

**SOCIETY OF
VERTEBRATE
PALEONTOLOGY
NEWS BULLETIN**

Number 175

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C OFFICIAL BUSINESS C

SVP PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

It was with pleasure and trepidation that I took on the responsibilities of SVP President following the 1998 Annual Meeting in Snowbird. My concern stemmed from the difficulty of living up to the accomplishments of my predecessors, and meeting the many challenges a society like ours faces in managing our own affairs and responding to the many external pressures and opportunities for our science. The pleasure lies in knowing that we have the most dedicated and participatory membership of any professional society around, that our financial situation is sound (due to the largess of all of you, and a growing number of donors from outside SVP), and that vertebrate paleontology has the potential to make even greater contributions to the advancement of biological and geological science and to public understanding of that science.

A society is only as good as the collective efforts of its members. In that regard we are in great condition, as evidenced by the incredible streak of more than 800 attendees at the last three annual meetings (thanks to the local host committees for their tremendous efforts), the extremely high percentage of members participating on SVP committees, and our steady growth in student and regular members over the past five years. The staff at our new business office (more below) remarked that they had never seen a society with so many members actively involved in supporting committees. Our committees and leadership broadly reflect the composition of our membership, and contested elections for officers have brought forth outstanding candidates for you to consider as officers. So what do our committees accomplish? Over the past several years our Development and Executive committees have raised more than \$500,000 in endowment support, most coming from new sources and people who don't practice VP day to day, but believe strongly in what we do (largely because of their interactions with you). These gifts have come from anonymous and named donors; from will bequests, gifts of stock, or major cash gifts; and they support general operations, our publications, special awards, and endowment. We have jumped headfirst into electronic publications and communications, broadening access to SVP and simplifying our routine business. David Polly, Ralph Chapman, and the Information Management Committee (IMC) have made the web a central focus for SVPC while we now have electronic submission of abstracts and a steadily improving web site, the IMC has been asked to think even more broadly and creatively about how to use internet communication to our advantage. SVP remains committed to enhancing our flagship journal, by continuing the recent expansion of pages published annually in *JVP*. The Publications Committee and our journal editors are promoting both traditional strengths (e.g., major monographic or intensive topic studies) and new initiatives (e.g., upcoming publication of an integrated paper and CD-ROM publication) in the Memoir series. *JVP* now is cited in the Science Citation Index and

efforts are underway to greatly increase the visibility of our monograph series, through distribution arrangements with the University of Chicago Press and booksellers. The Education Committee has made amazing strides in both supporting student VPs, through our Graduate Fellowship, and conveying our science to the public. The teacher workshops at annual meetings have been extremely successful, and joint efforts are underway with the Paleontological Society and GSA for a short course and book on Evolution. Our Government Liaison Committee (GLC), collaborating with SAFE, continues active efforts to promote SVP issues in the legislative arena. If these issues are important to you, particularly protection of fossil vertebrates on governmental lands, please volunteer to help the GLC in their efforts to develop a system of state and regional representatives. SVP's long-term partnership with the BLM continues to thrive, and the BLM sponsored an important symposium at the Snowbird meeting. SVP awards and prizes are thriving in addition to our existing awards, we have begun a Student Poster Prize (to complement the Romer Prize for platform presentations) and received generous gifts (both current and will bequest) to support several new awards, including the Joseph F. Chance Award (to acknowledge the contributions of preparators, for materials and methods projects) and a just-received gift to promote North American-Chinese collaborations, by defraying some costs of VP research in China. These are just a few of the many achievements made by SVP through the efforts of our members.

In that brief list, I'm sure I have missed many ideas for making a better SVP. And as in any pluralistic group, some of our Executive Committee or other Committee decisions will not be agreed with by some members. Each of us does this as a volunteer, because we believe in our Society, and SVP always needs people interested in becoming involved. To try and improve, we also need feedback (positive and negative), so please contact any of the members of the Executive Committee or other relevant SVP committees, at any time. We'll always listen, and we'll respond as best we can.

While we have accomplished much, many challenges and opportunities lie ahead. Some of you may have felt the impact (acutely so, in some cases) of a deterioration in services from SVP's Business Office at Smith Bucklin. While Pam D'Argo and Kathy Lundgren provided outstanding assistance to SVP for more than three years, when they left the company in early 1998 for maternity leaves, we lost the exceptional level of service to which we had become accustomed. This was exacerbated by frequent staff changes as Smith Bucklin restructured and was partially purchased by another company. Since June, the Executive Committee and I have been looking at alternatives following an extensive search, and detailed review and interviews of three other companies, we will be switching SVP's business office (effective March 15, 1999). Our new business office will be run by Greg Schultz (Executive Director of the SVP office) and Liz Freyn (Meeting Manager), both partners in the Sherwood Group from the Chicago metropolitan area. These prior problems,

and our new business office choice, resulted in a lot of extra work and less than productive energy being spent by various SVP members and officers, and are the reasons this February issue of the *News Bulletin* has been delayed slightly and why our Nominating Committee has presented only a single candidate for Secretary in the upcoming election (to ensure institutional memory and an effective transition to a new office). We have been very impressed with Greg, Liz, and the rest of the Sherwood staff—we believe that our new business office should provide even better service than we have ever had before, it will yield some cost savings to SVP, and at the same time we get a commitment of even more staff than we had at Smith Bucklin. Our endowment is large for a society our size. But in an era of ever-shrinking governmental support for our kinds of science, it would be wonderful if we could make a quantum increase in the SVP endowment, allowing us to support our own colleagues with major new field, training, and public initiatives in the science of vertebrate paleontology. We must try to ensure that scientifically significant specimens end up in public repositories, where they always will remain available for study and education. We can strive for more effective protection of resources on governmental lands, both in the U.S. and elsewhere, and for showing private individuals the great joy and importance of bringing specimens from their lands into museum and university collections. The history of life holds a fascination for the nonscientific public, just as it does for the professional paleontologist. The importance of such an interface between science and society can not be overstated, particularly in light of continued questions about public scientific literacy. Vertebrate paleontology has the great privilege of being at the core of most people's fascination with paleontology. As such, fossil vertebrates are one of the finest teaching tools to engage the public with science—we should expand our Education and Outreach programs and make the SVP web site the central resource for people wanting information about our science. First and foremost, SVP is about the increase and dissemination of knowledge about vertebrate life. We must maintain the outstanding quality of formal and informal scientific interactions at our annual meetings, enhance our scientific publications and their impact, and promote a vibrant and talented pipeline of future professionals and dedicated avocational paleontologists. All of this takes energy and commitment, both of which I am convinced we have in abundance. I look forward to the next two years of working with you all. (John Flynn)

MINUTES OF THE 58TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, OCTOBER 1, 1998, SNOWBIRD, UTAH

Louis Jacobs, President, called the annual meeting to order at 4 PM. He reflected upon the Society's business and on its members during his period as president and extended congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Society. They are Richard Stucky, Vice President; Dale Winkler, Treasurer; and Zhexi Luo, Member-at-Large.

Catherine Badgley, Secretary, gave the secretary's report. A motion was requested to approve the minutes of the 57th annual business meeting in Chicago, as published in the *News Bulletin*. The motion was presented and seconded. The minutes were approved. Second, highlights of minutes from the June 1998 Executive Committee meeting at SBA in Chicago were reported. The Executive Committee agreed to raise the institutional subscription rates for the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (JVP)* by \$15/year. Plans were reviewed for annual meetings in 1999 and 2000. The SVP's publications were discussed and the committee decided to increase the budget of the *JVP* so as to support printing of 750B800 pages per year.

Also, a proposal was approved for SVP to co-sponsor a symposium with the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) in January, 2000, at the annual meeting of SICB in Atlanta, Georgia. The motions passed by electronic mail were reviewed (and are reported in this *News Bulletin*).

The figures for SVP membership were presented. This year saw a substantial increase in new members (143 new members), mostly in the category of regular members. A reminder was given about the opportunity to sponsor members, especially paleontologists from developing countries.

Members were asked to fill out the meeting evaluation form.

The secretary congratulated the new vice president, treasurer, and member-at-large of the Society.

John Bolt, outgoing Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. He reviewed the budget for 1997B98, noting that the operating deficit is lower than projected by about \$20,000. He also presented the 1998B99 budget (see Treasurer's report in this issue). Finally, John gave some departing thoughts about his experience as Treasurer of the Society for several years. The Executive Committee presented John with a special gift in gratitude for the considerable services that he gave as a fastidious treasurer.

Next, Michael Parrish, Chair of the Program Committee, reported on the program at this year's annual meeting. For the first time, abstracts could be submitted electronically via the SVP Web site. There were 408 submissions, 290 of these via the Web site. Mike noted that, while generally successful, there were some problems with electronic submission; these involved instances of faulty return-notification of presentations and formatting of text. The procedures are being refined. Eight symposia occurred at this year's meeting. The breakdown of talks and posters by subject matter is 25 about fishes, ten about amphibians, 125 about non-avian reptiles, 93 about synapsids, 19 on theoretical subjects, ten on birds, and ten about history. (See complete report in this issue.)

Richard Cifelli gave the report for the Publications Committee. Accomplishments over the last year were to establish published guidelines for the deposition of specimens that are the focus of SVP publications or presentations at the annual meeting, including adherence to

the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature; to become a sponsor of the electronic journal *Paleontologica Electronica*, with a Society mirror site at the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History; and to help develop the electronic submission of abstracts. This committee encourages publication of more memoirs and monographs; these are a possible venue for papers about preparation methods. Plans are underway to develop the SVP Web page more actively, so that it is updated more often.

The *JVP* had a healthy year, with publication of 761 pages. The editors noted a decrease in the frequency of papers about mammals and a decrease in the number of months to publication. Dick Fox has finished his term as editor; his service was applauded by the members. Jim Mead is the new co-editor. (See complete report of the Publications Committee in this issue.)

Ralph Chapman gave the report of the Information Management Committee. He noted that the SVP Web-site addresses are now moved to permanent sites for 1998B99. He emphasized the importance of updating the Web site regularly and proposed having a membership directory online. He noted the success of submitting abstracts via the Web. Finally, he congratulated John Damuth for having the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* actively on line with over 112,000 references.

Amy Davidson spoke on behalf of the newly convened Preparator's Award Committee. She reported that SVP has received a generous award for preparation activities. It involves both short- and long-term funds. Amy chairs a committee that will make recommendations as to how to use this fund annually; the committee will present its recommendations to the Society within a few months.

Louis Jacobs presented the report of the Development Committee, on behalf of Don Lofgren. Louis noted the numerous sponsorships at this annual meeting. One of these is Sarah Andrews, mystery writer, who is donating proceeds of her book sales on site to SVP. The Society received two large donations this year: one from the estate of Dr. Frank Schloeder (recently deceased) and another from Dr. Herbert Axelrod. Louis encouraged members to support the Society and reported that David Krause will succeed Don Lofgren as Chair of the Development Committee.

Pat Leiggi presented the report of the Government Liaison Committee (GLC). He noted that a recent Congressional appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior contained a proposal to include commercial collectors in developing a unified federal policy about the preservation of fossils on public lands. The GLC has a plan for contacting legislators in response to proposed legislation that does not safeguard vertebrate fossils on public lands. Pat also noted that Ted Vlamis will move off the GLC and will succeed Larry Flynn as Chair of SAFE (Save America's Fossils for Everyone).

Next, as co-chair, Tony Fiorillo gave the Education Committee report. He noted that this committee administers the SVP predoctoral fellowship and encouraged students to apply for

this fellowship. This committee has planned a teacher's workshop at the Snowbird meeting for Saturday morning. The workshop is called *Learning from the Fossil Record* and is co-sponsored by the Paleontological Society.

Hans Thewissen gave the Media Liaison Committee report. At the press conference during the annual meeting, 22 journalists were in attendance. Hans suggests doing more with the press during the rest of the year. For example, journalists could be given advance notice of the table of contents of the *JVP* so that journalists can talk to the authors about new reports of general interest. Also, press releases could be based on items in the *News Bulletin*. Scott Sampson will succeed Hans as the chair of this committee.

Louis Jacobs called for new business. Four subjects were presented: (1) On behalf of the next host committee, Russ Graham (Denver Museum of Natural History) announced the dates and location of the next annual meeting—October 20–23, 1999, at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado. He encouraged submission of ideas for field trips. (2) As a member of the host committee for the 2000 meeting, Wade Miller summarized plans for the 2000 annual meeting in Mexico City. (3) The time and place of the Open Executive Committee Meeting were given. (4) Bill Akersten announced the publication of the first volume of a festschrift for John White. Bill offered the dedication of the volume as a resolution to the Society. The dedication follows.

WHEREAS, vertebrate paleontologists are eternally grateful that John A. White graduated from the politically incorrect study of male-specific chipmunk anatomy to the phylogenetically correct elucidation of ancient bunny relationships,

and WHEREAS, he has condemned many an undergraduate and even younger student to a life of penury by enticing them into the fascinating field of vertebrate paleontology,

and WHEREAS, he has shown the evangelical zeal of a Baptist missionary in burdening the Idaho Museum of Natural History with an overabundance of old bones,

and WHEREAS, he has spun many a yarn for the edification and entertainment of paleontologists young and old,

and WHEREAS, he has gathered innumerable friends and admirers among us,

and WHEREAS, he has unforgettably whereased us at many an SVP business meeting,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, vertebrate paleontologists everywhere extend a unanimous hearty HUA! and OH VERY WELL! to John for his having graced our group for so many years.

Finally, Greg MacDonald gave a motion of thanks, as follows.

Mr. President, Members of the Executive Committee, fellow members of the Society, and guests:

As we come to the end of the business meeting of the Society, I am humbled by the knowledge of what my predecessors in this position who have fulfilled this role so admirably have done in the past. However, it is also with clear pleasure that I undertake this duty.

WHEREAS, those of us in this group who are Old Bone Hunters as opposed to those here who are merely hunters of old bones have discovered that, YES, this is the place, especially to convene a meeting that provides the opportunity to share our knowledge and mutual interests in the science of vertebrate paleontology;

and WHEREAS some of us who have trekked from the Classic Jurassic and to confirm that it is indeed caffeine-free to those who have dallied in the Devil's Playground of the Eocene while others have had the opportunity to otherwise wander in the Mesozoic and Cenozoic of Utah and surrounding states;

and WHEREAS we have benefitted from the efforts of symposia organizers who have covered a multitude of topics from the ecology of fossil vertebrates to Gondwana dinosaurs, and have learned that CAT-scans can be used on vertebrates other than felids, have participated in a symposium entitled *You Are What You Eat*, although perhaps better titled *The Origin of Feces*, or have learned that contrary to all conventional wisdom that BLM does not mean Bovine Love Machine and that this branch of the government is actively supporting the science of vertebrate paleontology or where students of the thyrephorans and ankylosaurs and others enamored with armor can come together;

and WHEREAS throughout all this activity and dissemination of knowledge, some of us have discovered that the state of Deseret is not as dry as we had expected; and despite the fact that we are 14,000 years too late to enjoy sailing on Lake Bonneville and yet can enjoy this flood of information;

and WHEREAS the aforementioned members of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology recognize that none of this would have happened without the time and efforts of our host committee, Utah Geological Survey, Utah Museum of Natural History, Utah Friends of Paleontology, along with the support of the Bureau of Land Management, *Discover* magazine, Forecast Publishing, and Wall to Wall TV;

and WHEREAS it seems appropriate that the organization and coordination of a meeting that allows us to be at the cutting edge of our science should be overseen by an individual named Gillette

I therefore ask that the following individuals stand to be recognized:

The Host Committee: David Gillette, Martha Hayden, Janet Whitmore Gillette, Clark Warren, Jerry Golden;

Convenors of symposia: Ken Carpenter, Bob Sullivan, Ann Elder, Scott Madsen, Ralph Chapman, Dave Weishampel, Mike Cassiliano, Laurie Bryant, Mike O'Neill, Rodolfo Coria, Scott Sampson, Gregg Gunnell, John Alexander, Thure Cerling, Bruce MacFadden, and John Harris;

Field-trip leaders: Wade Miller, Bill Akersten, Tab Rasmussen, Ken Stadtman, Brooks Britt, Don Burge, Jim Madsen, Dan Chure, Jim Kirkland, Vince Santucci, Sue Ann Bilby, Rich Cifelli, Jeff Eaton.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED by this Society on this first day of October, 1998, and shown to the aforementioned individuals that we wholeheartedly wish to demonstrate our appreciation for their efforts put forth on our behalf by standing acclamation. (Catherine Badgley)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOTIONS

Motions passed via e-mail, 1998.

MOTION: To pay \$5000 to the editorial staff of the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates (BFV)*, as a final payment for additional hours of work on the *BFV*. This is SVP's final payment to the *BFV* staff.

PASSED: 1/8/98.

MOTION: Two issues were proposed. (1) One motion was to move the SVP Web site to the Illinois State Museum and to the University of East London. (2) The second motion was to support the new electronic journal, *Paleontological Electronica (PE)*, at the second tier level, one that requires no monetary support.

PASSED: Both motions passed on 1/23/98.

MOTION: That SVP join other American Geological Institute (AGI) organizations in providing membership information for an AGI Directory of Geoscientists, to be prepared and published by Harris Publishing Co. in 1999.

PASSED: 2/6/98, with the stipulation that SVP continue to maintain its own membership directory and that this new directory not result in an excessive number of mailings to SVP members.

MOTION: To accept the Publication Committee's recommendations (below) that SVP adopt a written policy about the deposition of specimens that are the subject of SVP publications or of formal presentations at the annual meetings. The text of the recommendation and suggested implementation follows. (1) Recommendation: We recommend that SVP adopt a policy specifying that any relevant specimens appearing in scientific publications or in formal presentations at the annual meetings should be deposited in a recognized public institution, where they will be properly curated, maintained, and made accessible for future study. Implementation: (2) The following text should be inserted into the Editorial Policies and Procedures section that appears on the inside front cover of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* (placement at the end of the first paragraph of the section): All contributions must follow the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature; relevant specimens should be properly curated and deposited in a recognized, public or private, nonprofit institution.

(3) The same text should appear in a relevant place in the call for papers, issued as part of the announcement for the annual meetings of SVP. (4) The following questions should be added to *JVP* review forms: (a) Have the authors properly adhered to the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature? (b) Are all relevant specimens properly curated and deposited in a recognized, public institution?

PASSED: 3/6/98, after stipulation that the recommendations contain enough flexibility to accommodate legitimate instances of scientific research on vertebrate specimens that do not meet all of the criteria mentioned.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report for FY1997B1998, and proposed budget for FY 1998B1999

This report was presented at the annual business meeting in Snowbird, and thus comes with the usual caveat that the figures presented for FY 1997B1998 are unaudited and therefore not final.

Note that our deficit is the difference between operating earnings and expenses. It does not take account of investment earnings.

Review of Endowment Investments as of August 31, 1998

The value of the principal in various funds is compared from Aug. 31, 1998, to the end of August or September of 1997, 1996, 1995, and 1994. Some things to note:

1. Almost all of our endowment is invested with Merrill Lynch. With the exception of the Estes Fund, this is a commingled account. In other words, various funds within the Merrill Lynch account are tracked separately, but invested together. The Estes fund is invested separately. However, it has been set up to mimic the holdings of the general endowment fund as far as possible.
2. The rest of the Merrill Lynch portion of the endowment is now split between interest-bearing securities and stock-oriented mutual funds. Most of our interest income is derived from a five-year bond ladder of investment-grade securities. Currently, about 66% of the endowment is in money market funds + the bond ladder. The money market fund is just a short-term parking place. About 34% of the endowment is in mutual funds. This is consistent with our policy of having 25% to 40% of the endowment invested in stock-oriented mutual funds.
3. The value of our endowment has increased substantially compared to last year. Most of this increase was due to contributions. I cannot thank every donor individually here, because it is a long list. But I would like to specifically mention two donations that together accounted for \$250,000. One was a bequest of \$100,000 from Dr. Francis Schloeder. The other was a gift of \$150,000 from Dr. Herbert Axelrod. Both of these individuals have been long-term contributors, and I would like to say to Dr. Axelrod,

and to Dr. Schloeder's family, that we greatly appreciate their generosity. The endowment is simply vital to the Society. It supports major programs, such as the *JVP*, and gives us the flexibility to deal with problems and opportunities as they arise.

Review of FY1997-1998 as of September 15

Only some of these program areas require comment, as follows:

Administration. The main income source is dues. This area is doing better than projected, as our membership numbers remain strong.

General Endowment Contributions. This was mostly covered under the endowment review. It is of course overwhelmingly good news. I must note, however, that general member contributions are somewhat below their usual level.

General Endowment Earnings. This is on budget. It includes interest and dividends received during the FY. It does not include unrealized capital gains or losses.

JVP. Journal revenue and expenses are both higher than budget. If this estimate holds up, the revenue side won. In other words, the *JVP* operating deficit may be quite a bit lower than budget, which would be very good news. The *JVP* budget was unusually large for this FY, because it includes the cost of purchasing 1,000 copies of Memoir #4 by the Society, for future sale. We anticipate that sales of this Memoir will show a good return over time, but the initial purchase price does appear as an expense in this FY.

Annual Meeting. We assumed a surplus of about \$13,000 from the meeting in Chicago. In the event, the surplus from the meeting as a whole was just under \$4,000.

Bottom line: For the past FY, we were budgeting for an operating deficit of about \$92,000. The predicted final result at this point is \$19,000 less than that, at \$73,000. This is a higher deficit than we should normally run, but it is one that the Society's present resources can support.

Review of Proposed Budget for FY1998-1999

As usual, we have tried to be conservative in estimating operating revenues.

Administration. We expect that revenues will be about the same as last fiscal year's. Administrative expenses should be a bit less than revenues, so we anticipate a small surplus.

JVP. Anticipated revenues include about \$5,600 in sales of Memoir #4. Other anticipated revenue sources include page charges and institutional subscriptions.

JVP expenses include \$105,000 in printing costs, which should buy us about 750 pages at current rates.

Annual Meeting. Our present estimate for the financial results of this year's meeting is about a \$22,000 surplus. This does not include auction proceeds.

Auction. Although auction income and expenses are shown here as \$0, this is of course

just a temporary placeholder. Audited results of the annual auction will show significant net income, and the Government Liaison Committee will be the beneficiary.

Bottom line: Our projected operating deficit for FY1998B1999 is some \$52,000, or about 3.5% of the principal value of the endowment. This is a conservative draw rate, and I am confident that we can safely withdraw this amount.

Endowment earnings and contributions are shown separately, as they are not part of the operating budget. Although precision in such predictions is not to be expected, experience suggests that these are reasonable assumptions.

