He agreed and applied to NSF for funds. However, the application was tied to two others my colleagues submitted to NSF for Middle Awash work, which were declined accompanying (unfounded) rumors that I worked for the CIA. A team from the University of California at Berkeley took over the sites and soon found hominin fossils as old and older than those Patterson found in Kenya.

For over a year I had corresponded with Patterson and several times we spoke over the telephone, but we never met. He died of cancer in 1979. During visits to Harvard I met his wife Beatrice and later, when I was writing a book about my Afar work (Kalb, 2001), I spoke with his son Alan over the telephone about particulars of Bryan’s career. As it happened, over the last few years I did get to know him as a younger man by surveying the same mid-Tertiary fossil beds along the Mexican border in West Texas that he explored at the end of the war. After months of dogging the archives of Harvard and the Field Museum for his unpublished field notes, I finally obtained a copy from Chicago. What I learned from the notes, and by following Patterson’s footsteps in the field, was that here was a person whose energy and enthusiasm for his life’s work set the bar for the rest of us to follow. (Jon Kalb, VP lab, University of Texas at Austin; j.e.kalb@mail.utexas.edu)

LITERATURE CITED


— PUBLICATIONS —

THE OPEN PALEONTOLOGY JOURNAL

Here is the latest news about the journal The Open Paleontology Journal (TOPALOJ) published by Bentham Open. We are pleased to announce that the journal has been launched successfully with the publication of four articles, which can be viewed openly at www.bentham.org/open/topaloj

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Open access journals are no different from traditional subscription-based journals; they undergo the same peer-review and quality control as any other scholarly journal.

All articles (depending on the field) will be indexed by the major indexing media and Google Scholar, therefore providing maximum exposure to the published articles. (Michel Laurin)

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