Budget Area	97/98 Budget	Forecast
Admin. Revenue	\$113,273	\$124,730
Admin. Expense	\$111,215	\$113,728
Variance (Revenue/ Expense)	\$2,058	\$11,002
General Endowment Contributions	\$25,000	\$113,180
General Endowment Earnings	\$82,762	\$83,802
Rest. Endowment Contributions	\$3,920	\$2,887
Rest. Endowment Earnings	\$5,863	\$4,417
Journal Revenue	\$61,795	\$107,059
Journal Expense	\$137,550	\$158,095
Variance	(\$75,755)	(\$51,036)
News Bulletin Revenue	\$1,375	\$1,140
News Bulletin Expense	\$24,000	\$24,000
Variance	(\$22,625)	(\$22,860)
Awards Revenue	\$0	\$1,200
Awards Expense	\$7,800	\$7,786
Variance	(\$7,800)	(\$6,586)
BFV Revenue	\$4,000	\$3,685
BFV Expense	\$3,911	\$11,322
Variance	\$89	(\$7,637)
Future Annual Meetings Revenue	\$0	\$0
Future Annual Meetings Expense	\$4,500	\$1,500
Variance	(\$4,500)	(\$1,500)
Merchandise Revenue	\$4,355	\$4,501
Merchandise Expense	\$2,915	\$2,862
Variance	\$1,440	\$1,639
1997 Annual Meeting Revenue	\$165,395	\$179,804
1997 Annual Meeting Expense	\$152,636	\$175,862
Variance	\$12,759	\$3,942
Total Revenue (less endowment earnings and contributions)	\$350,193	\$422,119

Total Expense	\$444,527	\$495,155
Variance	(\$94,334)	(\$73,036)

Operating Budget	Revenue	Expense	Variance (Revenue! Expense)
Administration	\$123,300	\$114,918	\$8,382
Journal of Vertebrate Paleo.	\$57,350	\$116,800	(\$59,450)
News Bulletin	\$1,400	\$18,500	(\$17,100)
Awards	\$200	\$6,300	(\$6,100)
Bibliography of Fossil Verteb.	\$2,800	\$0	\$2,800
Future Annual Meetings	\$0	\$4,725	(\$4,725)
Merchandise	\$4,950	\$3,000	\$1,950
1998 Annual Meeting	\$143,965	\$122,155	\$21,810
Auction	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Budget	\$333,965	\$386,398	(\$52,433)

Projected Endowment Earnings:

Gen. Endowment Contributions	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
General Endowment Earnings	\$85,000	\$0	\$85,000
Rest. Endowment Contributions	\$2,150	\$0	\$2,150
Rest. Endowment Earnings	\$7,922	\$0	\$7,922

FUND	8/31/98 Value	8/31/97 Value	9/30/96 Value	9/30/95 Value	9/30/94 Value
General Endowment (Merrill Lynch-Chicago)	\$1,288,455	\$1,172,219	\$956,530	\$670,256	\$630,743
General Endowment (CD, National Bank of Commerce, Nebraska)	\$0	\$0	\$24,134	\$22,286	\$85,980
General Endowment (CD, Firstier Bank, Nebraska)	\$25,831	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$66,275
General Endowment (Money Market Account, First Bank, Chicago)	\$124,691	\$11,439	\$91,070	\$89,755	\$0
Bryan Patterson Fund (Merrill Lynch-Chicago)	\$20,847	\$18,678	\$13,212	\$12,116	\$11,980

Morris F. Skinner Fund (Merrill Lynch-Chicago)	\$29,918	\$28,622	\$16,648	\$16,400	\$15,225
Richard Estes Fund (Merrill Lynch-Chicago)	\$29,568	\$28,253	\$24,307	\$23,580	\$22,547
Alfred S. Romer Fund (Merrill Lynch-Chicago)	\$15,565	\$14,938	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	\$1,534,875	\$1,294,150	\$1,145,901	\$874,393	\$832,750

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Committee

The report of the Development Committee will appear in the next issue of the *News Bulletin*.

Education Committee

The SVP Predoctoral Award

Recommended to and accepted by the executive committee: Adam Yates, Latrobe University, title: A description of the small temnospondyls from the Early Triassic of Australia and a phylogenetic analysis of the Temnospondyli.

The teachers-workshop, entitled A Learning from the Fossil Record, was organized as a three-hour session for Saturday, October 3. This is the debut of this workshop at SVP, and it is intended to be a regular part of future meetings.

The Committee also has organized an ad hoc education roundtable for the afternoon of October 3. In light of today's unacceptable level of societal scientific illiteracy, this roundtable is intended to develop a collaborative mission to address problems related to this issue. (Anthony R. Fiorillo)

Honorary Membership Committee

We again received an excellent response from the SVP membership at large. We received nominations for five individuals, and I carried over the names of three nominees from last year, yielding a total of eight. Given the strength of this pool, our committee made no additional nominations, although the committee worked very actively to sort through the nominees.

The top three candidates are:

1. Peter Robinson (University of Colorado). Robinson has had a diverse but stable career, working at the University of Colorado and its museum for 35 years. He ably served the SVP as president in 1977. He has had seminal publications on early primates and other taxa, and has had major field projects in North America and northern Africa for many years. The VP collections at the museum have grown extensively during his career. All of his supporters were particularly vocal about his generous support of students and fellow colleagues. He was nominated by Patricia E. Monaco and received outside support letters from 11 individuals.

2. James Madsen (Salt Lake City). Madsen has been a major figure in dinosaur research for more than 25 years. He has worked extensively on the curation and publication of the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry, one of the most important dinosaur localities in North America. He has had several important publications, including one of the most heavily cited papers in the history of dinosaur science, his 1976 monograph on *Allosaurus*; a similar monograph on *Camarasaurus* appeared recently and another on *Ceratosaurus* is in press. He also has been a staunch supporter of both students, professional colleagues, and the amateur

community. He was nominated by Dan Chure and Matt Smith, and received outside support letters from five individuals.

3. J. Alan Holman (Michigan State University Museum). The accomplishments of Holman in the area of paleoherpetology are well known. With more than 270 papers published over the course of 30 years, he worked on a variety of groups, although he is most widely known for extensive work on fossil snakes. He has recently published two volumes on the Pleistocene amphibians and reptiles of North America and of Europe, respectively. He built the collections of fossil and modern herps at MSU into one of the best in North America. He has served as advisor to many students, many of whom have gone on to become prominent members of the VP community. He was nominated by Mike Gottfried and received support letters from three individuals.

4. Nicholas Hotton III (National Museum of Natural History). Nick Hotton's role in North American vertebrate paleontology is legendary, serving the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of Natural History for decades. He has served the SVP in many different capacities, not least of which was serving as President in the late 1960s. His fieldwork and primary systematic work on late Paleozoic tetrapods, particularly synapsids, has been very influential, and he has written seminal synthetic papers on the evolution of physiological attributes of extinct tetrapods. He has mentored or advised a number of students and has been a source of both inspiration and assistance to countless visitors to the Smithsonian. He was nominated by Lou Jacobs. (Lawrence M. Witmer, Chair)

Information Management Committee

This has been a very busy year for this committee with lots of progress in critical areas for the Society. Efforts have been concentrated on: upgrading and finding a permanent home for the SVP official Web site, including mirror sites; developing a system for the on-line submission of abstracts for the annual meeting; continuing progress on developing the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* (BFV Online); and maintaining the SVP discussion list VRTPALEO. I am happy to say progress has been made on each of these fronts, especially due to the efforts of David Polly, Rick Toomey, Erich Schroeder, Sam McLeod, and John Damuth.

Web Site Developments

David Polly has made tremendous progress in the development and migration of the SVP Web site. Thanks to Rick Toomey and Erich Schroeder there is now a working version of the SVP site at the Illinois State Museum. Its URL is www.museum.state.il.us/svp/ and this will become our primary site in North America. The ETEWEB site will be phased out, as anticipated by our agreement with ETE and John Damuth. We also now have a European mirror site at alnus.uel.ac.uk/svp/. We need to inform the membership of these permanent

site addresses and also need to phase out use of the ETEWEB Web site address. The committee will do this over this next year.

There is still no formalized method for getting material on the Web site. This is due, to a significant extent, to staff turnover in the SVP business office (as David Polly has established a system with one person, s/he leaves and a new person comes in...). This obviously has been an unusual year in this respect and we anticipate this will not be a significant problem over the next few years. Major priority over this coming year will be to establish a more formal system for upgrading material on the site. One system being considered is based on that of the *SVP News Bulletin*; a series of deadlines during the year and a few Editors@to act on the input. Lots of the information on our site is out of date, largely because of lack of communication and the lack of such a system. David's intuition is that the site is still very under-utilized by the Society. Formalizing the submissions process and expanding site use should be a top priority for both the IMC and the Society for this year.

Another outstanding issue related to the Web site is getting a URL like www.svp.org reserved for the Society and mapped onto one of our sites. This involves registering a domain name through www.InterNic.net. The costs are minimal, approximately \$70B100 to start for each domain, and \$35B50 a year after two years. However, there are distinct advantages to owning one or both of www.svp.com and www.svp.org. First, members and other users will have a stable address for the Society despite any changes we make of our server; any server changes we make will be transparent to the users. This will avoid having our membership change our address as they will have to do over the next couple of years to migrate to our permanent server. It also makes it easier for others, especially prospective new members, to find us. Both domains appear taken on the World Wide Web but searching through www.InterNic.net suggests both are available for registration. I will investigate getting the Society both domains as soon as possible and will go through the application process for the Society. I have about 40 pages of documents from InterNic that I am going through and will report back as soon as I can wade through them. If it turns out one or both of the domains indeed are available, I will, in coordination with David Polly, obtain them and will put up personal funds, if necessary, to get the application in as soon as possible (under the assumption of reimbursement by SVP). One possibility could be that the www.svp.org domain could serve the main SVP page and that www.svp.com might be more useful for the marketing of products and publications of the Society. The IMC strongly recommends we register these domains, if possible.

Another outstanding area that requires discussion and decision is publishing the membership directory on the Web site and unifying the Web-based e-mail database with the Society membership directory. The following points are important: (1) We recommend that members must explicitly give their permission before any details about them are made

available over the Web. (2) A system for electronically updating their information should be devised. Most likely this would be a fill-in form that transmits information directly to the business office similar to the on-line abstract submission system, except much simpler. (3) We need to decide if non-members should be allowed to list themselves; currently they ARE listed on the on-line database. There are advantages to doing this in that it provides easier access to a larger group of vertebrate paleontologists to both members and the Society. However, it could provide a special advantage for members as well as one incentive for joining the Society if only members are allowed. This is a philosophical decision best left to the Executive Committee.

IMC member Nick Fraser has suggested that the Society use the Web site as a vehicle for a more aggressive marketing of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* and, in particular, the Memoir series. During this coming year, in coordination with the Executive Committee, David Polly, the business office, and the Publications Committee, we will explore the options for doing this and implement those that seem most reasonable.

Finally, we need to find members and, in some cases, outside services, to take over the duties that David Polly has been assuming relative to the Web site. David has put in a tremendous amount of work that will serve as a strong base for whoever takes over these duties. It is time for him to start passing the torch to a new Webmaster. The IMC will search for a new apprentice Webmaster this year who can work with David to learn all the procedures. We will also develop a system for distributing the work among more individuals and build in more redundancy.

Abstract Submission

David Polly made amazing progress on developing the ability for submitting abstracts for the Annual Meeting electronically using the Web site. We first assumed we would allow only a few submissions as a pilot project, but progress went so well that the capability was opened up to everyone. The result was that abstract submissions via the Web site went extraordinarily well. In fact, most were sent in this way with only a few minor problems affecting about 5% of the users. It should be possible to iron these out and this is a top priority for the coming year. Mike Parrish claimed that Web submissions made his job much easier and we hope to simplify the work of the Program Manager as much as possible. My informal poll of users here at the Smithsonian, including some visitors, suggests that the process was a great success for users and allowed many to avoid the frustration and pressure of arranging overnight mail for their abstracts, especially important given the early submission date typical of the Society.

VRTPALEO Discussion List

Sam McLeod reports that the VRTPALEO discussion list currently has almost 700

subscribers and remains a forum for posting information and inquiries as well as generating discussion on various topics in vertebrate paleontology. The committee plans to generate greater usage of the list with more information in the *News Bulletin* and Web site. Traffic on the list remains moderate, but some interesting topics were discussed during this past year. The list continues to provide a rapid way for the Society and its members to communicate.

Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates Online

The BFV Online had a highly successful year. It continued to expand as more references were added, and no significant problems occurred during operations. The current address is etweb.lscf.ucsb.edu/bfv/bfv_form.html and it is linked to the main SVP Web page. However, the content of the BFV Online, currently at 112,000 references, has remained stable since January; it is still missing important references from 1959 to 1980. This is because thousands of the references in the BFV data files delivered to John on disk needed further editing and the BFV office closed operations before the BFV staff could complete that task. A typical example is that references that are book chapters need to be reunited with the full book reference. In the original BFV, the original was given as merely an author and date. In the BFV Online, such references are no longer ambiguous and must be given in full, which provides more information to the user. John hopes to have this editing completed sometime in the fall, but probably not before the Annual Meeting.

Media Liaison Committee

Chicago Meetings

Pre-meeting press contacts included a letter of invitation to the journalists on our media mailing list, mailing of two circulars, and a second letter of invitation. At arrival at the meetings, journalists received press releases and invitations to the press conference and walk-through at the Field Museum. The latter was organized mainly by the Field Museum (the MLC only proposed some names of scientists who could present), and featured several scientists from other institutions. It was intended to draw journalists into a museum to see some real fossils.

The press conference ran as expected and several journalists wrote pieces about the material that it covered (including a piece on SAFE). A last-minute addition to the conference was Jack Horner's presentation, discussing matters related to Sue. We also were covered on a Chicago NPR affiliate (live interview with Lou Jacobs). A press release stating the official position of SVP on Sue was handed out to all media and faxed to off-site journalists.

Approximately 30 journalists attended the meetings.

Salt Lake Meetings

Here, too, two letters of invitation were sent out, one with teasers about the meetings and the circulars. Twenty-two journalists have pre-registered for the meetings. The local host committee (Tim Madden) is dealing with the local (Utah) media, the MLC will deal with all others.

Four scientists will be featured in the press conference. This is down from five in previous years and is caused by two people withdrawing their presentations. Given important fossil sites in the area, the MLC attempted to organize a special field trip for media only, but this turned out to be unfeasible. In contrast to previous years, the MLC is allowing some journalists to cover the meetings from off-site. In the past this was considered to be undesirable, because it might lower attendance at the meetings. It may be beneficial if it is carefully managed, and this is a trial year in this respect.

Minor jobs during the year included keeping the mailing list current and expanding it, and answering queries of journalists (usually by phone, approximately ten for the entire year).

New ideas for the future are to write press releases from items submitted by members to the *News Bulletin* and mail these to journalists. A potential problem is that members may consider their musings in the *News Bulletin* not suitable for public consumption. We should also attempt to feature our press releases on a the AAAS listserver which combines press releases for all of science and is frequently consulted by journalists. This will be especially useful if we expand our press-release output. (Hans Thewissen)

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee reports that the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology currently has 1,836 members, up 135 (almost 8%) over last year's figure. The breakdown of this total number of members by category is as follows:

Regular members	1,120
Student members	354
Associate members	226
Sustaining members	80
500 Club members	19
Patron members	5
Honorary members	32
Total	1,836

The Membership Committee proposed two new membership categories, one for *Transitional* members who had recently graduated or who were currently not employed, and another for *emeritus* members. It was suggested that both of these new categories carry

reduced membership rates.

Although there was certainly sympathy for both groups of people, the Executive Committee decided not to support either of the proposals. Reasons for this decision include the added cost of administering two new categories, the cost involved in providing the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* for these new categories, and the existence of the Associate Member category at a reduced rate. (Mark D. Uhen)

Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, consisting of me (Chair), Bill Clemens, and David Krause, I hereby present the following slate for consideration by the SVP membership:

1. For Secretary (two-year term), Catherine Badgley
2. For Treasurer (one-year term), Dale Winkler
3. For Executive Committee Member-at-Large (three-year term), Emily Buchholtz, Kenneth Rose

All of the persons listed above have agreed to stand for nomination. Under normal circumstances, we would have presented two nominees each for Secretary and Treasurer. However, given the probable need to replace SBA with a new management firm, the Nominating Committee unanimously agreed that in order to facilitate a smooth transition, we put forth the Secretary and Treasurer nominations unopposed.

We request that the explanation for why we sent forth the unopposed nominations be published along with the slate so that the membership knows our reason for doing so. (Bruce J. MacFadden, Chair)

Bryan Patterson Award Committee

The Bryan Patterson Award Committee recommended that the 1998 award go to two applicants: Matthew C Muhlbachler and Richard T. McCrea. In the Committee's opinion their proposals best meet the spirit of the award, which is to support innovative, venturesome, and unusual fieldwork by students. We recommended that the \$1,200 award be split in half, with \$600 given to each, and that an Honorable Mention be given to Igor Danilov. The proposals of the other four applicants were all worthy of funding, and we regret that we are unable to support them.

Mr. Muhlbachler, a Master's student in the Department of Zoology at the University of Florida, proposes to collect mastodon remains and *Adigesta* from sinkholes in the Aucilla River, Florida, using SCUBA gear and a team of volunteers. The fossils will be collected from two sites, one 32,000 years BP and the other 11B12,000 years BP, allowing comparisons of mastodon diet through time.

Mr. McCrea, a Master's student in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan, proposes to document Lower Cretaceous dinosaur tracks exposed in an active coal mine near Grande Cache, Alberta. He will use rappelling equipment to examine the tracks, which are 100 feet above the floor of the mine and are scheduled to be destroyed by backfilling in the fall of this year. The tracks include rare examples of a taxon attributed to ankylosaurs.

Mr. Danilov, a Ph.D. student at the Zoological Institute in St. Petersburg, proposed to join a group from his institute in collecting Early Cretaceous vertebrates in Kyzylkum, Kirghizia, and is studying the turtle fossils from this locality.

The Committee was encouraged by the response to its fundraising last year and hopes to continue its efforts, in coordination with the Executive Committee. Our immediate goal is to equal the amount donated last year, which will bring the endowment up to a level that funds the award at its current, modest amount.

Program Committee

This was a year of change and experimentation for the Program Committee. Some programs we implemented worked splendidly, others were valuable learning experiences. The biggest change involved the mode of submissions. We abandoned the abstract submission fee and, for the first time, we required abstracts to be submitted electronically, initially by disc. Early in the academic year, David Polly did a splendid job of putting together a Web submissions engine that allowed participants worldwide to submit their abstracts as late as the close of business on the May 1 deadline. All in all, 408 submissions were received, 290 via the Web, 118 on discs, and approximately 20 by e-mail. This number was higher than the actual number of presentation submissions because approximately 50 people submitted their abstracts in both formats. This is actually down slightly from the 417 abstracts submitted last year. Breakdown of the 289 nonsymposium presentations is as follows: fishes, 25; amphibians, 10; reptiles, 128; mammals, 93; birds, 10; history of paleontology, 4; theoretical/geological, 19.

This year, eight symposia were organized, which I think is perhaps too many. The Society needs to come up with more specific guidelines for submission, review, and acceptance of symposium proposals, and for the relative responsibilities of symposium organizers and the Program Committee.

I would recommend utilizing the Web submission format exclusively in future years, as it is a much smoother process for both submitters and the program chair. Those who do not have Web access would, of course, be permitted to submit either on disk or via e-mail. (Michael Parrish)

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee (PC) was formed by action of the President at the SVP meetings

in Chicago, October 1997. The committee was formed to coordinate the various publications-related activities of SVP, to initiate new ventures in publications and related fields, and to provide guidance to the Executive Committee (EC), editors, and other individuals involved in publications on behalf of the Society. This report covers actions taken through the end of August 1998.

(1) Disposition of published specimens. Concern had been raised over the physical status of specimens forming the basis for substantial, original results presented in one of the Society's publications (e.g., *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* [*JVP*]) and at the annual meetings. This concern stems from the facts that researchers continually seek new types of information from fossils, that basic observations on the same specimen often differ, and that casts are not always sufficient alternatives to original specimens: repeatability in vertebrate paleontology requires that current and future generations of researchers have access to the original fossils themselves. Following extended discussion, input from a variety of sources (including a published series in *Palaeontological Newsletter*), and approval by EC, the following guideline was established: relevant specimens published by the Society, or presented at its annual meetings, should be deposited in a recognized published institution. The guidelines now appear on the inside front cover of *JVP* and will appear in the Call for Papers for the annual meetings.

(2) Adherence to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN). Some recent submissions to *JVP*, for example, advocate abandonment of Linnean taxonomy. The recommendation of PC endorsed by EC, was to follow most other taxonomically-oriented journals and require adherence to ICZN rules, particularly those applying at the level of family and below. Notice to this effect now appears on the inside front cover of *JVP*.

(3) *Palaeontologica Electronica* (*PE*). This recently formed periodical, available free on the Internet, provides new alternatives to traditional publication media, particularly as regards graphics, use of color, incorporation of supporting materials (e.g., video clips, animations) not possible in a regular journal, as well as flexibility in length. Following PC recommendation, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology was established as a Tier 2" sponsor of *PE*. For tier 2 sponsorship, the sponsoring organization must provide *PE* with one or more mirror sites. The first SVP mirror site for *PE* was established at the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, University of Oklahoma; this site is now operational.

(4) Program and abstracts for annual meetings. PC worked with the Information Management Committee and Program Officer to develop on-line abstract submission and automated processing of the program for the annual meetings.

(5) Miscellaneous. PC handled a number of miscellaneous items and requests for information, such as inquiries related to citation of papers in *JVP*. (Richard L. Cifelli)

***JVP* Editors=Report**

This report covers the interval from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, during which time Volume 17, nos. 3 and 4 (September, December), and Volume 18, nos. 1 and 2 (March, June) of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* were published.

Total number of pages published: 761, distributed as follows: 17(3): 176 [23.1%]; 17(4): 139 [18.3%]; 18(1): 251 [33%]; 18(2): 195 [25.6%]. Of the research contributions, four were Rapid Communications, 52 were Papers, 13 were Notes; also published were six Book Reviews (total of 11 pages) and the Index for Volume 17 (total of five pages).

Number of titles of research contributions printed, taxonomic (69 total): Rapid Communications (four total): two (50%) on reptiles, two (50%) on mammals. Papers (52 total): 13 (25%) on fish or fishlike vertebrates, four (7.7%) on amphibians, 20 (38.5%) on reptiles (ten [19.2%] on dinosaurs), none on birds, and 15 (28.8%) on mammals. Notes (13 total): three (23.1%) on fish or fishlike vertebrates, none on amphibians, five (38.5%) on reptiles (three [23.1%] on dinosaurs), none on birds, five (38.5%) on mammals.

Number of pages of research contributions, taxonomic (of 743 pages total): Rapid Communications: reptiles, nine pages (1.2%); mammals, 13 pages (1.7%). Papers: fish and fishlike vertebrates, 204 pages (27.5%); amphibians, 39 pages (5.2%); reptiles, 233 pages (31.4%) (dinosaurs, 114 pages [15.3%]); mammals, 196 pages (26.3%). Notes: fish and fishlike vertebrates, 12 pages (1.6%); reptiles, 18 pages (2.4%) (dinosaurs, seven pages [0.9%]; mammals, 19 pages (2.6%).

Mean time and range in months from submissions received to acceptance of published research contributions: Rapid Communications (4): 3.5 (2B5). Papers + Notes (65): 17(3): 9.5 (3B27); 17(4): 9.3 (3B53); 18(1): 9.6 (1B35); 18(2): 9.9 (3B35).

Mean time and range in months from date of acceptance to publication of research contributions: Rapid Communications (4): 5.3 (5B6). Papers + Notes (65: mean ten months; versus about 12.8 months in previous reporting year): 17(3): 9.6 (8B12); 17(4): 9.6 (8B11); 18(1): 10.2 (8B12); 18(2): 10.6 (6B13).

Number of research contributions submitted, rejected, and accepted during the reporting interval: Submitted (total of 119 titles): 83 or 69.7% nonmammals (versus 42 titles in previous year); 36 mammals or 30.3% (versus 24 titles in previous year). Final decisions during reporting interval, nonmammals: Accepted: 37 (60.7%). Rejected: 24 (39.3%, versus 45% in previous year). Final decisions during reporting interval, mammals: Accepted: 19 (67.9%). Rejected: nine (32.1%, versus 58% in previous year).

The editors are indebted to the associate editors and reviewers for their assistance in assessing the manuscripts submitted to the *Journal* during the reporting interval. All of their work is voluntary, yet is essential for maintaining the quality of *JVP*. (David K. Elliott, Richard C. Fox)

Morris F. Skinner Award Committee

The Skinner Prize for 1998 was awarded to Allen D. McCrady of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Allen has been active in paleontological fieldwork since 1947, when he first aided John Guilday in recovering vertebrate remains from a Pleistocene cave deposit. Since that time Allen has continued to be a very active collector of fossils not only for John Guilday and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, but also after his move to Idaho where he has been associated with the Idaho Museum of Natural History.

Most of Allen's fieldwork has involved Pleistocene deposits. Highlights of his collecting experience include excavations at the New Paris sinkholes and other Pennsylvania deposits during the 1950s and 1970s. This fieldwork, accomplished while Allen was associated with the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, resulted in numerous publications which acknowledged his contributions.

Allen's later fieldwork included leading expeditions to the Cretaceous of Montana in search of dinosaurs for the Carnegie in the late 1970s and excavations at the *Coelophysis* Quarry for the Carnegie in the early 1980s. After moving to Idaho, Allen has continued to be active in fieldwork, resulting in numerous additions to the collections at the Idaho Museum of Natural History of everything from dinosaurs to Pleistocene mammals.

As best stated by Greg McDonald, who nominated Allen McCrady for the Skinner Prize, "For over 45 years Allen has consistently been involved in the field recovery of vertebrates that has contributed much to our profession. Because of this commitment to field studies, Allen McCrady is deserving of the Morris F. Skinner Prize."

AWARD WINNERS

We are happy to announce the SVP annual award winners. They are as follows:

Romer- Mihlbachler; Igor Danilov (Hon.

Simpson: Mention)

A. E. Richard Estes; Christian A. Sidor

Wood Skinner: Allen D. McCrady

Pre-
doctoral:

Adam

Matthew

Yates

Patterson:

Richard J.

McCrea

and Mat-

thew

C.

Gregory: Members: Nicholas Hotton III,
 Mike J. Alan Holman, Peter Robinson, and
 Woodbur James Madsen
 ne Student Poster Prize: Andrea R. Bair and Kenshu Shimada; Jason J.
 Honorary Head (Hon. Mention)

COMMITTEES

The following lists committee members—names only. Addresses will appear in the next issue.

Affiliated Societies

Liaison

Ted Vlamis,
 Chair

Annual Auction Committee

Brent H. Breithaupt, Chair
 Dan Chaney
 Ralph Chapman

Kyle Davies
 Tony Fiorillo
 Dave Froelich

Rolf Johnson
 Neffra Matthews

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Rich Cifelli, Member at Large
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William Bartels
Michael Nelson

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Cathleen L. May, Co-chair
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gram

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Russ Graham (Ex Officio, Chair of 1999
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Mark D. Uhen
David Fox
David Archibald
Jason Mussell

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Dave Krause

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Lou Taylor, Chair

Bryan Patterson Memorial Prize Committee

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Jin Meng
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Publications Committee

Richard Cifelli, Chair

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Dave Elliott (<i>JVP</i> Co-Editor)	John Ruben
)	Elizabeth Strasser
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	Ted Daeschler
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	Christopher Bell
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	Jaap Hellinius
	Judd Case (Ex Officio, Chair of Romer Prize Committee)
	Bartels
	Brooks Britt
	Pat Monaco
	Lou Taylor (Ex Officio, Chair of Outreach Committee)

Miscellaneous
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David S Berman, Editor
Mary Ann Schmidt, Managing Editor

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C NEWS FROM MEMBERS C

BRAZIL

Museu Nacional/UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Paleovertebrate Sector, Department of Geology and Paleontology

Deise Dias Rego Henriques continued her work on the paleopathology of Pleistocene edentate *Panocthus*. She is also finishing the type catalog of our collection and cataloging a great number of new specimens that we recently received.

Alberto Barbosa de Carvalho has started in the Master's graduate program in zoology at our museum, under the supervision of Alexander Kellner (MN) and Hussam Zaher (USP). Alberto is studying fossil squamates, particularly those found in the Itaboraí Basin. For that purpose he has examined specimens housed in the American Museum of Natural History last May. Juliana Manso Sayão, an undergraduate student, has now officially started her research on pterosaurs, in collaboration with Alexander Kellner, on a few nice specimens from the Crato Member, some showing the preservation of soft tissue. Preliminary results were presented during the last SVP meeting. Helder de Paula Silva, also an undergraduate

student, has started research on dinosaur teeth, presenting some of the results in a paleovertebrate meeting in southern Brazil. He spent a lot of time doing some very delicate preparation.

Luciana Barbosa de Carvalho pursued her research on marine reptiles. She was accepted this year by the Ph.D. program of the Universidade de São Paulo. She will continue to be involved in several projects of our Department after the end of her contract as Visiting Professor. Sergio Alex Kugland de Azevedo continues his study of marine reptiles. He has worked with the researchers of the Santa Maria Federal University on a prosauropod (the first in Brazil). The specimen is now under preparation and will be studied soon. In collaboration with Luciana and Valéria Gallo da Silva (UERJ), Sergio is working on a survey of the vertebrate fauna found in the K/T transition in several Brazilian basins.

Since last July Alexander Wilhelm Armin Kellner has been the chairman of the Department. He continued his work on pterosaurs, finishing a large manuscript with Tomida (National Science Museum, Tokyo). Alex has also participated in the Dinosaur Gondwana Symposium in Tokyo. With Sergio, he has submitted a manuscript on a new titanosaurid sauropod and published a review of the fossil reptiles of Brazil. Alex was also involved in the organization of the paleontological collection of the DNPM, which is being carried out by Diogenes de Almeida Campos and Cibele Schwanke.

We recently received the visit of Amy Davidson (AMNH), who showed us some of her techniques in preparation of delicate fossil vertebrates. This short course, attended by almost ten students, will help us to start remodeling our preparation lab.

Besides the above, the team of the Paleovertebrate Sector of the Museu Nacional carried out fieldwork in southern Brazil looking for fossils in the Triassic Santa Maria Formation. (Alexander Wilhelm Armin Kellner)

CANADA

Fundy Geological Museum, Parrsboro, Nova Scotia

Further work on the prosauropod site in the McCoy Brook Formation at Wasson's Bluff has produced exciting new material. Preparation is still ongoing, but initial evaluation suggests that there are now three animals within very close proximity, and likely come from the same horizon. No skull has been found yet, maybe this summer? Fieldwork and preparation is being done by Tim Fedak, while Dr. Hans-Dieter Sues and Dr. Paul Olsen will undertake the study of all the prosauropod material. (Tim Fedak)

Heritage Branch, Department of Tourism, Yukon Government

1998 fieldwork on Devon Island with Jaelyn Eberle (Rice University and Houston Museum) produced a late Cretaceous shark/bony fish/plesiosaur/?crocodilian fauna that Jaelyn is studying. My Yukon work included Old Crow, Dawson City, Fort Selkirk (a basal

Pleistocene microvertebrate fauna), and reconnaissance in the Eocene-Oligocene Amphitheatre Formation of the southwestern Yukon. I look forward to spending a lot of the 1999 season in the Amphitheatre, plus more work at Old Crow, Fort Seklirk, and Dawson, and I hope to make the much-postponed Snake River (Devonian) trip with Steve Cumbaa (Canadian Museum of Nature). (John Storer)

Royal Saskatchewan Museum

Field activities during 1998 by the Eastend Fossil Research Station included work in the Maastrichtian Frenchman Formation near Eastend. Excavation of a small bonebed produced hadrosaur, turtle, crocodile, and fish material, and the collection of an as yet unidentified partial small dinosaur skeleton discovered by a local six-year-old. Beth McIver, University of Saskatchewan, spent a week collecting plants from the *T. rex* quarry. Reconnaissance to the Carrot River revealed a possible plesiosaur skeleton in the Favel Formation (Turonian). Harold Bryant, Frank McDougall (University of Saskatchewan), Rob Young (University of Alberta), and Jerry Osborn (University of Calgary) spent a week investigating the geology of the Cypress Hills Formation. Harold also spent some time rediscovering localities that John Storer had shown him some years ago and finding out just how bad his memory is. Harold's time in the field was limited this year and project-specific fieldwork will have to wait for another year. Preparation of the *T. rex* skeleton by Don Stoffregen, Mel Vovchuk, Joan Hodgins, and Tim Tokaryk continues; the contents of the largest block are almost completely dismantled and most of the matrix has been removed from the leg block.

Our biggest research news of 1998 was the publication in the June 18th issue of *Nature* (383:680-682) of the probable *Tyrannosaurus* coprolite that was discovered southeast of Eastend in the Frenchman Formation in 1995. First author of the paper was Karen Chin (with Tim Tokaryk, Greg Erickson, and Lewis Calk). Tim continues to work on the theropods from the Frenchman Formation. In January he and Steve Cumbaa (Canadian Museum of Nature) plan to visit Larry Martin (University of Kansas); Tim's major goal is the description of bird material from the Cretaceous of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Tertiary of Saskatchewan. Tim is planning a supplement to the Selected bibliography of the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary event, through 1989 (Tokaryk et al., 1992; SMNH Natural History Contributions 11). If anyone has recent papers pertaining to this event that should be included in this annotated, indexed listing, please send a copy to Tim.

Harold has found research time hard to come by during his first year at RSM. He presented a poster on the biostratigraphy of the Nimravidae from the John Day Basin (with Ted Fremd) at the SVP meetings in Salt Lake City and hopes soon to get back to work on various projects including the description of carnivorans from the Duchesnean and Chadronian of Montana (with Alan Tabrum). (Harold Bryant and Tim Tokaryk)

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology

Dave Eberth was in Germany during July working with Dave Berman, Stuart Sumida, and Thomas Martens on the Lower Permian redbeds of the Tambach Basin in the Thuringian Forest. He claims to have found the Holy grail of an Early Permian uplands fauna and is finishing up a manuscript that describes the paleoenvironments and vertebrate paleoecology of the fossiliferous beds in the area. Dave is also finishing up a manuscript on the ceratopsian super-bonebed from Hilda, southeastern Alberta. If you missed the talk at last spring's Dinofest, Dave is describing the occurrence of 14 separate ceratopsian bonebeds, all in one horizon, that occur along a 4 km-long transect of the South Saskatchewan River.

Betsy Nicholls, working with Makoto Manabe of the National Science Museum, Tokyo, began uncovering the remains of an estimated 22 m-long ichthyosaur in the Pardonet Formation of British Columbia last summer, and is now working on the logistics of finishing the excavation next summer. A paper co-authored with Don Brinkman and Xiao-chun Wu on a new marine archosaur from the Pardonet Formation is in press in the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*. Don Brinkman is working on a description of the skull of the Early Cretaceous turtle *Ordosemys*, which he is planning to submit to a volume being put together by Judy Massare in memory of Jack Callaway. A report on the climatic implications of the occurrence of champsosaurs and turtles of Turonian age from the high arctic of Canada by John Tarduno was recently published in *Science*.

Philip Currie continues to spend much of his time working on the feathered theropods from Liaoning, China. Monographs on *Sinosauropteryx* and *Caudipteryx* are nearing completion. He recently completed a paper with Ken Carpenter on *Acrocanthosaurus*, and one on the new Japanese theropod with Yoichi Azuma. Recent trips to Europe, China, and Mongolia have produced a wealth of material for the theropod book being co-authored with Fernando Novas for Johns Hopkins Press. Two Danish students, Mette Rasmussen (M.Sc.) and Per Christiansen (Ph.D.), finished their thesis under collaborative efforts between the Tyrrell Museum and the University of Copenhagen. Darla Zelenitsky (Ph.D., University of Chicago) recently visited China to look at eggs. (Don Brinkman)

University of Toronto, Department of Anthropology

The 1998 excavations of the late Miocene (10 mya) Rudabánya site (northeastern Hungary) were very successful, yielding a large number of fossil remains including major portions of the dentition and postcrania of the catarrhine *Anapithecus*. This was the second year of the University of Toronto/Hungarian Geological Museum Paleoanthropology field school. Seventeen undergraduate and graduate students from Canada and the US participated in the fieldwork this year, and most of the primate remains were found by them. Estevan Gonzales from the University of Texas found four associated teeth of *Anapithecus*, a very rare find, and additional teeth were recovered by University of Toronto students Daphne Schreiber,

Maridon McClennan, and Andrea Scott, and American students Tisha Richardson and Miranda Peto. This high frequency of recovery of primate remains (six of 17 students found primates) makes us very optimistic about future discoveries by students of the field school. Perhaps the most exciting discovery was that made by our local geologist Gabor Hernyak, who found two associated femora, one nearly complete. These are the first femora ever found of *Anapithecus*, and they will greatly increase our understanding of the paleobiology and phylogeny of this genus. These specimens are in fact very intriguing, because they are quite modern in overall morphology, closely resembling the femora of extant hominoids. This is in contrast to the dentition of *Anapithecus*, which has been compared on occasion to that of *Notharctus*. This is yet another example of differing phylogenetic signals coming from different anatomical regions in Miocene catarrhines. Numerous other fossil vertebrates were recovered and we gained additional insights on the deposit and its taphonomy. We are already beginning the planning process for the 1999 field school. Anyone interested in additional information about the field school (dates, syllabus, requirements, cost, and course credit) should contact Carol Farquhar, Undergraduate Secretary, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, Toronto ON M5S 3G3 (carol@artsci.utoronto.ca). (David Begun)

FRANCE

Laboratoire de Paléontologie et Paléogéographie du Paléozoïque, Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille

Alain Blicek has nearly completed, in collaboration with Sue Turner (Brisbane, Australia), the editing of *Palaeozoic Vertebrate Biochronology and Global Marine/Non-marine Correlation* (the IGCP 328 Final Report), to be published as a volume of *Cour. Forsch.-Inst. Senckenberg* (Frankfurt, Germany). This volume will include 24 papers on the Ordovician to Permian vertebrate assemblages from most paleocontinents in the Paleozoic, viz., Laurentia, Baltica, Siberia, Gondwana, and the Chinese blocks. Another project under completion is the catalogue of the Paleozoic vertebrate collections of the Natural History Museum of Lille (in collaboration with T. Malvesy, R. Cloutier, C. Poplin, A.-M. Candilier), to be published in *Ann. Soc. Geol. Nord*. These collections include fishes from mainly the Devonian of Québec and western Europe (UK, northern France, Belgium, Germany), the Carboniferous of northern France, Belgium, and Germany (Saarland), and the Permian of France and Germany. A paper with P. R. Tarrant (Ludlow, UK) on the Early Devonian heterostracan *Protopteraspis* from England is at a final stage of revision before publication (intended for *Palaeontology*). Several other projects are in progress, including a study of Devonian heterostracans from Severnaya Zemlya, Russia, in collaboration with V. N. Talimaa (Vilnius, Lithuania; IGCP 406 program). Apart from these scientific activities, Alain is now head of the USTL laboratory of paleontology, which means moving lots of piles of papers from one

to another corner of the desk, as defined by a US colleague, several months ago....

After three years in Miguasha, the famous Devonian fish locality, Richard Cloutier is back to pursue his research in Lille. During his stay in Miguasha, he collected a great deal of taphonomical data on the Escuminac assemblage, some of which have been presented in London at the meeting on New Perspectives on the Old Red Sandstone. Publication of the re-interpretation of the paleoenvironment of the Escuminac Formation is planned for 2000 in the *Special Publ. Geol. Soc. London*. In addition, he is preparing a series of papers on the dentition of the dipnoan *Scaumenacia* (with M. Arsenault), the sequence of ossification of the osteolepiform *Eusthenopteron* (with B. Carroll), the postcranial skeleton of the actinistian *Miguashaia* (with S. Breton), blood vessel preservation in the antiarch *Bothriolepis*, and the CT-scan analysis of *Eusthenopteron* (with J. Leblanc). Richard is also describing the first complete Early Devonian sharks from the classic Aatholville Beds from northern New Brunswick.

Claire Derycke hopes that her paper on microfossils from China (in collaboration with H. Lelievre, Paris) will be published at the end of this year (1998), but for Claire's doctoral thesis publication we will have to wait a little more. A work on mineralized tissues in chondrichthyans will be published with G. Cuny and M. Benton (Bristol, UK). T. Malvesy from the Natural History Museum of Lille gave to Claire some Paleozoic chondrichthyan remains to identify and study. Her present interest is concerned with the biostratigraphical and lithostratigraphical revision of the AStrunian (upper Famennian) stratotype and referred sections of Avesnois, Nord, France; the vertebrate microfossils collected in these sections still need acid preparation. This work is made in collaboration with the Faculté Libre de Lille (B. Mistiaen, B. Milhau, D. Brice et al.). Another topic is concerned with vertebrate microfossils from Mauritania, a preliminary presentation of which has been made in Bologna (ECOS VII/IGCP 421 meeting, June 1998) and in Warsaw (IGCP 406 meeting, September 1998) in collaboration with P. Racheboeuf (Lyon, France).

In the next few months, vertebrate paleontologists in the lab will be joined by Sasha Ivanov (St. Petersburg University, Russia) who has received a six-month CNRS fellowship to come and study the Devonian-Carboniferous chondrichthyans. Sasha will be here from February to July 1999. (Alain Blieck)

GERMANY

Lippisches Landesmuseum, Detmold

A new specimen of the small miacid carnivore *Miacis ? kessleri* from the well-known oil shales of Messel, lower Middle Eocene of Central Europe, is going to be investigated by Rainer Springhorn. A preliminary result is the singular evidence of the interior ear cochlea, showing three complete spiral turns. Moreover, details of dentition and postcranial skeleton argue for being the species not closely related to the genus *Miacis* as suggested formerly (cf. *Palaeontographica* A 179, 1982, and *Senckenbergiana lethaea* 66, 1985). (Rainer Springhorn)

ITALY

Museo Paleontologico Cittadino, Monfalcone (Gorizia)

Research on Mesozoic vertebrates went on during 1998 despite very limited funding.

Fabio M. Dalla Vecchia submitted to *Geologia Croatica*, the journal of the Croatian Institute of Geology, the paper "Remains of Sauropoda (Reptilia, Saurischia) in the Lower Cretaceous (Upper Hauterivian/Lower Barremian) limestones of SW Istria (Croatia)," which is now in press. Another big work on dinosaur footprints in the Cretaceous carbonate platforms of the northern Adriatic region is in progress. A paper about theropod tracks, "Theropod tracks in the Cretaceous Adriatic-Dinaric carbonate platform (Italy and Croatia)," submitted to *Gaia*, was accepted for publication in the special volume "Aspects of Theropod Paleobiology," while the paper "A sauropod footprint in a limestone block from the Lower Cretaceous of northeastern Italy" was accepted for publication in *Ichnos*.

Fabio is also the director of fieldwork in the only Italian dinosaur locality, outcropping in the Karst near Trieste. The fieldwork is organized directly by the Ministry of the Cultural and Environmental Goods (Ministero dei Beni Culturali e Ambientali). We expect to find further hadrosaurian remains and possibly other kinds of dinosaurs. The age is Early Senonian (Late Cretaceous).

Sandro Venturini is working with Fabio on the stratigraphy and sedimentary environment of the Cenomanian Lagerstätte of Al Nammoura (Lebanon). Fabio, who was in Lebanon last September, is also starting to work on bird evidence coming from this site.

The paper, "Tracks of large terrestrial reptiles in the Dolomia Principale Formation (Late Triassic) of Carnic Pre-Alps (Pordenone, NE Italy)," concerning reptile (mainly dinosaur) footprints, was published in the *Atti Ticinesi di Scienze della Terra* (V. 7; in Italian) by Fabio and Paolo Mietto (University of Padua). Fabio's revision of the Triassic basal pterosaur *Preondactylus*, "New observations on the osteology and taxonomic status of *Preondactylus buffarinii* Wild, 1984 (Reptilia Pterosauria)" was finally published in the *Bollettino della Società Paleontologica Italiana*. Fabio was in Tirana (Albania) last May to attend the International Speleological Conference presentation "Cave paleontology: Legal reality of

Italy and better ways to deal with it. @

Davide Rigo successfully defended his graduate dissertation about a Lower Senonian Lagerstätte of the Italian Karst (Polazzo site) and now is under the compulsory military service for the good of the country and the honor of the colors. His future purpose is to study the picnodonts and *Rhynchodercetis* specimens of Polazzo. This site was excavated last autumn with success; more than 100 fish remains (mainly picnodonts and *Rhynchodercetis*) have been found.

Alessandro Marisa, a new collaborator, joined us here at the Museum. He is particularly interested on the taxonomy of the ornithopods.

Cesare Brizio gave up on the realization of a CD-ROM on the fossil vertebrate collections of the museums of Italy because there is no official interest in it. (Fabio M. Dalla Vecchia)

NEW ZEALAND

University of Otago, Department of Geology

This report updates events at University of Otago since February 1996. Richard Köhler completed his Ph.D. thesis (Eocene turtles and whales from New Zealand) in mid-1996, and has settled permanently in Dunedin. Since submitting his thesis, he has been working for a mineral exploration company. Papers derived from the Ph.D. include an account in *JVP* (17:574, 1997), with Ewan Fordyce, of a later Middle Eocene dorudontine archaeocete from New Zealand. Jim Daniels completed his M.Sc. (Systematics of Pliocene dolphins [Odontoceti: Delphinidae] from Marine Plain, Antarctica) in late 1996, and returned to Australia to start a Ph.D. in sedimentology at Melbourne University. Hiroto Ichishima finished his Ph.D. (Systematics of latest Oligocene to earliest Miocene Mysticeti from New Zealand) and started work on the dinosaur project at the Fukui Prefectural Museum, Fukui, Japan, in early 1998. Hiroto presented some of his results at NAPC, Washington, D.C., in mid-1996; a paper is planned on *Mauicetus* and assorted problems of Acetotheres. @

Of current graduate students, Seabourne Rust (M.Sc.) is researching New Zealand's Oligocene marine teleosts based on fossils in Otago's Geology Museum. The foundation of his work is a large (~3 m long) semi-articulated skeleton of a species of presumed lampridiform; the living representatives include the widely distributed moonfish or ophah, *Lampris*. This specimen was collected by Ewan Fordyce, Seabourne, and others, as three large slabs from the Otekaike Limestone (Late Oligocene) of North Otago (the *Atuna* of *News Bulletin* 166:100). Other specimens under study are mostly scombroids represented by single elements or semi-articulated partial skeletons but, recently, we collected from the Otekaike Limestone the ~4 m-long partial skeleton of a billfish, with skull, tail, and many vertebrae. M.Sc. student Andrei van Dusschoten is mapping invertebrate-rich marine Triassic rocks of inland Canterbury province, at the locality of a single ?nothosaurian vertebra which has been pored over by Ewan, Arthur Cruickshank et al. No other bones have been found yet.

Ewan Fordyce traveled widely in 1996, during a year of leave. He presented papers at an International Whaling Commission meeting on Cetaceans and Climate Change, NAPC, and the Poitiers meeting on Secondary Adaptation to Life in Water, and visited/worked with Helmut Oelschläger, Christian de Muizon, Arthur Cruickshank, Larry Barnes, Sam MacLeod, Philip Gingerich, and James G. Mead. In June 1998 he visited Japan on a conference/research trip organized by cetologist Tadasu Yamada, and aided by many friends including Hiroto Ichishima, Naoki Kohno, Yoshihiko Okazaki, Masayuki Oishi, Yoshikazu Hasegawa, and Hiroshi Sawamura. To all, many thanks. Back home, most time has gone on teaching senior courses on foraminifera and basin history studies, and evolution of the New Zealand biota, but each summer, field and lab work on New Zealand Oligocene cetaceans (and other vertebrates) has continued with support from National Geographic Society. Prospecting in and around the Waitaki Valley continues to produce new mysticetes,

odontocetes, penguins, and teleosts. We are now concentrating on smaller specimens, especially dolphins, to economize on funds for preparation and on storage space. Noteworthy new specimens include two Late Oligocene squalodontids with skulls and associated elements, a dalpiazinid-like dolphin (part skull, mandible), another as yet undetermined near-homodont dolphin (skull and other parts), several shark-toothed archaic mysticetes, another robust penguin, and a still-undetermined newly collected cetacean from the basal Oligocene (*G. S. angiporoides* zone) a rarity worldwide. Most are still in jackets, but preparation has started. The field program has stalled at times in the last two years because of expensive vehicle breakdowns (two major engine failures in the Land Cruiser lost us weeks of field time), and a nonwork-related accident affecting preparator Andrew Grebneff (who was then off normal duties for nearly a year); both the vehicle and Andrew are now well. Swiss VP graduate Moyna Müller helped with preparation while Andrew was indisposed. Ewan's recent publications include a coauthored Nature Company Guide *Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises*, a co-authored paper (with vet Alastair Watson) on vertebral pathology in an Early Oligocene whale, in the Karlheinz Rothausen-Festschrift (*Mainzer naturwissenschaftliches Archiv Beihefte* 21, 1998), and scattered short reviews and abstracts; other articles, on an archaic dolphin from the Oligocene of Oregon, on a new cryptoclidid plesiosaur from the latest Cretaceous of New Zealand (co-authored with Arthur Cruickshank), and various reviews, are submitted.

We are delighted that overseas colleagues continue to visit the Geology Museum to view or work with the fossil (especially cetological) collections. Visitors include James G. Mead, John Heyning, Annalisa Berta, Arthur Cruickshank, Tadasu Yamada, Ella Hoch, and Alastair Watson.

Sadly, two deaths of New Zealand-based vertebrate paleontologists/anatomists are noted. Ronald G. Every, known for his work on mammalian dentitions, died in Christchurch in late 1995 (see obituary by B. Wyn-Williams, in the *New Zealand Dental Journal*, 92(410):127, December 1996). Ron's last posthumous paper was *Tooth-sharpening behaviour (thegeosis) and other causes of wear on sheep teeth...* in the *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 28(1):169-184, March 1998 (D. Every, G. A. Tunnicliffe, and R. G. Every). Brian J. Marples (former Professor of Zoology, University of Otago), died in Britain in late 1997. Marples' research in the 1940s and 50s concentrated particularly on New Zealand's Oligocene penguins and archaic mysticete cetaceans. (R. Ewan Fordyce)

SLOVAKIA

Comenius University, Department of Geology and Paleontology, Bratislava

This is the first contribution from the Department of Geology and Paleontology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, in Bratislava to the *SVP News Bulletin*.

We are the only two vertebrate paleontologists of at our Department. The older of us, Dr.

Peter Holec, is mainly interested in large mammals, especially mastodonts, mammoths, hipparions, and horses, but also in other mammal groups as well. He has studied fish otoliths in the past and also shark teeth. Peter finished his two-year collaboration with Dr. Robert Emry and Irina Koretsky from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., in July 1998. In 1998 fieldwork, they worked at the Bonanza locality near Bratislava (southwestern Slovakia); Dr. Jurij Semenov from Kiev (Ukraine) took part as well. The fieldwork and research of this Badenian locality were stimulated by the finding of a nearly complete skull, which belonged to the primitive seal *Devinophoca claytoni*. During this year's fieldwork, the working crew found a larger quantity of fish bones and teeth, and also some bones and teeth of seals. Another seal skull of some other species was also found. For the time being, Peter is devoting himself to the research of the Cenozoic mammals from the Vienna Basin area. New primate teeth (*Dryopithecus darwini*, *Sivapithecus darwini*), hipparion, and other animals were found in this basin. Also, progress has been made on the research of some important localities from southern Slovakia (Strekov, Nov Vieska, Vcelre, etc.).

The younger of us, Martin Sabol, is a Ph.D. student at our Department. His Ph.D. study focuses on metric and morphological analyses of the fossil carnivores skulls and teeth from the Slovak territory, and the paleobiogeographical and biostratigraphical significance of these fossil animals. He took part in the working seminar "Quaternary" in Brno (Moravia, Czech Republic) in November with a lecture about the fossil fauna and flora from Tmav skala cave (western Slovakia). He is also the chief of a team which is working in Hajncka. This is a famous Slovak paleontological locality from the Upper Pliocene, near the town of Filakovo in southern Slovakia. This locality has been well known since 1863. Oldrich Fejfar from Charles University in Prague was the last person who has done research on this locality in the 1950s. In 1996, after a long break of 40 years, new research of the Hajncka locality was started. Last year (1998) we were working here from the end of June to the end of July. Besides of the abundance of the fossil tapirs (*Tapirus arvernensis*), rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus jeanvireti*), and mastodonts (*Anancus arvernensis*), we found a fragmentary left mandible with a p4 and m1 of a fossil otter (*Lutra* sp.) and some rodent teeth. These findings are important for correlation of the Pliocene/Pleistocene boundary in Slovakia and Europe. The research of this unique Slovak locality will continue into the year 2000, if the finance of this research is secured.

In the last week of November, we met Dr. Mieczyslaw Wolsan from the Polish Academy of Sciences. We discussed some problems concerning the determination of any fossil carnivore findings from the Slovak territory (Many, many thanks go to him for his help!). Also, he had studied the skull of the small mustelid from the Middle Miocene (Badenian, Bonanza locality again), which had been soon identified as *Trocharion albanense*.

Finally, some words about our publications. The first, Martin's article about cave bears from Tmav skala cave, was published in *Mineralia Slovaca* in November 1998. His other

article, about bears from Okno cave, has been submitted again to *Mineralia Slovaca*. Peter and Martin, along with two female colleagues, have a joint paper in press about the fossil fauna and flora from Tmav skala cave. Also, Peter Holec is preparing an article about the MN zone localities from the Slovak territory now. (Martin Sabol and Peter Holec)

UNITED KINGDOM

National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh

All the geologists and quite a few zoologists here have been almost completely preoccupied by work on our new National Museum—the Museum of Scotland opened on St. Andrew's Day 1998 by HM the Queen. It is next door to the Victorian building of our Royal Museum and only a few steps from James Hutton's grave in Greyfriars kirkyard. A modern building of dramatic design, it is clad in the gorgeous Permian sandstone from Clashach Quarry in the classic Permian strata of the Elgin area in Morayshire. A rich yellow-orange, this stone is deeper in color than the greyish Carboniferous sandstone traditionally used in Edinburgh. For its VP relevance, see below.

The new Museum is primarily on human history and Hugh Miller naturally features in the Victorian section—but there is a natural science gallery, 'Beginnings', which aims to introduce the visitor to the vast changes in the landscape and wildlife of Scotland, focussing on the Phanerozoic. The space constraints and the need to cater to a general audience control our specimen selection, but we have some great VP such as a fine selection of our best Devonian fishes, an East Kirkton Carboniferous *Balanerpeton*, and of course *Lizzie* or *Westlothiana*, the debatedly earliest known reptile. There are also a Permian dicynodont partial skeleton and tracks, and plesiosaur and dinosaur bones from the Jurassic.

Much of the exhibition is devoted to the late Devensian and Holocene onwards, starting with a bear that has recently been identified as a late Devensian Polar Bear on radiocarbon and morphological evidence, as part of a dating program to clarify the ages of specimens going into the museum and feed into Andrew Kitchener's research on the evolution of the Scottish Quaternary mammal fauna.

The changing biota of the natural Scottish wilderness and its partial destruction by human interference are told by a range of fossil evidence from lemmings to aurochs, and summed up in a superb large diorama. At one end are reindeer, lemming, and so forth in periglacial tundra. As one walks along the diorama, the tundra changes into birch wood and then a beaver pond in lowland oak forest. At the far end is a Caledonian pine forest. It is crammed with modern taxidermy by the NMS taxidermists from bears to crossbills to recreate what was once the true Scots wilderness. By comparison, today's wilderness, so beloved by uncritical visitors, is a largely deforested artifact.

If 'Beginnings' sounds traditional—modern, a return to the High Victorian future, with its heavy bias on real specimens as real evidence, then so it is partly because it is intended to

complement the high-tech interactive displays at Dynamic Earth, the new Interpretive center for geology and ecology due to open a short distance away in May 1999.

A highlight of *Beginnings* is the specially commissioned paleoart. John Sibbick's paintings include graptolites, a Carboniferous forest, a Permian dicynodont, an underwater Jurassic scene with ichthyosaurs and a dead cetiosaur, and a Tertiary volcanic landscape. Lower and Middle Old Red Sandstone faunas are modelled by Richard Hammond, with all the old favorites including (but not only) *Zenaspis*, *Turnina*, *Pterygotus*, *Coccosteus*, *Gyroptychius*, *Gyrolepis*, *Cheiracanthus*, and our very own *Pterichthyodes milleri*. John Holmes' *Westlothiana* and Chase Studios' reconstruction of a specific local coral reef biota, grace the Carboniferous. In the Jurassic are Jeremy Hunt's life models of the still-unnamed Hebridean plesiosaur being studied by David Brown at Newcastle, plus an ammonite and eerily realistic belemnites. We are very grateful to the many colleagues all over the world who so kindly helped with advice. We don't hold exclusive rights; if anyone is interested in commissioning a copy, call the relevant artist, or get contact details from Mike Taylor at mat@nms.ac.uk.

The SVPCA for 1999 will, appropriately enough, be hosted by the NMS. For further details, see the separate notice in this issue.

A side effect of the working of Clashach Quarry for stone for the new museum was the discovery by the quarry workers of many footprints and trackways left by Permian reptiles. Helmut Haubold paid a special visit to the quarry to see them. Several examples are now in NMS and in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow. There were so many tracks that a small interpretive center at the quarry entrance has been developed round them, with the help of Scottish Natural Heritage, Moray Stone Cutters, and NMS staff.

While Carol Hopkins, a local Open University student, was cataloging the tracks, the quarrymen found something they saw was odd and took it to Carol. She recognized it as part of the cast of a reptile skull in the sandstone. Neil Clark has taken it back to the Hunterian for CAT scanning and further study before its return to Elgin for a symposium on the locality and its fossils in April 1999. (Mike Taylor, Bobbie Paton, Suzanne Miller, Andrew Kitchener)

University of Portsmouth and the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology

Despite an increased teaching load over the winter period, here at Portsmouth we have managed to maintain our efforts in vertebrate palaeontology. Although we have been unable to achieve much in the field, several amateur collectors on the Isle of Wight have made discoveries, especially since the last spate of westerly storms. Mick Green was lucky enough to find a fragment of giant pterosaur; just a piece of unidentifiable metacarpal, but nevertheless more evidence for flying giants in our local lowest Cretaceous.

Dave Martill continues his busy work on dinosaurs, fishes, and most other things that

move: in particular Dave's work on pterosaurs with Dino Frey (Karlsruhe) has moved into overdrive as several new and exciting soft-tissue-bearing specimens have been discovered. Work on these is underway. With respect to other pterosaurs, Dave has already presented some preliminary data, among which is what appears to be a pygmy azhdarchid. Being the earliest azhdarchid known, and the first from the Southern Hemisphere, it is a particularly exciting specimen and Dave and Dino have described it in a paper in press. Visitors to the department may have seen this specimen on display together with specimens of Crato Formation insects and fishes. Another pterosaurC the now-famous *Apterosaur* predicted by the toy industryC is a breathtaking, crested, toothy creature that fulfills the desire of all of those who'd like to see more in the way of bizarre new pterosaur specimens. Dino Frey assures us that this amazing beast choked to death on a leaf! Who said pterosaur science was dead?! Together with Mike Benton, David Norman, and Angela Milner, Dave was one of several speakers at the recent Dinosaur Society meeting held at Birmingham. Dave spoke about *Neovenator* and what it tells us about allosaur biogeography while Steve Hutt talked about its discovery and excavation.

One particular pterosaur, the giant azhdarchid *Arambourgiania*, remains dear to our hearts here at Portsmouth and particularly to Lorna Steel. Lorna has had the unenviable task of sculpting a *second* life-sized skeleton of ~~A~~rry the *Arambourgiania*.@This magnificent model was shipped (or rather, driven) to Hamburg, where it was the centerpiece of an exhibition at GEO magazine's headquarters, celebrating the work of Uwe George. Lorna's work on the structure and function of pterosaur head crests has now moved on to the true functional analysis of these often bizarre structuresC in other words, she's making little cardboard models of the things.

Darren Naish continues to bang his head against the brick wall that is Wealden Group theropod taxonomy. His work has focussed on the smaller coelurosaurs known from the Wealden, virtually all of which are based on nondiagnostic isolated elements, but which are nevertheless of extreme historical and perhaps biogeographical significance. Some of Darren's preliminary attempts at reviewing this taxonomic tangle were presented variously at the Third European Workshop on Vertebrate Palaeontology (Maastricht) and the SVPCA (Bournemouth). As well as working with Steve Hutt on some new elements of very large Wealden theropods, he has also been working on a paper describing the first occurrence of a Wealden theropod bone bearing theropod bite marks. Amongst all this and more, he even found the time to get married [I warned him against this, DMM].

Stig Walsh has been more than busy with his dissertation on a late Neogene Chilean bone bed that is stacked full of marine mammals, birds, and fishes. Stig is holistic, and has begun trying to sort out all of these. In addition, Stig has to work out the geological context in which the bone bed was deposited, the taphonomy of the vertebrates within the assemblage, *and* the implications the bone bed's fauna has for macroevolution. Stig's preliminary results

have been presented at various meetings and Stig is writing up the bird fauna with Julian Hume, another Portsmouth student who specializes in the restoration of extinct birds. Stig will also be working with Darren on some of the marine mammals.

Julian Hume continues his work as a fine and prolific creator of museum murals and restorative works of art. Beautiful paintings of extinct honeycreepers and other birds are now mysteriously appearing about the department here, and rumors abound of new revelations concerning all kinds of extinct birds on which Julian is working. Julian spent this summer on Hawaii, the home of the honeycreepers and the turtle-jawed geese and is currently working on an extinct pigeon for his dissertation. Julian's artwork on the giant tortoises of the Mascarenes featured heavily in the British press recently following revelations that some of these animals were equipped with paper-thin shells that were certainly of no use in self defense.

Everyone attending SVPCA at Bournemouth was no doubt bitterly disappointed when Paul Davis did not give his advertised talk "Big bird, was it really yellow?" The title did not actually concern a large talkative Muppet, but a giant flightless extinct swan from the Mediterranean. Meanwhile, Paul is very busy with his curation with the Surrey Museums Service and has a number of extremely important projects concerning Mesozoic birds well underway.

Mike Barker and Jane Clarke continue to be busy in cutting up dermal armor from several dinosaurs. Any donations of dinosaur armor will be gratefully received, bearing in mind that you will only get it back in the form of ultra-thin slices.

Steve Hutt (Museum of Isle of Wight Geology) continues his work on the anatomy of *Neovenator* for his dissertation, but this has not stopped him from bringing in new material, both from the Lower Cretaceous and from the Oligocene. A partial Oligocene croc arrived from coastal exposures of the island just a few weeks ago, while a fantastic Wealden turtle skull was exhibited by Steve at the Bournemouth meeting of the SVPCA. The most exciting of his new discoveries, a rather complete and extremely strange new type of medium-sized theropod, is still in preparation. This beast looks to be the most complete of the smaller (nonavian!) theropods yet found in the UK.

Recently appointed to the Museum as Director is Dr. Mike Bishop. Mike did his Ph.D. studies on Pleistocene mammals of the Mendip Caves and we take this opportunity to wish him all the best in his new position.

Dave Loydell, together with Dim Kaljo and Pepp Männik (both from Tallin, Estonia), have their paper on integrated Silurian biostratigraphy coming up in part six of the *Geological Magazine*. They are now in deep water (literally) having extended their work on conodonts and graptolites into neighboring Latvia. (Darren Naish)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region

Brown University and University of Rhode Island

Dave Fastovsky (URI) claims that he has mostly been trying to get his office in a state so that he can produce something out of it. Being a new father appears to be taking its toll! Dave recently gave a seminar at Brown on *Why we can't agree what killed the dinosaurs* which drew a wide audience.

Steve Gatesy and Kevin Middleton (Brown) are nearing completion of the first phase of their functional studies of Late Triassic theropod footprints from Greenland with Farish Jenkins and Neil Shubin. Steve hopes to augment initial 3-D computer animation work with CT scans of deep tracks. Kevin is studying the morphological, developmental, and functional basis of hallux reversion in theropods. An analysis of theropod forelimb proportions and design is currently in press.

Christine Janis and Jessica Theodor (Brown) both attended the NCEAS workshop on *Climatic and Habit Inferences from Features of Mammalian Communities* organized by John Damuth in Santa Barbara last August, and presented a joint poster at SVP about ongoing work on North American Tertiary ungulate communities. Christine and John are planning joint work on the climatic inferences of the decline of the browsing taxa in the late Neogene of North America. (Christine Janis)

Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland

Stephen Godfrey started work at the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) on July 6 and is happy to report that the *Fish out of water* feeling has started to subside. The move from the Late Cretaceous of Drumheller, Alberta, Canada, to the Miocene of Maryland was substantial both geographically and geologically speaking. One of his lofty goals is to become conversant with the anatomy and at times tortuous taxonomic history of Miocene sharks and marine mammals, all the while trying to keep his research interests in Carboniferous tetrapods and Cretaceous dinosaurs and pterosaurs alive. The potential for research, and desire to create new temporary exhibits at the CMM is great and has added a certain bounce to his otherwise flat-footed step.

Stephen took over the curatorial position at CMM from Michael Gottfried, who moved on to become Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at Michigan State University. (Stephen Godfrey)

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton

Dave Parris attended the Fifth Conference on Fossil Resources hosted by the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City in October. Besides enjoying the return to South Dakota and the presentations at the meeting, Dave had the unexpected opportunity to do more fieldwork when his truck broke down and his stay in Rapid City was suddenly extended. Dave and

Gorden Bell relocated the rest of a mosasaur specimen first found over 30 years ago, and followed up on some discoveries from this past summer's field camp on the Missouri River with Jim Martin.

Bill Gallagher has enjoyed a long and productive field season. He had the opportunity to join a group at the Willow Creek Anticline courtesy of the Academy of Natural Sciences back in late July and early August, and enjoyed the chance to revisit this now-classic locality and learn more about the latest interpretations of the fossils found here. Thanks to Becca Laws and the crew of the MOR Field Paleo School for a great week, despite the thunderstorm that almost turned the camp into a modern analogue for the *Maiasaura* bonebed!

After working with MOR, Bill moved on to Red Lodge and scouted out some of Glenn Jepsen's old Cretaceous sites in the Bighorn Basin, this time for dinosaurs instead of furballs. Dinosaur finds were placed stratigraphically with respect to the K/T boundary, and sediment samples of earliest Paleocene age were bagged for analysis.

The warm weather in the East has protracted our field season, and numerous sorties into the New Jersey Cretaceous resulted. A class of Temple students found a pleurodire in the basal Hornerstown Formation at the Inversand Pit, and this required several days to remove. Bill and Paul Hanczaryk, a graduate student at Rutgers, visited several dinosaur sites in Monmouth County, including the locale that produced *Ornithotarsus immanis*. Bill also worked with Ralph Johnson on a new ammonite site that extended biostratigraphic correlations of New Jersey specimens to Texas and Europe. A field team from NJSM including Bill, Dave, Barbara Grandstaff, and Sue Haney visited the Parlin amber pit and collected numerous amber pieces for NJSM collections. Bill also assisted Temple grad student Rich Staron and his advisor Dave Grandstaff with their work on rare-earth analysis of bones from the Inversand Pit.

Barbara Grandstaff got good feedback (much appreciated) on her SVP poster paper on the punctured turtle. She continues her size-sorting analyses of dinosaur sites. Bill Gallagher also received some good suggestions for the ankylosaur paper presented at Dinofest and in poster form at Snowbird, with special thanks to Bruce Rothschild for his comments. Bill continued the field season out in Utah, visiting sites around Arches and participating in the Dinosaur National Monument field trip with Sue Anne Bilbey.

Our New Jersey sister institution, the Bergen Museum of Arts and Science, has been compelled to move from its building, a move which placed its two mastodons (and other geological/paleontological collections) in doubtful status. With the help of Howard Cohn and others of the New Jersey Paleontological Society we are attempting to aid the Bergen Museum with this move and plan to keep these specimens available for scholarly examination. Bergen Museum Director David Messer is facing a challenging task of strengthening his museum and would undoubtedly appreciate the support of New Jerseyans

in the northeastern part of the state. (Bill Gallagher, Dave Parris)

Peabody Museum of Natural History, New Haven, Connecticut

Dan Brinkman is trying to finish his dissertation on *Tenontosaurus* on a part-time basis while working part-time for the Yale Peabody Museum's Vertebrate Zoology and Public Education divisions. His long-awaited *Oklahoma Geological Survey Bulletin* (co-authored with Rich Cifelli and Nick Czaplewski of the University of Oklahoma) reporting the first occurrence of *Deinonychus* in Oklahoma was published in December. Last May, the manuscript for this paper was awarded the Peabody Museum's G. G. Simpson Prize for the best student paper dealing with fossils. Together with veterinarians Cynthia Marshall (Yale University), Dick Lau (Cheshire, Connecticut), and Karl Bowman (North Carolina State University), he co-authored an abstract on a fractured and partially healed pedal phalanx in the type specimen of *Deinonychus* for the 1998 meeting of the Palaeontological Association. In January, Dan is scheduled to be the opening act for the Connecticut premier of the new 3-D IMAX movie on *Tyrannosaurus rex* showing at the Maritime Center in Norwalk.

Jessie Maisano spent the last year piecing together densely sampled postnatal growth series of 21 species of squamates for her dissertation on patterns of postnatal ossification in that clade, and has cleared and stained 550 specimens to date. Her research focuses on documenting these patterns in order to ascertain: (1) their phylogenetic informativeness; (2) their relationship to life history characters such as growth rate and sexual maturity; and (3) which terminal fusions are reliable indicators of sexual maturity, to aid in the interpretation of fossil specimens. She expects to complete her dissertation by the fall. (Geraldine Parisi)

Pratt Museum, Amherst College

Linda Thomas reports that the Amherst College vertebrate paleontology database is now online at www.amherst.edu/~pratt/. A catalog of type specimens is in the works. Progress continues on the fish evolution exhibit, and a diorama on Mesozoic rift lake fishes of the Connecticut Valley has been completed. A small exhibit featuring Jin Meng's discoveries of fossil hair in multituberculates also was featured this year. The Pratt Museum and its Hitchcock Ichthyology Collection will be featured in a Discovery Channel series entitled *Would You Believe It?* to air late in 1999.

All of us at the Pratt Museum congratulate Albert Wood on receiving the Romer-Simpson Medal at the Snowbird SVP meetings in October. Al, an Emeritus Professor at Amherst College, contributed many specimens to the Pratt Museum and introduced numerous Amherst College students to paleontology over his long career. His mark is still fondly felt here almost 30 years after his retirement. (Margery Coombs)

University of Bridgeport, Connecticut

The situation at UB has been steadily improving during the last four years (since the last report from UB) and the Professors for World Peace Academy recently forgave a \$100 million loan and committed to providing \$3 million per year through 2003. Enrollment is going up, especially at the Chiropractic College, and a new Health Sciences Center (actually a renovated eight-story exdormitory) was opened for alternative medicine.

In August 1997 the College of Naturopathic Medicine admitted its first students so Peter has been busy as he now teaches human anatomy in two semesters in the new college (instead of part of a five-semester program in Chiropractic). Peter has been busy trying to catch up on past research interests. He has redescribed the archosaurs (including the rauisuchid *Bromsgroveia walkeri*) of the Middle Triassic of England (with Alick Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1986: *N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Abh.* 201:303B325; *N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Mh.* 1996:727B738). Papers on Upper Triassic prosauropods include two with J. van Heerden on South African genera (full description of *Blikanasaurus cromptoni* in *Paläont. Z.* 72:163B177, 1998; preliminary description of a referred specimen of *Melanorosaurus*, *N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Mh.* 1997:39B55C this is *Aroccosaurus* of Jacques=thesis). Work on *Plateosaurus* continues with comments on sexual dimorphism in the Trossingen material (*N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Mh.* 1997:674B682, 1997) and a redescription of the prosauropod material from Poligny, France (*N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Abh.* 207:255B288, 1998). The cranial anatomy of the hypsilophodontid *Thescelosaurus neglectus* is detailed (*Revue Paléobiologie*, 16:231B258, 1997) and the Transylvanian material of *Struthiosaurus* reviewed (*X. Pereda Suberbiola of Paris and PMG Sargetia, Acta Musei Devensis, Ser. Sci. Natur.*, 17:203E217, 1997). Chapters on the Stegosauria were contributed to the 1997 *Æncyclopedia of Dinosaurs* (P. Currie and K. Padian, eds.) and *ÆThe Complete Dinosaur* (J. Farlow and M. Brett-Surman, eds.). Peter gave a talk at Dinofest earlier this year in Philadelphia and the completed manuscript *ÆOn the manus of saurischian dinosaurs and movements of the digits in representative forms* was recently submitted. (Peter M. Galton)

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

We congratulate Adam Summers, a student of Beth Brainerd, for winning the Romer Prize with his talk, *ÆReinforcement of Calcified Cartilage*, at the Snowbird SVP meetings. A paper on this subject appeared in *Nature*, 395:450B451 (Summers, Koob, and Brainerd, 1998, Stingray jaws strut their stuff. Adam will defend his Ph.D. thesis, *ÆTrabecular cartilage* A novel tissue from the jaws of durophagous stingrays, this spring and has accepted a Miller Institute Research Fellowship at Berkeley to begin postdoctoral work with Dave and Marvalee Wake.

In the summer Jin Meng joined his IVPP colleagues in the field project entitled *ÆHigher-resolution biostratigraphy and time-table of the Chinese Tertiary*. They visited the Erenhot area of Inner Mongolia to work on early Tertiary sediments in June. New fossils from the

Bayan Ulan section cast new light on the biostratigraphy of this region. A paper describing new material and discussing existing problems of faunal correlations and division of rock sequences in the region is now in press. Meng also spent a month in Xinjiang with his IVPP colleagues from early July to early August. They worked primarily on mid-Tertiary mammal faunas and stratigraphy along the northern rim of the Juggar Basin. The project is headed by Wu Wenyu and funded by the Chinese NSF, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Chinese Ministry of Sciences and Technology. Their work at several localities on the banks of the Ulungu River continued to be highly successful. Numerous fossils were found from at least four successive faunas with detailed stratigraphic data ranging from Oligocene to middle Miocene. The Oligocene fauna is new and is probably from a new formation. This new discovery opens up great potential for early Tertiary study in the area because the Oligocene sequence and a huge stack of beds underneath it have been previously thought to be Mesozoic in age. It also provides an additional, if not the best, opportunity to establish the Oligocene-Miocene boundary in China.

While Meng was in the field, his synthetic study of early Tertiary faunas of the Mongolian Plateau, co-authored with Malcolm McKenna, was published in *Nature* in July. Among several conclusions reached in that work, the authors proposed a hypothesis termed "Mongolian Remodelling" which they correlate to the European "Grande Coupure." The Mongolian Remodelling marked the turning point of the mammal faunas near the Eocene-Oligocene boundary, which was presumably affected by the changing climate at the global level. In the accompanying News and Views of the same issue of *Nature*, Dr. J.-L. Hartenberger called the Mongolian Remodelling the Asian Grande Coupure. Back in Amherst, Meng expects to welcome his first graduate student, Hu Yaoming, from IVPP in the spring of 1999.

Willy Bemis has continued his productive collaborations with Lance Grande (FMNH). In April, publication of the bowfin book (*A Comprehensive Study of Amiidae*) Based on Comparative Skeletal Anatomy capped nearly seven years of work on fossil and living amiids. The monograph was published as *SVP Memoir 4* and sent to all *JVP* subscribers as a supplement to Volume 18. It was reviewed by Philippe Janvier in *Science*, 281:1150 (*Bowfins and the revenge of comparative biology*). In November, Lance and Willy visited Norbert Micklich at the Hessian State Museum in Darmstadt, Stephen Schaal at the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt, Peter Forey at the Natural History Museum in London, and Brian Gardiner at the Linnean Society of London. This trip was the first of many that Willy and Lance are planning for their new project on the osteology and systematics of fossil and Recent gars and allies.

Willy's doctoral student, Eric Hilton, passed his prelim exams in September and is making rapid progress with his research on the anatomy of the osteoglossomorph fish *Hiodon*. In July, Willy and Eric traveled to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to attend the Alabama Deep Sea

Fishing Rodeo. This fishing tournament has been a wonderful source of specimens for preparing fish skeletons and was attended by many years by Gareth Nelson of the AMNH. Willy and Eric brought back more than 120 specimens representing more than 50 species of marine and freshwater fishes from the Gulf Coast. Writer John McPhee attended the rodeo with the crew from UMass and wrote about this experience in an article published in the *New Yorker* (10/19/98).

As we look forward to establishing a new natural history museum for the University of Massachusetts, we are working hard to collect and prepare skeletons of many large vertebrates. Baleen and toothed whales, basking sharks, and sea turtles are filling our skeletal preparation areas. To cope with the overflow of material, we expanded our roof-top preparation areas in the summer and fall, and finally have a secure area for winter storage of specimens and supplies. During the past spring, Jane Bemis contributed \$700,000 to establish an endowment for research in natural history at the University of Massachusetts with the expectation that this would help the effort to found the new natural history museum for the University. The State of Massachusetts provided a 50% match to her gift. Sadly, Mrs. Bemis died in June. We will remember her kindness, wisdom, and good humor, her interests in languages, geology, and collecting, and her generous support for the GrandeBemis research program on fossil fishes. In December, we held a reception to commemorate her life, her endowment gift, and to display a new exhibit on fossils of the Green River Formation developed by Lance Grande.

Margery Coombs was pleased to see the publication of volume 1 of Tertiary Mammals of North America (Janis, Scott, and Jacobs, eds.). Papers by Margery and three of her former students (Bill Wall, Bryn Mader, and David Wright) appeared in this volume. Margery's collaborative paper with Bruce Rothschild on phalangeal fusion in chalicotheres is now in press in the *Journal of Paleontology*. She has also been involved in another collaborative project on John Day and small Gulf Coast chalicotheres. Two of Margery's students defended Ph.D. theses during 1998: Becky Mattison on statistically describing the avian pelvis (a study which discriminates modern taxa by lifestyle and can potentially be used to determine function in fossil taxa) and Susan Feeney on the postcranial osteology and myology of the foxes *Vulpes vulpes* and *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*, with comparison to *Canis*, *Martes*, and *Procyon*. Other students continue to work on their Ph.D. theses: Tim Koneval on armadillo hind limbs and Gina Semprebon on dromomerycid artiodactyls. Gina spent another summer in the paleontological collections at the AMNH and has been working on collaborative papers with Nikos Solounias and Christine Janis. (Margery Coombs)

Southeast Region

Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville

Matt Muhlbachler has completed most of his Master's degree requirements and is completely occupied sorting through samples of mastodon dung from last summer's field season at the Aucilla River as well as steadily working on his thesis, the paleoecology and biology of Miocene rhinos of Florida. He will soon be traveling to the AMNH to study the population structure of the Mixon's rhino material as well as look at some comparative modern rhino material for the postcranial functional morphology aspects of his thesis.

Bruce MacFadden continues to work on carbon and oxygen isotopes of mammal teeth with Thure Cerling at Utah. They also have collaborated with Nikos Solounias to use enamel microwear as another determinant of ancient diets. They are currently looking at diets, ecology, and extinction of the six species of late Hemphillian horses from the Bone Valley of Florida. In October Bruce traveled to Bolivia where he collected at Pliocene localities on the altiplano with Bruce Shockey. MacFadden then spent several days collecting enamel fragments from stratigraphically documented localities in Tarija, Bolivia, in order to document middle Pleistocene climate change. In November Bruce participated in the Ernie Lundelius symposium in Austin. It was great fun. Bruce's manuscript on Thomas Farm *Anchitherium* is progressing, albeit slowly. Bruce also reports that postdoctoral fellow Barry Albright has made immense progress in the magnetostratigraphic study of the John Day basin. In collaboration with Ted Fremd and colleagues, almost 400 sites have been collected and analyzed, making this one of the most detailed and comprehensive paleomagnetic studies of mammal-bearing sediments ever undertaken in North America.

We are delighted that Dr. Gina Gould has joined the FLMNH as Project Director for the Hall of Florida Fossils. Gina brings considerable experience to this project as she was previously involved in the renovation of the AMNH fossil vertebrate halls.

Collection Manager Marc Frank will be resigning at the end of December. Until his successor is hired, collection-related inquiries should be directed to the curator, Dave Webb, or the preparator, Russ McCarty.

Jay O'Sullivan presented a poster in Utah on the population biology of the fascinating dwarf horse from Thomas Farm, *Archaeohippus*. Jay also resubmitted his NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant and engaged in other unproductive activities. Jay will be visiting the AMNH this summer, thanks to a Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Grant. (Jay O'Sullivan)

Georgia Southern University

To celebrate the publication and official naming of the Vogtle whale as *Georgiacetus vogtlenensis*, the Georgia Southern Museum presented a month-long exhibition on whale evolution in October. The centerpiece of the exhibit was the holotype skeleton of *G.*

vogtlensis. Richard Hulbert is relieved to report that the specimen survived the exhibit and transport back to the collection without any damage! Two publications on the whale appeared this fall, one in the *Journal of Paleontology* and the other in Hans Thewissen's book, *The Emergence of Whales*. Those interested in reprints of either of the two papers should contact Hulbert. Also, *Georgiacetus* now has its own Web page <<http://www2.gasou.edu:80/facstaff/rhulbert/georgiacetus.htm>>.

Leann Hubiak is making steady progress on her Master's thesis research on the fossil fish from the early Miocene Porters Landing Site in coastal Georgia. She will present her results at the spring Southeastern GSA and Georgia Academy of Science meetings. (Richard Hulbert)

LSU Museum of Natural Science

The Miocene of Fort Polk and east Texas is continuing to yield fossils from the acid dissolution of pedogenic-nodule-rich rock. Schiebout and Ting are very excited about a new specimen from Fort Polk which certainly represents a new genus for the faunas and possibly a new order. Schiebout is working on the partial seal baculum which is the only marine mammal specimen from the Fort Polk work. If anyone knows of a Recent *Monachus* (monk seal) baculum she could borrow, she would be grateful. Her new e-mail address is schiebout@geol.lsu.edu.

Recent publications include: Schiebout, J. A., and S. Ting, Miocene terrestrial microvertebrates recovered from a conglomerate rich in pedogenic nodules, Fleming Formation near Coldspring, Texas. *Texas Journal of Science*, 50(3):199B204; and J. A. Schiebout, J. T. Sankey, B. R. Standhardt, and J. Ramcharan, Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science Collections from Late Cretaceous through Early Eocene Microvertebrate Sites, Big Bend National Park, Texas. National Park Service Paleontological Research, Geologic Resource Division Technical Report NPS/NRGRD/GRDTR-98/01:32B35.

Julia Sankey left LSU and moved to Alberta, Canada, in January 1999 to start her Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship. This project is entitled, *AA Biogeographical Comparison between the Northern and Southern Late Cretaceous Vertebrate Faunas and Paleocology, Comparing Alberta, Canada and Big Bend, Texas, U.S.* She will be working with Richard Fox from January through April in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, and with Philip Currie, Dave Eberth, and Don Brinkman from May through September at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Drumheller. She taught historical geology this fall semester at LSU, and just won the 1998 Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the LSU Museum of Natural Science. Her M.S. thesis (on Pliocene-Pleistocene vertebrate paleontology and magnetostratigraphy of southwestern Idaho) will appear in the second volume on Idaho vertebrate paleontology (published by the Idaho Museum of Natural History) and will be available at this year's SVP. Her dissertation is

being reworked for publication. If you would like a copy of it or other papers, contact Julia at jsankey@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu.

Butch Dooley graduated with his Ph.D. this fall and is reworking his dissertation on squalodont whales into several papers. He is interested in job opportunities for May 1999 and beyond, and can be reached at squalodon@aol.com. At that time, he will have three years of high-school teaching experience and will have taught historical geology at LSU twice. He makes a lot of use of the Department of Geology's computer-aided instruction equipment, in fact is much more conversant with it than the senior faculty.

Ray Wilhite will begin alligator dissections in the spring as part of his efforts to understand sauropod limb functions. He plans both field and museum work in Wyoming next summer. Michael Williams will be starting his undergraduate thesis on mosasaurs this spring. He will be studying some LSU Museum of Natural Science collections from the vicinity of Colorado Springs, Colorado. This fall, Dr. Thomas Yancey of Texas A & M and LSU Research Associate (Geology) Scott White collected rock for dissolution and screening for micromammals from east Texas Miocene sites including the Oakville (lower Fleming). (Judy Schiebout)

Paleontologist at Large, Birmingham, Alabama

In late August, Caitlin R. Kiernan and Jennifer Caudle continued their work in the Mooreville Chalk (Campanian) of Greene and Sumter counties in western Alabama, collecting a large number of exceptional microvertebrates, including a subadult *Clidastes* (Mosasauridae) and the third metacarpal of an unidentified carinate. As for larger beasts, one site produced a large, but very incomplete, *Xiphactinus* sp. The last find of the summer was a smallish mosasaur exposed in the bed of a dirt road, broken and scattered over an area roughly 46 m H 6 m! In October, Caitlin and Jennifer began prospecting sites in the Demopolis and Ripley formations (Campanian to Early Maestrichtian); one locality, exposing the transition from the Arcola Limestone Member of the Mooreville into the lowermost Demopolis, is producing an especially diverse vertebrate fauna. (Caitlin R. Kiernan)

Midwest Region

Cincinnati Museum Center

The Museum is currently constructing an exhibit prep lab, the sort of on-the-exhibit-floor interactive laboratory that is all the rage in paleontology halls these days. The lab will occupy renovated space at the end of our Pleistocene gallery and be associated with spectacular examples of a variety of fossils from the collections. The before and after style of presentation will serve to educate the public about the skills and effort needed to bring a fossil from the field to research and exhibition. We also hope to excite our visitors about fossils in general, as if there was any need. The lab will include standard airscribe and

airbrasive tools, fume hood and HVAC, microscope with external video monitoring system, and be staffed primarily by our proven volunteer corps and exhibit staff. Glenn Storrs and Colin Sumrall will also spend some time here with their research specimens. Periodic presentations will involve the public in lab activities. We hope, that by studying other lab set ups, we will be able to educate the public and create an interesting exhibit, while still getting some prep work accomplished. Our existing lab at the Geier Research and Collection Center will remain in operation.

Derrick Kysar, one-time Assistant Collections Manager, has left Cincinnati to join his wife on her NATO posting in Vienna. He is replaced by Nicholas Bailey, our former VP intern, and now a paid member of staff. The best of luck to Derrick (and to Nick!). Paula Work continues to uncover new historical gems in the UC collection archives. The complete collection should be in the Museum by the time this note goes to press. Paula is also beginning the process of preparing her dissertation on the taphonomy and paleoecology of the middle Holocene Lilienthal site, Iowa, for publication. Glenn Storrs has several marine reptile papers (and others) in press and continues to work up his English plesiosaur data. Glenn is also collaborating with Jim Farlow (IUPU, Fort Wayne) and Al Holman (MSU) on the Pipe Creek, Jr. Hemphillian? site, particularly on the fine turtle skull found by Glenn.

Fieldwork took Glenn Storrs back to Kansas last summer where he worked with Pete Bussen (Wallace) and Mike and Pam Everhart (Derby) on a couple of plesiosaur localities. Parts of a large elasmosaur and a small polycotyloid were recovered from two separate sites in the Pierre Shale. The Niobrara once more yielded some good mosasaur and ichthyodectid material along with scraps of turtle, shark, and pterosaur. Dave Meyer, our Cretaceous crinoid maven, stumbled upon an excellent *Clidastes* skull and partial skeleton that Chuck Bonner (Scott City) helped us collect. However, yet again the best collection was that given to us by Pete Bussen. The complete, matrix-free *Xiphactinus* has some of the best, if not the best, research potential for this genus in any museum collection. It will also make a superior exhibit and is expected, at least initially, to join the group of specimens accompanying our new exhibit lab. Mike Everhart also gave us some useful *Xiphactinus* material for the collection.

Later in the summer, Glenn joined Olivier Rieppel (Field Museum) and Martin Sander (Bonn) in the Augusta Range of Nevada for another month of collecting Triassic marine vertebrates under a jointly written National Geographic grant. Phil Powell (Oxford) and several volunteers rounded out the CMC crew. Numerous ichthyosaur parts, sharks teeth, ammonoids, and bulk bone-bed samples were collected as was the second specimen of *Augustasaurus*. Maddeningly, the latter was found only as float and although clearly at one time an articulated specimen, only part of the vertebral column, an epipodium, and a coracoid were recovered. Plans are being discussed to make one more foray to this rugged spot. (Glenn Storrs)

Fort Hays State University

We are pleased to report that the Sternberg Museum of Natural History will reopen to the public at its new location on Saturday, 13 March 1999. Festivities are being scheduled for the previous and following days as well. We look forward to seeing you at our new site.

Mike Everhart has been appointed an Adjunct Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology. Mike reports that he is accumulating an increasing amount of evidence from the Smoky Hill Chalk of possible predation of mosasaurs by large sharks (*Cretoxyrhina mantelli*) during late Coniacian time.

Greg Liggett has been promoted to Assistant Director of the SMNH. In addition to his new responsibilities, Greg continues to work on projects associated with survey work on federal lands. Greg presented a paper at Rapid City, which was also published, on our work in the Cimarron National Grasslands.

Michelle David defended her thesis on *Ptychodus* tooth morphology and mechanics. Joe Beamon should be ready to defend his Kiowa conglomerate study shortly. Gabe Bever, Michelle Darnell, Bill Garcia, and Robbie Richards continue with their work on microtines, horses, crocs, and primitive archosaurs, respectively. Trisha Kraus has put her thesis work on hold to work full time in the SMNH. Cinda Timperley joined us this fall from the University of NebraskaBLincoln. Cinda will be working on shrews from an Irvingtonian locality in northeastern Nebraska for her thesis project.

Circumstances prevented Rick Zakrzewski from attending meetings or getting into the field this past year. However, a paper on new *Paenemarmota* specimens from Idaho was published in the John White volume and Rick was co-author on the Cimarron Grasslands paper mentioned above. (Rick Zakrzewski)

Indiana-Purdue University, Fort Wayne

Jim Farlow has felt like a traffic cop lately, trying to route plant and animal fossils from his late Tertiary Pipe Creek Jr. Sinkhole site to and from preparators and specialists on those groups. Really neat fossils continue to turn up in sieving. Jim hopes to put together a short summary article about the biota (with quite a few co-authors) for submission to an appropriate journal early next year.

Jim continues to plug away on his various footprint projects. Last summer was spent analyzing data on intraspecific variability in numerous footprint-shape parameters in emus and other ground birds; so far Jim has cranked out more than 100 pages of *summary*(!) data tables for bird footprints. Jim also continues to compile measurements of theropod, bird, and ornithopod pedal phalanges, to examine shape variability in these as well. The end of all this is in sight, Jim thinks, but he could be kidding himself.... (Jim Farlow)

Michigan State University Museum

All of us here at the MSU Museum, and with Spartan green in their blood, were very pleased and proud to see Al Holman awarded an Honorary Membership during the SVP meeting at Snowbird. This year alone Al has produced two new books on Pleistocene snakes, given several lectures while visiting European museums, and continued his research on a variety of fossil herp projects. (Al's award was duly celebrated at the Peanut Barrel, meaningful to anyone who has visited East Lansing...). Congratulations again, Al! You're an inspiration!

We are happy to welcome two new grad students to the VP program here: Andery Calkins and Erica Shipman, who are settling in and focusing on gathering specimens and data for their respective Master's theses. Andery will be working on isotopic analysis of subfossil flightless bird remains from New Caledonia, cosupervised by Mike Gottfried and Pam Rasmussen, and Erica plans to look at fish-rich faunal remains from an important archaeological site in Michigan under Mike and Bill Lovis' (MSU Anthropology Department) direction.

The other grad student news to report is that, by the time this comes out, Rachel Walker will have defended her dissertation on Eocene lizards from the Bridger Basin. Way to go, Rachel! Mike had a great summer in Gondwana, first working on white shark skeletal anatomy with Len Compagno at the South African Museum in Cape Town, and then joining Dave Krause and crew in the Late Cretaceous of northwestern Madagascar for a very productive field season. It's now time to write up more of the Madagascar fishes, particularly the sharks and rays (in collaboration with two of the Malagasy students), and the teleosts (represented by frustratingly incomplete bits and pieces). Thanks again to everyone in South Africa and Madagascar for their help and hospitality. Mike also had a terrific time visiting SUNY Stony Brook, looking at more Madagascar material and giving a seminar. Thanks to Dave, Cathy Forster, and the rest of the Stony Brookers for their warm welcome.

We have just rehoused our VP collections in new Delta Designs cabinets, and they are almost completely captured on our computer database. We have particularly strong holdings in Cenozoic herps, due to Al's efforts, and an important collection of Permian tetrapods from Texas amassed by the late Richard Seltin. We welcome inquiries regarding use of the collection; please contact Mike (gottfried@pilot.msu.edu), or Laura Abraczinskas, our Collection Manager (abraczi1@pilot.msu.edu). (Mike Gottfried)

Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

We have been extremely busy since our last communication. We now have 15 graduate students doing a variety of projects. The laboratory, where we all seem to congregate, is buzzing with activity! So much is happening, I apologize if I have forgotten you! Phil Bjork is continuing studies on the Blancan and younger Richmond Hill locality. This fissure and cave filling in an old gold mine continues to produce extraordinary numbers of vertebrates.

We all look forward to the results of this collection of lizards, carnivores, and rodents, among others. Phil is also still engaged closely with the operation of The Journey Museum, a display museum here in Rapid City. We seldom see him due to his many diverse duties.

Gorden Bell is finishing his tenure here as the Haslem Postdoctoral Fellow. He has become an integral part of our team, and we have found sources of funding for him for next semester, and the administration is actively working to keep him as part of our staff into the future. Gorden is gearing up for a trip to New Zealand to investigate his pet project, *Amosasaurs of the World and Beyond!* He has finished a number of co-authored papers this year including one on early mosasauroids from South Dakota and Texas and one on the Greenhorn vertebrates from South Dakota. These were published in a volume containing the results of a Partnership in Paleontology conference held here in Rapid City in October. Gorden also led a field trip into the Late Cretaceous marine deposits in the southern Black Hills as part of this successful conference.

Speaking of the conference, we were all happy with the participation and reception of the participants. We certainly appreciated the hard work by personnel of Badlands National Park under the direction of Mr. Bill Supernaugh, as well as the many other contributors from federal and state agencies. We also wish to thank our students and staff for their sacrifices. In particular, the Office of University and Public Relations under the direction of Ms. Julie Smoragiewicz made the published volume and the conference a success. Thanks to all of you who showed up and/or participated!

Carrie Herbel is too busy, as usual, so she decided to pursue her Ph.D. while taking care of the lab and collections. If you see a bleary-eyed blonde at SVP, you'll know why! Carrie has been very successful teaching museum methods and the dinosaur course. As a result, she has become a great friend of our students and is helping them in many ways. One major way is the Halloween Party; another is through grants. She has been successful in continuing the operation of the Pig Dig in Badlands National Park, a project initiated by Phil Bjork, and also has gotten future funding for some survey work in the Park. Finally, she and Jim Martin have submitted an NSF proposal for collection renovation. This is part of the process for data sharing through Internet II capabilities, a project that the entire campus has rallied around. Carrie was our contact person with the fossil conference in October. She spent endless hours organizing everything from freezers for the field trips to symposia sessions. She is especially thanked for all her work on this and all the other projects we keep throwing at her.

Our students have been doing very well. Darrin Pagnac just successfully defended his thesis concerning the taxonomy of *Camarasaurus*. He is now applying to various institutions for a Ph.D. program. He has done a wonderful job here at the School of Mines, and we look forward to hearing of his accomplishments as he continues elsewhere.

Other students are busy working on various thesis projects. Kathy Stokosa is nearing completion of her thesis concerning SEM analysis of theropod teeth from the Late

Cretaceous. Hopefully, both taxonomic indicators and functional morphological results will be forthcoming.

Chris Cicimurri is working hard on the Ringold specimens from Washington State that Wayne and Bess Harrold donated to the Museum. She is finding many interesting variations from what has been known previously. All of these make taxonomic decisions difficult. She and Kathy should finish their Master's degrees in May.

Joe DiBenedetto continues progress on the taphonomy of a bonebed in Badlands National Park. His innovative ideas should result in an important addition to our knowledge of Orellan occurrences. We seldom see Tom McConnell, our only remaining Ph.D. student, but assume he is making progress on his topic concerning the Whitneyan/Arikareean transition. Barbara Rowe spent a great deal of the summer working on an excavation of Orellan mammals in the Black Hills. Unfortunately, the preservation of specimens is not what we had hoped, and she now is pursuing the reason. She is finding, as we all have, that your results seldom are what you originally expected. Jeff Person is working on the postcranial adaptation of Hemphillian carnivores from the Pacific Northwest, utilizing another part of the collection that was donated by Wayne and Bess Harrold. Toni Superchi is analyzing a bone bed from the classical early Miocene Flint Hill site. She made great strides in her taphonomic field investigations during the summer, especially due to the good food that Pat Monaco, Dinosaur Depot, served to keep us all going!

Amanda Cordes, Virginia; Frank Varriale, New York; Ellen Stark, Colorado; Marcus Scott, Pennsylvania; and Jerry Mundt, Minnesota, are new graduate students. Amanda wishes to work with Late Cretaceous marine deposits, perhaps aquatic diving birds. Frank, Ellen, and Marcus are interested in dinosaurs. Jerry started to pursue White River mammals, but got side-tracked by a nice short-necked plesiosaur skeleton from the Pierre Shale that he and his son found this fall.

We also have a number of undergraduates pursuing senior theses, utilizing collections from the Museum. Joann Labs, Caycee Lillesve, and Jennifer Waggoner are all doing various projects on the extensive collections amassed from Fossil Lake, Oregon, over the last several years.

Joann and Jennifer are describing bird skeletons, whereas Caycee is analyzing the geomyids from the locality, many of which appear to be still in burrows. Another undergraduate, Dan Lien, is working with Jim Martin on the preparation of marine reptiles from Antarctica. Dan is also the first president of the newly formed student paleontology club at the School of Mines.

Our volunteers are still our life blood. Wayne Brewster continues the curation of the Fossil Lake material; he is up to 1996! Walt Dennison continues preparation of large mammals, and Bill Schurmann is working on a juvenile mosasaur skeleton he found several years ago.

Heather Finlayson finished her Master's degree, but she does such good work that we keep

finding things to keep her busy. Among her projects, she is teaching anatomy for the Biology Department and is also engaged in preparation of an allosaur cast. The specimen from Dinolabs, Utah, once mounted, will be a fine addition for the Journey Museum. Dave Cicimurri also finished last year, and he is helping on the allosaur, as well as undertaking many preparation duties. He is a skilled preparator, another attribute to accompany his academic skills.

Jim Martin has been very busy since his return from Antarctica. However, a couple of projects were completed among administrative, advising, and teaching duties. The long-awaited paper concerning a new large ground squirrel and a new species of chipmunk was published by the University of Washington Press in a volume he edited in honor of V. Standish Mallory. The South Dakota state geological map has been completed and sent for review, he is working on a paper concerning tremarctine bears from the Ringold Formation with Dick Tedford, and a paper concerning the Niobrara paleofauna of South Dakota was published in the conference proceedings with Bruce Schumacher, Dave Parris, and Barb Grandstaff. He has just received an NSF grant for work on the marine reptiles from Antarctica. Mosasaurs are the first group to be attacked with the able help of Gordon Bell, Marta Fernandez, Marcello Reguero, Andrea Concheyro, and other colleagues from Argentina. He is currently getting ready to join Judd Case, Dan Chaney, Al Kihm, and our Argentinean partners for another Antarctic foray in February/March going south for the winter may be an overstatement.

We had a very exciting year of field activities. Once again we renewed friendships and made new friends through our field paleontology program. Two-week sessions included excursions to the Pleistocene Fossil Lake, Oregon; Miocene Flint Hill; Oligocene Badlands Pig Dig; Late Cretaceous marine shales for mosasaurs and plesiosaurs; and Jurassic sauropod localities. A similar program will be available next year for a great price of only \$400. You are welcome to contact us here at the Museum (pbjork@mssmailgw.sdsmt.edu) or our colleague Dave Parris at the New Jersey State Museum for more information.

The Haslem Postdoctoral Fellowship will be available again for the upcoming academic year. This is a three-year research fellowship in paleontology that may be renewed for another three years. If you are interested, please contact the Museum of Geology or the Department of Geology at the School of Mines. (Jim Martin)

Science Museum of Minnesota

Things have certainly been busy at the Science Museum of Minnesota, most especially concerning the upcoming move to a brand new 270,000 ft² new facility scheduled to open in December of 1999.

Paleontology Hall Director Andy Redline remains completely swamped in exhibits-related issues. The Science Museum's dinosaurs (including the large *Triceratops* and *Diplodocus*

mounts) will get moved to the new facility and new exhibits on Oligocene mammals, Green River fish, and a Masterpiece Gallery are among the new displays being planned and constructed. Thanks to a trade with Jim Madsen at Dinolab, we will add a cast skeleton of *Stegosaurus* (with our own selected improvements) to our display of Jurassic dinosaurs. In order to save time and cost, Redline is almost completely planning, scripting, illustrating, and partly designing this installation. Look out for a sprinkling of interactive exhibits in these specimen-based displays. In addition to this, Redline is principle investigator and project lead for the NSF-funded After the Dinosaurs traveling exhibit, a national touring show highlighting the flora and fauna of Curator Bruce Erickson's late Paleocene Wannagan Creek Quarry project. Preparation techniques associated with casting material for this exhibit were presented at the preparator's session of the annual meeting of the SVP by preparator Doug Hanks. Poster sessions on Science Museum of Minnesota volunteers and interns were also presented by Hanks and Peter Lommen. Redline is reliving his Areal science days by discussing Wasatchian *Hyopsodus* taxonomy with graduate student M. Chartier (University of Montreal) and even reviewing a Master's thesis on igneous plutonic emplacement models for a colleague at Michigan State University.

In addition to preparing the Science Museum paleontology specimens for moving to the new collection space (where compactors will house them and a Type and figured room will provide easier access to the more important material), Curator Bruce Erickson is currently involved in research outlining the extent of the lake deposits of the Wannagan Creek area of North Dakota, further work on the flora and fauna of the Paleocene Black Mingo of South Carolina (for an invitational volume to be published by the American Philosophical Society) with research associate G. T. Sawyer, and, with Sawyer, is compiling a descriptive glossary of terms for describing the paleopathology of *Leidyosuchus formidabilis*. Erickson's description of the osteology of *Gavialosuchus carolinensis* is now available in the *Monographs of the Science Museum of Minnesota*. Research associate Lee Halgren is studying the microvertebrate fauna from the Chandler Bridge Formation of South Carolina and research associate Richard Benson, with Erickson, is finishing a description of Pliocene sulids (Pelecaniformes) from the Goose Creek Formation of South Carolina. Under Erickson's guidance, Preparator Jerry Jacene is constructing a 3-D flesh restoration of the Paleocene choristoderan *Champsosaurus gigas*. Preparator Richard Wolszon is taking the lead on the articulation of *Stegosaurus* mentioned above.

The Science Museum's paleontology collections are rapidly becoming unavailable for study. It is estimated that by April of 1999, all specimens (including the Cretaceous and Paleogene reptiles) will be in a packed, transition state. An NSF proposal for rehousing these collections was submitted by Erickson, Redline, and Collection Manager Lori Benson. Contingent on funding and other scheduling issues, collections could be rehoused and organized as early as spring 2000. A future announcement in this bulletin will give more

details. (Andy Redline)

University of Chicago

Jim Hopson spent much of the year writing encyclopedia articles on synapsids and Mesozoic mammals, as well as a *Paleobiology II* review of the origin of mammals. As a diversion from things mammiferous, he has been measuring phalangeal proportions of the toes of living birds for a project on adaptations of the feet (and the hands, where discrete fingers occur) of Mesozoic birds and other theropods. As reported at the SVP, he has found that digits adapted for grasping (climbing, perching, and seizing) have quite different proportions from those adapted for walking and running. This has permitted him to draw functional inferences about the feet of *Archaeopteryx* and other early birds. The study was initiated in order to interpret the adaptive morphology of the hind foot of the primitive pterosaur from the Early Jurassic of Mexico described last year in *Nature* with Jim Clark and other colleagues. However, the implications for the habits of Mesozoic birds were so interesting that he is carrying on with the project, measuring the toes and other hind limb elements of hundreds of modern birds and of as many extinct ones as he can find.

Eric Lombard continues to work on the PRESERVE project. The lead programmer, Seigmund Johnson, and software designer, Marc Lavenant, report that PRESERVE ALite should be up and running for limited testing by early February. Seigmund, Mark, Eric, and John Bolt from the Field Museum have been meeting twice a week for the past year and a half to thrash out database design and interface issues. This behind the scenes work done, they look forward to a fully functional version on the Internet sometime in the next year. When complete, PRESERVE will be, for Paleozoic tetrapods and sarcopterygian fishes, a relational database for taxa, morphological characters, and observations of states of those characters on those taxa, along with diverse supporting information. It will also provide an intuitive interface to that data and make available tools for the custom assembly and manipulation of complex systematic information. Available on the Internet, it will provide a single locus where systematic data may be found and retrieved no matter what type of computer is in use and irrespective of geographical location of the user. For individual users, PRESERVE will make possible the custom assembly of public data, entry and editing of custom personal data, and collegial collaboration on data. Eric and John are glad to see their paper on the new microsauro from Goreville, Illinois, off to press. They are now putting the final touches on a description of the lower jaw from an exquisitely preserved *Greererpeton*, also from Goreville.

Paul Sereno reports that his group began unwrapping and cleaning a treasure trove of fossils from Niger's Cretaceous, the product of an arduous field season at the end of 1997. The first to be cleaned and studied was a new long-snouted crocodylian (under study by Hans Larsson) and a long-snouted spinosaur, named *Suchomimus* in a *Science* paper by Sereno and

team. A new Early Cretaceous sauropod known from nearly complete skeletal materials is under study. Jeff Wilson and Sereno published a *JVP* monograph on early sauropod phylogeny, Wilson has submitted a report on the tail tip of a titanosaurian sauropod and on titanosaurian trackways (with Matt Carrano), and Sereno has published (in *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie, Abhandlungen*) a taxonomy of Dinosauria that introduced some new concepts in phylogenetic taxonomy.

Among the graduate students, Matt Carrano and Rick Blob defended their dissertations last spring. Matt headed off for SUNY at Stony Brook and Rick for a post-doc at the Field Museum with Mark Westneat to study turtle locomotion. Laura Panko is teaching at a local college this year while writing up her dissertation work.

Darin Croft reports that he is currently working on a number of projects after spending a summer doing fieldwork and visiting museums abroad. In July, he accompanied John Flynn (Field Museum of Natural History) and Reynaldo Charrier (Universidad de Chile) on a trip to the Altiplano of Chile to explore potential Neogene mammal sites. They were able to collect a number of nice specimens and hope to return there in the future for more extensive excavations. From there, Darin briefly visited the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires and the Museo de La Plata to study their collections of Paleogene typotheres; he will use the data for his dissertation work on the evolution of South American herbivore communities. In August and September, Darin accompanied John Flynn and André Wyss (University of California, Santa Barbara) to Madagascar to collect Triassic fossils from the dry southwest. It was a nice contrast to the subzero nights of the Andes Montains! Now that he's back in Chicago, Darin is working on his dissertation and soon plans to complete his descriptions of the archaeohyracid notoungulates from the Tinguiririca Fauna of central Chile. Additionally, he is working to finish up a couple of peripheral projects including: (1) a description of a Holocene micromammal fauna from Honduras (with Neal Woodman, East Stroudsburg State University), and (2) a description of the Trinity (Early Cretaceous) multituberculates (with Bill Turnbull, FMNH, and David Krause, SUNY Stony Brook).

Hans Larsson is continuing with the embryology and phylogenetic aspects of his dissertation. He has just published a paper discussing a new technique of associating ontogenetic and phylogenetic data and its use for examining morphological integration and compartmentalization. Among various alpha-taxonomy projects, he is also developing, with Jon Marcot, software to tackle the question of how to assess tree statistics using both rarefied and monte carlo-type randomizations of the original data set. This is kind of like a *p*-value, but much better and a lot more exciting.

Chris Sidor used the money from the Richard Estes Memorial Award that he received at SVP 98 to fund a visit to the USNM to study dicynodonts and other therapsids with Nick Hotton. He is now gearing up for two and a half months in South Africa where he'll study therapsids at the major museums in addition to doing two weeks of fieldwork in the

Eodicynodon Assemblage Zone with Bruce Rubidge and Sean Modesto. Later in 1999, he will be heading off to Europe (namely England, Germany, and Russia) to visit other fossil synapsid repositories. In addition to being a co-author on Paul Sereno's *Suchomimus* paper in *Science*, Chris has been busy with other collaborative projects: two short notes are in press in *JVP* (one each with Matt Carrano and Hans Larsson) and one manuscript examining measures of stratigraphic congruence (with Pete Wagner) is in review (again) with *Systematic Biology*. A manuscript about evolutionary trends and the origin of the mammalian lower jaw is currently in progress.

Jeff Wilson is working on his dissertation, which will be completed in the spring of 1999. A paper with Matt Carrano on the origin of wide-gauge sauropod trackways will appear in *Paleobiology* this year, and a manuscript on the nomenclature of vertebral laminae in saurischian dinosaurs is currently in review. After completing his dissertation, Jeff will focus on a description of a nearly complete macronarian sauropod from the Early Cretaceous of Niger. (James A. Hopson)

University of Michigan, Museum of Paleontology

Philip Gingerich has been busy working on terrestrial mammals and archaeocetes from Pakistan. Phil will return to Pakistan in the spring to continue fieldwork in the Ghazij Formation. Phil and several colleagues reported their initial findings on the terrestrial Ghazij faunal assemblage at the recent SVP meetings at Snowbird.

Jon Bloch has been busy on several fronts. In addition to continuing to process early Eocene limestones from Wyoming, Jon has completed a paper on one of the smallest mammals yet known (*Batodonoides vanhouteni*, recently published in the *Journal of Mammalogy*) and has nearly finished two papers on carpolestids. Jon also is working with Phil on Pakistan mammals and with Gregg Gunnell on yet another small insectivorous mammal from the middle Eocene of Wyoming that may be even smaller than *B. vanhouteni*! In his spare time, Jon is working on a chapter for Gregg's book describing depositional environments and faunal contents of freshwater limestones from Wyoming.

Bill Sanders worked with Terry Harrison (New York University) in Tanzania at Laetoli and Kakesio this past summer. Bill and Terry not only collected a large mammalian fauna but also refined the stratigraphy of these areas. Bill's paper on mid-late Miocene proboscideans from the Sinap Formation in Turkey is due out any time while a paper on the oldest known *Stegodon* from the Tugen Hills in Kenya is in review. Bill is also working on a revision of the systematics of early elephants and has begun a project with Ellen Miller (University of North Carolina) on a new proboscidean faunal assemblage from Wadi Moghara in Egypt. Gregg Gunnell has been busy with a variety of projects. His paper on early Bridgerian mammals is due out any time as is a paper on the Paleocene-Eocene boundary in the long-awaited volume edited by Marie-Pierre Aubry, Spencer Lucas, and Bill

Berggren. Gregg and Vicki Yarborough have submitted a paper on early middle Eocene brontotheres and Gregg and Bill Bartels have nearly completed a paper on basin margin faunas for Gregg's upcoming book. Gregg and Ellen Miller have submitted a paper on dental evidence and anthropoid origins and are working on a paper on basin margin primates. Gregg and John Alexander's (American Museum of Natural History) symposium at last fall's SVP meetings was a great success and papers are now flowing in for the book that Gregg is editing based on the symposium that will be published by Plenum. As busy as 1998 was, 1999 looks even busier. Gregg just returned from fieldwork in Alabama with Mark Uhen (Cranbrook Institute of Science) where they excavated the better part of a *Zygorhiza* skeleton with the able assistance of Henry Rust (University of Alabama). Gregg will travel to England and Germany in March to visit the Natural History Museum, London, and the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt. Along with studying the collections, Gregg looks forward to visiting a lot of old friends. Gregg and Phil will then continue on to Pakistan for spring fieldwork. The summer will be spent in Wyoming and a field project with Ismael Ferrusquia (UNAM) in southeastern Mexico must be squeezed in there somewhere as well.

Among other members of the UMMP community, Dan Fisher continues his work on life history of Pleistocene mastodons from the Great Lakes region and also is working on new methods of incorporating stratigraphic information into phylogenetic analysis. David Fox is nearing completion of his dissertation and thus is nearly invisible these days. Josh Trapani has successfully completed his preliminary exams and is now trying to choose between several equally interesting dissertation topics. Ross Secord is completing class work and has been helping Jerry Smith sort and catalog fish from the Ringold Formation in the Pacific Northwest and from the Green River Formation in Wyoming. Holly Severson continues her faunal analysis of early Eocene mammalian assemblages from the Willwood Formation in Wyoming. Iyad Zalmout continues to study elasmobranchs from Egypt, Pakistan, and elsewhere. And finally, Jennifer Gulick and our newest lab assistant, Doug Boyer, continue to work on preparation of limestones and molding and casting of whales. (Gregg F. Gunnell)

Southwest Region

Dallas Museum of Natural History

Geb Bennett and Tony Fiorillo's imaging collaboration with Innova International (abstract presented at SVP 98) continues to be productive. By manipulating CT-scan data, one can measure endocast volume; remove distortion from specimens; enlarge, reduce, or reverse bones; and then create a physical 3-D model using a rapid prototyping machine. The resolution depends primarily on the scanning device, but can be as good as 50F. Geb has been trained on the appropriate software to bridge the gap between technology and paleontology because the techs at Innova declined to learn vertebrate anatomy! Projects are currently being planned with Tim Rowe and Dinamation.

Tony's manuscript on sauropod tooth wear has seen the light of day in *Historical Biology*, as well as a report on a new fish locality in the Devonian Beartooth Butte Formation in *Northwest Geology*. In addition, Geb's manuscript on the removable specimen mount of the Proctor Lake hypsilophodontid has finally been submitted to *Curator*.

Our Dinoworld exhibit will unfortunately soon be wrapping up after a fantastic run as our most popular and profitable exhibit ever. We will, however, be retaining the skeleton of *Malawisaurus*, a new titanosaurid from Malawi, and a *Torosaurus* skull cast for permanent display. Our temporary public preparation lab, which has been used to prepare everything from Permian tetrapods to Oligocene mammals, will also remain intact through our elephant exhibit this fall, when we can continue work on a recently excavated mammoth. Thanks go to Bob Wilk and Derek Main for making the Dinolab work with a minimum of volunteers.

In the main lab work continues on juvenile *Alamosaurus* material from the Big Bend area. Despite the horrendous concretions surrounding the bones we manage to keep our hardcore volunteers coming back for more. The site continues to be productive and is being excavated with the help of the University of Texas at Dallas. In addition to sauropods, Geb has also completed preparation on several Devonian fish (pteraspids, placoderms, etc.) recovered from Tony's recent collecting trip to Montana and Wyoming, and the skull and assorted postcrania of a local Cretaceous ichthyosaur. Recently a large *Xiphactinus* was discovered locally and, though the specimen was neither pristine nor terribly important scientifically, we were pleasantly surprised that the local media jumped on board with a passion and gave us some great exposure! Depending on funding, we may have the chance to CT scan the specimen and mount a rapid prototyped skeleton for display. (Geb Bennett)

Mesa Southwest Museum, Mesa, Arizona

Heidemarie Johnson continues fieldwork in the Devonian Martin Formation near Payson, Arizona. Four different fossil-bearing horizons have been identified and many Anontetrapod@ vertebrate fossils recovered. By the time you read this, she hopes that her papers in AThe Geology of Utah@and a IGCP volume will have been published.

Doug Wolfe published AZuniceratops christopheri@in the *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin* no. 14 and presented a paper on it at the lowerBmiddle Cretaceous Symposium in Fruita. He survived the subsequent burst of media attention on *Zuniceratops*, himself, and his son, Christopher. Doug continues research on the Moreno Hills fauna, and tells us that there are more exciting discoveries to be announced. An exhibit on the Zuni Region paleontology opens at the museum in February, and Doug is busy helping with it.

On the sauropod front Brian Curtice described the fist occurrence of *Apatosaurus*@in Arizona (*MSM Bulletin* 6), thus extending this ubiquitous taxon's southwesternmost range. During its description (and to Brian's utter delight) representative elements of all known

Arizona sauropods were momentarily gathered at the Mesa Southwest Museum.

Brian Anderson has left us for the wilds of Idaho, and we all wish him well in his future endeavors.

Bob McCord is nearing completion on content design for all paleontological exhibits in the museum's new expansion. For those who are unaware, the Mesa Southwest Museum is undergoing a major expansion that will make it one of the largest paleo exhibits west of the Mississippi! The opening is scheduled for the spring of 2000. Bob has also been preparing for the annual paleontology symposium at the museum and editing papers from it which will appear in the *Mesa Southwest Museum Bulletin* no. 6. Bob hopes that, by the time you read this, the first three papers based on his dissertation on the Kaiparowits region will be published in the BLM's *Learning from the Land* volume, Ev Lindsay's *Festschrift*, and *MSM Bulletin* no.6. More papers are in the pipeline. Bob is enjoying being officially Curator of Paleontology and hopes to get into the field this spring in both the late Cretaceous of southeastern Arizona and the Quaternary of southwest Arizona. (Bob McCord)

Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

Once the final details are finished on the building, we will be moving into our new home, the all-new Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, this winter and spring. All collections are packed in anticipation of the move, so please be informed that access to the VP collection will be limited until early summer, at which time we hope to have it unpacked and reorganized.

Rich Cifelli continues work on Albian-Cenomanian mammals from Utah, and completed a study on symmetrodonts, in collaboration with Scott Madsen. Field investigations included work in the Cedar Mountain Formation, Utah, and the Cloverly Formation, Montana. A new site in the latter unit, discovered by Des Maxwell's field crew, shows much promise for microvertebrates, and has already yielded mammal and lizard specimens. Cindy Gordon spent the fall semester teaching labs and working on exciting new Cretaceous mammals, and also put some efforts into her Pleistocene arvicolines every now and again. Randy Nydam is working furiously to put the finishing touches on his dissertation. Matt Wedel continues his CT scanning of sauropod vertebrae to investigate pneumatic morphology, and also on his research on sauropod dinosaurs of the Antlers Formation. Work on paleontological exhibits by Kyle Davies and the staff and volunteers continues apace. Kent Smith continues to make good progress on Miocene mammals from Eastgate, Nevada. Nick Czaplewski spends most of his spare time working on a revision of Terry Vaughan's *Mammalogy* textbook with Terry and Jim Ryan of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, New York. (Nick Czaplewski)

University of Texas at Austin

The year's paleontological highlight at the University of Texas was the Ernest Lundelius

Symposium on Quaternary Vertebrate Paleontology. Michael Archer, Tony Barnosky, Michael Collins, Russ Graham, Elizabeth Hadly, Bruce MacFadden, Jim Mead, Clayton Ray, Holmes Semken, and David Steadman helped celebrate Ernie's incredible (and continuing) impact on the field. Ernie's retirement this fall doesn't seem to have slowed his activity, however. He is still a common sight at the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab (VPL). Thanks to all who participated and attended, as well as to Tim Rowe and Chris Bell for coordinating the symposium. It was truly a memorable event. The full day of talks was extended by a reception at the Texas Memorial Museum that evening and an open house at the VPL the following afternoon. Anyone who has not seen the VPL in a while would certainly be impressed with its change. A massive facelift this summer made working in the collection difficult for a while, but resulted in a much nicer and brighter building. Following the construction, Tim guided the cleaning of the aftermath with the use of graduate-student labor. Regardless of whether the dirt was removed or just hidden, attendees to the open house saw a much tidier collection. With the completion of renovations, the collections are once again open for research. We continue to receive visitors from around the world bringing extraordinary fossils for scanning in the high-resolution computed tomography (CT) lab. Plans are pushing ahead to efficiently publish CT data sets.

Tim Rowe spent seven weeks this summer working in the Kayenta Formation collaborative effort with the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Joined by Chuck Schaff for two weeks, the trip allowed several graduate students to experience fieldwork in the Jurassic of Arizona. This fall Tim assumed the directorship of the VPL, a task which now occupies much of his time. Tim is continuing his work at Big Bend where a Thanksgiving trip recovered bits and pieces of small theropods.

By assuming a double class load in the fall, Chris Bell has bought a teaching-free spring semester. He will spend that time completing two primary projects. Plans are to finish studies of fossil reptiles, amphibians, and microtine rodents from the initial excavations in Porcupine Cave in collaboration with Tony Barnosky, Charles Repenning, and Jim Mead. These works will be presented in the upcoming volume on the cave being edited by Tony. Chris also intends to continue studies of scincomorph lizard systematics with Jacques Gauthier.

Oscar Alcober spent 45 days in the field in the Ischigualasto Basin, prospecting the base of the Triassic Ischigualasto Formation with very good results. Collections included a partial skull and complete jaw of a carnivorous cynodont, a dozen specimens of rhynchosaurs (one of them the best specimen from the formation), a *Proterochampsia* skull, two fragmentary aetosaurs, and six coprolites. The prep lab is finishing reconstruction of *Quetzalcoatlus*, which will be ready in March. Image processing has also begun on a braincase of *Saurosuchus*.

Pamela Owen is digging in for her final push to complete her dissertation on the evolution of American badgers. She presented some of the results of her research to the department in a

seminar in November. Last August Pamela visited the collections at the University of Nebraska State Museum in Lincoln to examine fossil and Recent badgers. Pamela thanks Mike Voorhies, George Corner, and Thomas Labeledz for allowing her to examine specimens in their care.

In late May Ron Tykoski spent a day at the Museum of Northern Arizona examining *Coelophysis* material in their collections. At the end of June he spent two weeks working in UT's quarry in the Kayenta Formation, assisting in quarrying blocks and hauling them the mile back to camp. He finally finished his Master's thesis entitled *The osteology of *Syntarsus kayentakatae* and its implications for ceratosaurid phylogeny.* Ron is currently in the process of describing a new crocodyliform from the Kayenta Formation, and dividing up the thesis into publishable pieces.

Ted Macrini has been working on his Master's thesis, comparing character transformations in the ontogeny of *Monodelphis domestica* to character transformations in the phylogeny of Synapsida. This past summer he traveled to UC Berkeley, USNM, AMNH, Yale, and Harvard to look at nonmammalian synapsid fossils. Ted is planning on going to the Field Museum and the University of Michigan in January.

Gerald Grellet-Tinner is at the AMNH working with Mark Norell on the Gobi Desert eggs. He received two grants this semester from the AMNH to do his research on the 3-D reconstruction of eggshells, which is progressing nicely. Gerald has been invited by Luis Chiappe to travel to Patagonia to work on the new exciting discovery of eggs and embryos there. The Department of Geological Sciences at UT gave Gerald a Getty Chair grant, awarded to the best proposals each year in the department.

There are five new additions to the vertebrate paleontology graduate-student populace this year. Cathrin De Nooyer comes here from Purdue to work with the CT scanner. She has made the switch from invertebrates to vertebrates and medical scanners to industrial scanners. Her doctoral research will look at diversity of vertebrate neurocranial anatomy before and after the Permian extinction and consider the effects of mass extinction on populations based on comparative anatomy. Jonathon Franzosa completed his degree at LSU and is now developing a research project with theropods. Dave Dufeu will continue his studies at UT after receiving his undergraduate degree here. His interests are in avian phylogenetics. Lyn Murray left employment at the San Bernardino County Museum to return to school here. He is interested in the mammals of the Anza-Borrego desert, an area with which he has much familiarity. Dennis Ruez, Jr., shares the interest in mammals; he will examine mammalian community structure dynamics in the sequences at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. (Dennis Ruez, Jr.)

Rocky Mountain Region
Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

As many of you have learned by now, Jim Jensen passed away. Jim died December 14, 1998, at his home in Provo. He had been bed-ridden for some months before his death. An article about him appears in the Obituaries section. He will certainly be missed, yet remembered for the great contributions that he made in the field of vertebrate paleontology, especially for the excellent dinosaur collection that he amassed. We lost someone else here, but fortunately by less drastic means. Dee Hall, who worked at BYU as a fossil preparator in our VP lab and as a fossil collector for over 15 years, has retired. He has moved to Texas to work with a son who runs a printing business. Dee, too, will be greatly missed. He did so much for us in a variety of ways.

This summer Scott Rufalo successfully defended his Master's thesis on Pleistocene vertebrates from the Lake Chapala region in Jalisco, Mexico. Scott is now in Cambridge, England, working on an advanced degree.

Ken Stadtman, now very short-handed in curating BYU's fossil collections, is striving diligently to keep things organized and operating. A continuing cooperative effort with the Museum of Western Colorado at the early Cretaceous Dalton Well Dinosaur quarry near Moab, Utah, also keeps Ken busy.

Wade Miller, while doing some research regarding Pleistocene mammals from Utah, is still heavily involved in late Cenozoic matters across central Mexico with Oscar Carranza and others. New Blancan-age vertebrate sites near Mira Flores in southernmost Baja were worked with the assistance of an Earthwatch team in early November of this year. Some unidentified bones (plaster jacketed) may include the first known South American immigrants of this age from Baja. Wade earlier this year checked on a site reported by the Mexican geologist Arellano in 1951 from the Valle de Durazno in Coahuila. This state's Department of Public Education, through its paleontological division headed by Rosario Gomez, made the search possible. In addition to Sra. Gomez, Rene Delgado and Ignacio (Nacho) Vallejo provided all necessary help for this reconnaissance. A mammoth tooth, teeth from a large camel, and horse teeth were recovered in the space of a couple of hours. A more extensive field trip to the area will take place at a later date. (Wade Miller)

Idaho Museum of Natural History

It's been quite a while since we had the time to put together some information for the *News Bulletin*. For those who didn't get to Snowbird, our biggest news is production of the John White Festschrift Volume entitled *And Whereas....* We also have enough manuscripts in hand or under revision to issue at least two more volumes (volume 2 is underway) and even more manuscripts are promised (see our blurb under Publications in this issue for ordering information and for errata). Between the White Volume and recent political/administrative HUAs, all have been super busy.

Bill Akersten is still trying to recover from editing chores on the White Festschrift Volume

and the backlog which built up while he was working on it. He now has much more sympathy for editors than he used to have and vows to treat them with more consideration in the future. As usual, he has at least five manuscripts in various stages of preparation. The Notch Butte Project (result of a BLM Golden Anniversary Initiative partnership) yielded a sparse, but important, latest Hemphillian fauna. Bill, Allen Tedrow, and Jeff Meldrum excavated at the site last summer and came up with a fairly large Quaternary microfauna from an overlying unit. Thanks to Greg McDonald another joint project with BLM is developing, this one on a Pleistocene cave fauna north of Hagerman.

Allen Tedrow with Steve Robison of the USFS continued collecting early Hemphillian materials from several localities in the Rockland Valley, west of Pocatello. Unfortunately, the main locality in a gravel pit was bulldozed without our being notified. Steve arrived just in time to salvage thoroughly crunched remnants of what had been a very nice proboscidian skull and there is some question if they will be able to continue work at their microvert sites in this pit. Allen and his volunteer, Dean Mandilof, continue to prepare the mammoth remains from Tolo Lake and specimens from American Falls Reservoir. They just finished another excellent *Bison latifrons* cranium.

Jeff Meldrum continues to plug away at the Montana Eocene and, with Mary Flint and Glenn Thackray of the ISU Geology Department, at the Power County Landfill. Jeff has also eased Bill's administrative chores by taking over supervision of the IMNH research library.

The good news from Mary Flint is that she has been hired in a permanent position as IMNH Registrar and Earth Sciences Collections Manager. The bad news is that her horse objected strenuously to being ridden and put her in the hospital with broken ribs and a punctured lung. The good news is that she is healing rapidly and should be back to riding by the time you read this. Meanwhile, she continues to supervise collection improvements funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and tries to find time to revise several manuscripts before starting on the evolution of camelid foot structure for her Ph.D.

Denny Dively is keeping busy revamping her Master's thesis on Mad Chipmunk Cave and improving our Recent comparative osteology collection under a Faculty Research Committee grant to Bill. Roger Rapp, a long-time amateur collector for the Museum, is Bill's newest student. He will be doing a Master's thesis on the Hemphillian mammals of the Chalk Hills Formation in the Horse Hills area of Owyhee County. (Bill Akersten)

Sheridan College, Geology Department

The big news from our region in northern Wyoming is the ongoing excavation work on a subadult *Allosaurus* from the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation at Sheridan College's State Quarry. Brian and Mike Flynn, with the help of Sheridan geology students, are nearing completion of the removal of the sandstone blocks back to the college's prep lab for winter preparatory work.

John Gracey and Mike Flynn continue their inventory of fossil localities along the western Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming. With student help, they continue biostratigraphic and paleogeographic research at a number of sites within the Cloverly Formation. Harold Hubert and Mike Flynn have included three college-credit field courses this fall semester within the Cloverly and Hell Creek formations of southeastern Montana. New grant funds have been received over the fall semester to help with expansion/remodeling of our Geology Museum's preparatory lab. Mike has enjoyed his sabbatical fall semester working in the Early Cretaceous Cloverly Formation along both the east and west slopes of the Big Horn Mountains of Montana and Wyoming. Extensive collections of fossil vertebrate remains were made within the northeastern Big Horn Basin and the far western edge of the Powder River Basin. All localities within the formation were placed within ArcView GIS and interfaced with GPS locations. Over the long Wyoming winter, the Geology Museum staff will construct needed public display cases for the new Cloverly and Morrison formation fossil material. Bill Matterson, Dan Olson, and Brian Flynn continue to locate, excavate, and examine vertebrate faunas spanning the K-T boundary in the Hell Creek Formation of southeastern Montana.

After receiving much-needed help from both state and private resources, plans for the 1999 field season include four college-credit paleontology courses located at the college's Cloverly/Morrison quarry, and the continued generation of our ongoing three-axial DGPS-position scrolling quarry maps, while synchronizing them with low-level aerial (balloon) and terrestrial video images. (Mike Flynn)

University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming

Our Collection Improvement Grant from the NSF proceeds apace. John Burris and I are about half way through our Cretaceous specimens (greatly increased because of Jay's Hanna Basin project). We are also happy to announce that Dr. John Foster has joined our team working on the grant. His knowledge of nonmammalian vertebrates will greatly improve our collection. Mike Cassiliano continues to teach comparative chordate anatomy. Mike's paper on the biostratigraphy of Blancan and Irvingtonian mammals from the Vallecito Creek area of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in southern California will be appearing in the March volume of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. His paper on the stratigraphic nomenclature of the Palm Spring Formation, while receiving good reviews, has run into a bit of a roadblock; finding an appropriate journal that publishes the more mundane and regional aspects of southern California stratigraphy. Any suggestions will be welcome. Many thanks to all who participated in and attended Mike's paleoecology symposium at the 1998 SVP meeting.

Michael Webb has been kept busy with course work and research mainly on Cretaceous mammals from Wyoming. His research interests have recently expanded to include a study

of the fluvial architecture of the Lance Formation in the southern part of the Bighorn Basin. Before the new year, Michael successfully passed his Ph.D. oral preliminary exam.

Kelli Trujillo is finishing her thesis work on several new microvertebrate localities in the Morrison Formation of Wyoming and expects to defend this spring semester.

Penny Higgins is pleased to announce that she has passed her preliminary exams and all her course work and has been admitted into candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. She expects to complete her dissertation on the transition from the Torrejonian to the Tiffanian North American Land Mammal Ages and graduate by December of this year. She will present her results this fall at the SVP Annual Meeting.

John Burris graduated from the University of Wyoming in December with an M.S. degree. He has accepted a position as a curatorial assistant at UW funded by an NSF collections improvement grant, and will remain in Laramie for at least the next two years.

John Foster graduated from the University of Colorado last August. He spent four months in southern Utah working for the Utah Geological Survey and found numerous tracks all over the Vermilion Cliffs.

Brent Breithaupt and Beth Southwell (UW Geological Museum) continue their work on the most extensive dinosaur tracksite known in Wyoming. The state-of-the-art documentation of the Middle Jurassic Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite is being analyzed over the winter months, in preparation for a very ambitious field season. Just as impressive was the move of Brent's entire office. Moving a confirmed pack rat from his midden of 20 years was no minor feat. Unpacking continues, as well as new-stuff acquisition to fill any voids. 1999 will be the year of exciting new public programs and displays at the Geological Museum. (Brent Breithaupt)

Utah Museum of Natural History

David and Janet Gillette left Utah with a bang, to head out to Flagstaff for new and fresh challenges! As members of the Host Committee, they helped make the 58th annual SVP meetings a great success (snow and all). Janet spent four very productive years as Collections Manager at the Museum, and we wish them both the best of luck in their new positions. Many researchers took advantage of our close proximity to the site of the meetings at Snowbird to visit our collections, including Paul Barrett for his ankylosaur study, and Johann Welman for his study of archosaur braincase morphology.

Michael Kass (mkass@geode.umnh.utah.edu) was recently hired as preparation manager for our new public paleontology lab, and has, for the time being, taken over Janet's duties while the search for a full-time curator of vertebrate paleontology continues (see the *SVP News Bulletin* no. 174 for details). Mike has a paper in press on an Early Campanian *Prognathodon* mosasaur from western Colorado in David Gillette's upcoming *Vertebrate Paleontology in Utah*, while continuing his teaching assignments at Salt Lake Community College (his fourth year). More of this mosasaur specimen has come to light, including the

right articular and the parietal. This new material is currently being prepared by David Smith at BYU. Some of this new mosasaur material can be found on the Web page: www.mines.utah.edu/gg1350/ex4. As busy as Mike has been, he will be recalling all overdue loans in the next couple of months. So if you have an overdue loan from UMNH, it would be greatly appreciated if you would return the loan or request an extension before the recall letters are mailed out.

Graduate student Rose Difley also has a paper in press in the Gillette volume on the biostratigraphy of the North Horn Formation. Rose is continuing her study of this unit under the guidance of Tony Ekdale. Scott Rogers with the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy at the University of Utah published a paper on our *Allosaurus* endocast in the October 20 issue of *Neuron*.

Shino Sugimoto, a paleo lab intern at the museum, is finishing her Bachelor's at Weber State. She is a student of Jeff Eaton. One more semester to go for Shino, while Utah Friends of Paleontology volunteers continue their preparation work on our dinosaur material from Cleveland-Lloyd, Longwalk, Ferron, and Green River Dinosaur sites. In related news, Martha Hayden at the Utah Geological Survey is overseeing the preparation of the Muddy Creek plesiosaur. UMNH is the repository for this material. A preliminary report on this specimen will also appear in the Utah fossils volume. This is only the second plesiosaur material that has been found in Utah.

Jim Madsen's DINOLAB has a display of dinosaur skull casts on exhibit at the Museum, one of the largest exhibits of its kind. (Michael Kass)

West Coast Region

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Other than the following 1997 announcement reprinted below, it has been several years since a contribution from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park appeared in the *News Bulletin*. We have all been very busy, and have gone through some major growing pains. Late Tertiary vertebrate specimens collected under permit from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park(r) (ABDSP) lands in southeastern California by staff of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM) and formerly housed at the LACM, have been permanently transferred to the California Department of Parks and Recreation Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 200 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, California 92004. Primary LACM type specimens remain in the care of the LACM. ABDSP vertebrate specimens, including the recently acquired Imperial Valley College Museum (IVCM) collection, and electronic and hard-copy accessory collections data are presently available for research. Direct questions regarding the use of the ABDSP collections to George T. Jefferson at the above address, (760) 767-4974, or jefferson@statepark.org. Dismissing the details, suffice it to say that vertebrate paleontology is now a firmly

established and funded program within the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Construction of the Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center (DSRC) started last spring. The facility, which will be completed by the time this is in print, was largely an outgrowth of the needs for expanded paleontology laboratory and collections space at ABDSP. The DSRC also houses archaeology/history and biology laboratories and collections halls, offices, a research library, and conference/class room. Both the Department of Parks and Recreation and private foundations provided assistance. And, the most significant contribution, from Betty Stout, made the project possible.

At the same time the DSRC was under construction, the existing paleontology laboratory was enlarged and outfitted with new air-handling and overhead hood-exhaust systems. Also, the laboratory doubled in size when the ABDSP and IVCN collections, temporarily stored there, were moved this summer into the DSRC. These and the remainder of the paleontology collection, materials housed at the ABDSP Visitor Center, and the recently transferred LACM materials, have been organized in the new DSRC paleontology wing.

Earlier this year, John White donated his reprints and library volumes to the DSRC. Thanks again, John. As soon as the bookcases are delivered, John's reprints, along with those of George Miller and George Jefferson, will be assembled into a separate collection within the research library holdings.

All of the paleontology locality points in ABDSP, plotted on aerial photographs over the past 40 years, have been compiled on a GIS layer by the USGS Denver. The sites are annotated by locality number, and all information in the main paleontology database can be accessed for each point.

Becky Dorsey and Derek Rytter, from the University of Oregon, Eugene, continue their paleomagnetic and ash-dating work in the mid-Pleistocene Coyote Canyon badlands. Their aim is to unravel the tectonically controlled stratigraphic record along the San Jacinto Fault zone. Phil Gensler of Northern Arizona University (NAU), who is studying the vertebrates from the Coyote Canyon for his MS, will soon have a dated framework for the section. Also from NAU, MS student Chris Jass continues his work on the vertebrates from the Truckhaven Rocks region of ABDSP (see 1998 SVP abstracts). And, NAU MS student Don Jolly has been immersed in a review of the turtles and tortoises from ABDSP.

Lyn Murray, now at Austin, Texas, has been working with the ABDSP carnivores as part of his dissertation on the classic Vallecito/Fish Creek record. Also, it is rumored that Chris Bell plans to re-examine the entire unidentified ABDSP microfossil collection for additional microtine rodent specimens.

George McDaniel and George Jefferson essentially have finished their study of a partial of skeleton of *Mammuthus meridionalis*, recovered from the Borrego Badlands in 1987. McDaniel plans to present the work this spring at the Second International Mammoth Conference in Rotterdam. Paul Remeika continues his Ph.D. work, and has just completed an

exhaustive review and revision of the Salton Trough regional stratigraphic nomenclature. He also represented ABDSP at the 1998 NPS paleontology conference, and presented several papers.

In 1997, the Hawk Canyon area of ABDSP produced a small assemblage of apparently Hemphillian age, the oldest vertebrates from the western Salton Trough region. Unfortunately, the persistent exploration of correlative strata has yielded no additional sites. Routine field survey work within the Park has focused on a newly discovered area north of the Borrego Badlands in Clarke Lake playa. The age of the material is not presently known, but structural relationships suggest latest Irvingtonian.

The following publications and reports provide an additional, but brief summary of our latest and often hectic ABDSP activities.

Cassiliano, M. 1997. Taphonomy of mammalian fossils across the Blancan-Irvingtonian boundary: Palm Spring Formation, Anza-Borrego desert of southern California. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 129:81B108.

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C. 1998. Stratigraphic patterns and depositional environments in the Huesos Member (new lithostratigraphic unit) of the Palm Spring Formation of southern California. *Contributions to Geology, University of Wyoming*, 32(2):133B157.

Jefferson, G. T. 1997. Anza-Borrego Desert SP 622, paleontologic resources inventory and management recommendations. On File, Colorado Desert District, California Department of Parks and Recreation, 35 pp.

Jefferson, G. T., and D. G. Peterson, Jr. 1998. Hydrothermal origin of the Fish Creek Gypsum, Imperial County, southern California. Pp. 40B51 *in* *Geology and Hydrothermal Resources of the Imperial and Mexicali Valleys* (L. Lindsay and W. G. Hamble, eds.). San Diego Association of Geologists Annual Field Trip Guidebook 1998.

Lough, C. 1997. Geology of the Vallecito Mountains, progress report, DPR 412. Manuscript on file, Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center 10 pp.

McDaniel, G., Jr., and G. T. Jefferson 1997. A nearly complete skeleton of *Mammuthus meridionalis* from the Borrego Badlands, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California. The 1997 Desert Research Symposium, Abstracts of Papers Submitted to the Meetings, San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterly, 44(1):35B36.

CCC. 1998. A Closer Look at *Mammuthus hayi* Barbour (1915), the Long-jawed Mammoth. *In* The 1998 Desert Research Symposium, Abstracts of Papers Submitted to the Meetings, San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterly, 45(1,2):105B106.

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- C. 1998. Proboscideans of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Manuscript on file, Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center 91 pp.
- Peterson, D. G., and G. T. Jefferson 1997. Submarine hydrothermal venting, a reevaluation of the source for the Fish Creek Gypsum, Imperial County, California. The 1997 Desert Research Symposium, Abstracts of Papers Submitted to the Meetings, San Bernardino County Museum Association Quarterly, 44(1):37B38.
- Remeika, P. 1997. Neogene Vallecito-Fish Creek Basin: Tilt-block/half graben extension, stratigraphy, and paleontology. *In* Geology and Paleontology of the Anza-Borrego Region, California (P. Dean, C. Metzler, and A. Trujillo, eds.). National Association of Geology Teachers, Far Western Section, Spring Conference Field Guide, Field Trip I, 32 pp.
- CCC. 1997. Roadside basin-margin outcrop geology of the Borrego Badlands: An overview. *In* Geology and Paleontology of the Anza-Borrego Region, California (P. Dean, C. Metzler, and A. Trujillo, eds.). National Association of Geology Teachers, Far Western Section, Spring Conference Field Guide, Field Trip IV, 20 pp.

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- C. 1998. Marine invertebrate paleontology and stratigraphy of the Vallecito-Fish Creek Basin: A historic review, synthesis, and revision. Pp. 59B92 *in* Geology and Hydrothermal Resources of the Imperial and Mexicali Valleys (L. Lindsay and W. G. Hamble, eds.). San Diego Association of Geologists Annual Field Trip Guidebook 1998.
- Steinmetz, J. J. 1998. Six-month progress report, DPR 412P, paleontologic investigations/collection, PlioPleistocene ostracode analysis Ocotillo/Borrego Formation, ABDSP. Manuscript on file, Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center. (G. T. Jefferson)

Claremont Colleges

I was on sabbatical this fall trying to finish up some work on the California Channel Islands. In May, I published a review article on Pleistocene terrestrial vertebrates from the islands in the Pacific Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists volume in which I describe *Microtus miguelensis* as a new species. I am finishing an article for the upcoming Channel Islands symposium on a new puffin, and have a complete skull of a gannet from the islands. (Dan Guthrie).

Occidental College, Los Angeles

Don Prothero has been in and out of the Caltech paleomagnetism lab, running samples from the many localities that our field crew visited last summer. Results on the early Hemingfordian Sespe deposits from the Orange County Transportation Corridor and Bolero

Lookout are already in, and the upper part of the Blackhawk Ranch section will be done shortly. Last fall, Don had an unusually gung-ho paleontology class that demanded a fourth field trip (during the hectic final weeks of the semester, no less!). So we did an overnighter to Shark Tooth Hill north of Bakersfield, where we were amazed at the quantity and quality of whale bones and periotics, shark teeth, *Allodesmus*, and even a new desmostylian! The place is legendary, of course, but this was the first time my students (or I) had the good fortune to collect there.

Several new publications have appeared since the last notice. Now that the systematics of most White River mammals is finally in print, Don's long-completed biostratigraphic zonation of the Orellan-Whitneyan could be published (*Magnetic stratigraphy and biostratigraphy of the Orellan and Whitneyan land mammal ages in the White River Group*, *Geological Society of America Special Paper*, 325:39B61). In addition, the following have appeared: *Founder of the skeptical, scientific twentieth century: A review of Adrian Desmond's Huxley: From Devil's Disciple to Evolution's High Priest*, *Skeptic*, 6(1):96B98; *Magnetic stratigraphy and tectonic rotation of the middle Eocene Matilija Sandstone and Cozy Dell Shale, Ventura County, California: Implications for sequence stratigraphic correlations*, *Earth and Planetary Sciences Letters*, 163:261B273; and a Comment on *Alroy's recent Geology paper on diachrony*, *Geology*, 28:955. (Don Prothero).

The Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, Claremont, California

The big news is that for the first time in its history, the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology received full accreditation status from the American Association of Museums (July 1998). Thus, the Alf Museum joins the 750 or so museums, out of the 8,000 in the United States, that are accredited. Gaining accreditation was a difficult task that the staff worked on for the past seven years. Major areas of concern were the documentation and storage of the 60,000 fossils in the museum's collections which were poorly stored and organized prior to 1990. This required a complete reorganization of the collections from a taxonomic to a stratigraphic curatorial scheme, a massive collections documentation effort to computerize locality, accession, and catalog records, and the purchase of dozens of specimen storage cases. Now the collections are readily accessible for use in research, exhibit, or teaching.

The vertebrate collections number about 35,000 specimens which range in age from Ordovician to Pleistocene. Strengths of the collections are: Lanciaan-Puercan mammals from the Hell Creek and Tullock formations of eastern Montana, Uintan-Orellan mammals from Wyoming and Nebraska, and trackways and individual tracks from the Barstow Formation of California and the Permian Coconino Formation of Arizona. All qualified investigators are welcome to visit and study the collections and specimens are available for loan. A more detailed list of the collections is available on the museum's Web site (www.alfmuseum.org).

Don Lofgren continues to work on various research projects. One with Bill Clemens (UCMP) on the Puercan mammal fauna of the Tullock Formation of Montana, and the other with Malcolm McKenna (AMNH) and Steve Walsh (SDNHM) on the mammal fauna of the Paleocene Goler Formation of California. The sparsely fossiliferous Goler Formation is finally starting to yield a respectably sized mammal sample through screenwashing. Also, in a successful coup, Don has replaced Malcolm as the president of the exclusive Goler Club, the reality of which has escaped the deposed dictator.

Sadie Kingsbury (museum scientist/paleontology instructor) and Natalia Wideman (part-time assistant curator) are new staff additions. Sadie recently got her MS from Ohio State University and Natalia was a volunteer at the UCMP in Berkeley where she worked with Pat Holroyd on various Eocene mammal projects.

Museum founder and namesake Raymond Alf recently celebrated his 93rd birthday. Ray still lives on the campus of The Webb Schools, as he has for the last 69 years, and comes down the hill to the museum from time to time to keep the staff on its toes. (Don Lofgren)

C BULLETIN BOARD C

ARCHAEOPTERYX FOR SALE

The Bavarian State Collection of Paleontology and Historical Geology in Munich has been given an exclusive first option to purchase the seventh specimen of *Archaeopteryx* discovered near Solnhofen in 1992, and described as a new species, *Archaeopteryx bavarica* by Wellnhofer, 1993. *Archaeopteryx* is probably the most famous and important fossil vertebrate in the world, but not a single skeletal specimen has so far been secured for the Bavarian State Collections, although all of the eight examples known today originated from the lithographic limestone of Bavaria: in other words, from our own backyard.

Since the discovery in 1861 of the first specimen, the so-called London specimen of the oldest known bird from the fossil record, this is the first time that the State of Bavaria has had a real opportunity to secure a superb, well-preserved, and almost complete *Archaeopteryx* skeleton displaying new and extremely significant features. This specimen would be kept safe and secure in the Munich collections where it could be made available to the international scientific community as well as to the general public for the future.

The owner, a private stone company in Solnhofen, is asking about 2 million German marks (equal to 1.6 million US\$) for this specimen. Considering the importance and the rarity of *Archaeopteryx* specimens, and in comparison with the sums currently being paid for less important fossils, this price is fully justified. In any case, we have no other choice, anyway. At present, with contributions from the State's budget, from a public Bavarian foundation, and from private donors, about two-thirds of the costs have already been met. Still, we have to raise a considerable amount of funds. Therefore, we would like to encourage potential

sponsors and donors on an international scale, because we believe that such a specimen is undoubtedly an outstanding object of world paleontological heritage that has to be secured for science. The specimen must be literally saved from a fate that befell another *Archaeopteryx* fossil, the third specimen, which was in a private collection but has disappeared in 1991, and is probably lost to science forever. At least this seventh specimen, now for sale, is officially listed as a National Cultural Value that must not be exported out of Germany, though it could still be sold to a private collector in this country.

If you make a donation, you can be sure that you will help to save an extremely important fossil, highly significant with regard to the origin and early evolution of birds in particular, and evolutionary sciences in general. Help us to seize this once-in-a-lifetime chance. We would be very grateful if you would take this opportunity to support this acquisition financially. You can send your donation either as a check or by bank transfer, marked *Special donation Archaeopteryx* to our supporting society: Freunde der Bayerischen Staatssammlung für Paläontologie und historische Geologie, München e.V., Richard-Wagner-Str. 10, 80333 München, Germany. Bank account #38072, Bayerische Landesbank München (BLZ 700 500 00).

For German donors, a certificate for major donations can be issued in order to allow tax deduction. Your name will officially be listed in the Table of Donors if you don't indicate otherwise. Thank you very much. (Peter Wellnhofer, archaeopteryx@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

CORRECTION

For many years it was believed that the article about a Wyoming dinosaur that started Carnegie Museum of Natural History's search for dinosaurs was published in the *New York Journal*. Recently a news clipping, dated April 30, 1905, was discovered in the Museum's Vertebrate Paleontology archives that states the newspaper was not the *Journal* but the *New York World*. The clipping reads, in part:

Director [W. J.] Holland, of the Pittsburgh Museum, who is now in London setting up [a cast of] Mr. Andrew Carnegie's dinosaur in the South Kensington Museum, said to *The World* correspondent:

It was due to the *New York World* that Mr. Carnegie acquired the dinosaur skeleton [*Diplodocus carnegii*]; it happened this way: Mr. Carnegie read in the Magazine Section of *The Sunday World* an account of the mammoth bones described to the representative of *The World* by Mr. Reed, of Wyoming, their discoverer. This story was illustrated by a picture representing the dinosaur upon its haunches, looking in at an eleventh-story window of the Equitable Life offices. Mr. Carnegie tore out the page and sent it at once to me with the laconic note:

Dear Chancellor Buy this for Pittsburg. Yours truly, A. C.

Thus armed, I set out upon the quest which proved so successful. (Elizabeth A. Hill)

C CALENDAR OF EVENTS C

47TH SYMPOSIUM OF VERTEBRATE PALAEOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, 8-11 SEPTEMBER 1999, AND 8TH SYMPOSIUM OF PALAEOLOGICAL PREPARATORS AND CONSERVATORS, 7 SEPTEMBER 1999

Both meetings will be hosted by the National Museums of Scotland in central Edinburgh, and organized by the staff of the Department of Geology and Zoology. There will be a reception in the new Museum of Scotland. The independent Dynamic Earth interpretive center will be open by then; it is the provisional venue for the Conference Dinner. There will be the usual day-long field trip on the 11th.

These dates have been arranged to allow delegates to go on to the Secondary Adaptation to Life in Water II meeting in Copenhagen the following week. Daily direct flights are available from Edinburgh to Copenhagen so that both meetings can be attended in entirety.

A special feature: exceptionally, we are considering an unprecedented long field excursion to classic and new vertebrate sites in Old Red Sandstone (Lower, Middle, and Upper), Permian-Triassic and Jurassic rocks in Orkney, Caithness, Ross and Cromarty, Moray, Speyside, and Angus. This traverses the cultural boundaries between Scandinavian, Gaelic, and Lowland Scotland, so we may, depending on demand, interpret sites to include unmissable cultural gems such as Skara Brae neolithic village or a good malt whisky distillery! We will also pay homage to our predecessors, not least with a night's stay in Cromarty next door to Hugh Miller's birthplace cottage and favorite collecting beach.

As currently planned this long field excursion would take place on or about 1-6 September 1999, starting in Orkney and ending in Edinburgh, with the option of omitting Orkney. We are unable to give precise costs just yet, but I have been asked to put out preliminary information now as many will want to make preliminary plans given the additional time and cost over and above the usual SVPCA, and even combine this with a Scottish holiday. (N.B. This may change depending on more detailed planning and actual bookings.)

The basic trip will be by coach starting in central Edinburgh and traveling north on Wednesday 1 September, staying overnight near Inverness and meeting the Orkney party on the following morning to start the field program, finishing in Edinburgh on Monday 6 September. Cost will be a share of overheads, coach hire, etc. (around £150 depending on numbers) plus actual cost of hotel, B&B, or college hall of residence accommodation and meals (broadly comparable to SVPCA costs).

If enough folks wish to visit the Orkney Islands, we will organize a day tour of the Orkney mainland on 1 September, taking the ferry the next morning to rendezvous with the main party near John O'Groats or Thurso. Costs will mainly be a share of day minibus hire and

ferry ticket. Delegates will obtain their own accommodation and meals on Orkney to suit their plans (we will advise on bookings and transport).

The first circular will be sent out in late January 1999 with more details on costs. Please note that this will also include a booking form and request for a deposit for the long field excursion alone (N.B. The normal deadlines will apply for the main SPPCBSVPCA meetings, which will be booked separately). If we do not get enough deposits in early 1999 this long excursion will not happen! So if you are at all interested in the long excursion, please make sure that you are on the mailing list for the first circular. Comments, queries, and early expressions of interest are all very welcome now. Please draw this to the attention of any colleagues who may be interested. Inquiries to: Mike Taylor, Department of Geology and Zoology, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF (fax 0131 220 4819, e-mail mat@nms.ac.uk).

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS: EVOLUCION NEOTROPICAL DEL CENOZOICO

The congress Evolucion Neotropical del Cenozoico will be held in La Paz, Bolivia, 19B22 May 1999. There will be pre- and post-meeting field trips to nearby high-altitude Tertiary localities, including Salla (Late Oligocene), Achiri (Late Miocene), and Ayo Ayo (Pliocene).

Anyone with an interest in the Cenozoic of South America should plan to attend, present their latest findings, and/or develop new collaborative projects. The abstract deadline has been extended to 20 February 1999.

To be placed on our mailing list or to receive more information, write us at: pal@mnhn.rds.org.bo or at: Congreso/Museo Nacional de Historia Natural/Calle 26 Cota Cota/Casilla 8706/La Paz, Bolivia.

14TH ANNUAL MEETING, SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) will be held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., USA, from 27 JuneB2 July 1999. There are workshops on Finance and Funding: Linking Collections Care Needs to Money in the Museum, Rigging: Lifting and Moving Large Objects, and CO₂ Fumigation: Atmospheric Treatment of Museum Objects for Pest Control; field trips to the Smithsonian Institution Naturalist Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Conservation Training Center, Jefferson Patterson Park (Academy of Natural Sciences Estuarine Research Center and Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory), Fossil Localities in Calvert County, and Alexandria Archaeology; collections tours of various Smithsonian Institution facilities and centers; and social events in addition to the main meetings including three specialty sessions: Molecular Research/Frozen Tissue Collections;

Health and Safety Issues in Collections; and Repatriation. Please check the SPNHC Web site at <http://www.spnhc.org/wash99/index.html>. (Sally Y. Shelton)

C PUBLICATIONS C

AND WHEREAS...PAPERS ON THE VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY OF IDAHO HONORING JOHN A. WHITE, VOLUME 1

This John White festschrift volume, edited by William A. Akersten, H. Gregory McDonald, D. Jeffrey Meldrum, and Mary E. T. Flint, was distributed to attendees of the 1998 SVP Snowbird meetings. For those who didn't make it to the meetings, libraries, and anyone else volume 1 of *And Whereas...* may be obtained for US \$20 plus shipping and handling. We are also offering a prepublication special on Volume 2 of *And Whereas...* (now in progress) for US \$15 plus shipping and handling. Shipping and handling in the US, Canada, and Mexico is US \$4 per volume. For large orders or shipping and handling to other countries, contact Mary Flint or Bill Akersten (see below). Idaho residents please add 5% state sales tax. The after-publication price of Volume 2 will be at least \$20 plus shipping and handling. Order from: Bill Akersten, Idaho Museum of Natural History, Campus Box 8096, Pocatello ID 83209, and make payment to The Idaho Museum of Natural History.

Volume 1 of *And Whereas...* (*Idaho Museum of Natural History Occasional Paper 36*, 216 pp.) includes 11 articles on latest Oligocene through Holocene mammals, one on Glens Ferry depositional environments, one on Glens Ferry herps, one on late Quaternary mollusks, a professional profile of John, an overview of IMNH collections, and a bibliography of Idaho fossil vertebrates. The full table of contents is available on the IMNH Web site (www.isu.edu/departments/museum/). Contact Bill Akersten (akerwill@isu.edu) or Mary Flint (flinmary@isu.edu) if you have any questions.

For those who received Volume 1 of *And Whereas...* at Snowbird, we have two errata to report: (1) The date of issue was omitted; it is September 30, 1998; (2) The caption for the figure on page 39 should read: *Figure 7. Occlusal view of the enamel patterns of Pliohippus sp. from the Star Valley local fauna. A. p2, IMNH 29087. B. Upper molar fragment, IMNH 29153. C. p3, IMNH 29087. D. m3, IMNH 29088.* We will be happy to send the errata printed out on self-stick labels to anyone who contacts us.

PAPERS IN VERTEBRATE PALAEOLOGY (A. BAYNES, J. LONG EDS.). Records of the Western Australian Museum, Supplement no. 57, 424 pp, softbound. US\$30, plus postage.

This volume contains 30 papers plus the abstracts from the Sixth Conference on Australasian Vertebrate Evolution, Palaeontology and Systematics meeting (CAVEPS) held in Perth, July 1997. Summarized contents: an enigmatic new Silurian teleostome (Burrow and Young); histology of Antarctic Devonian sharks=teeth (Hampe and Long); the oldest

coelacanth, a new genus from Victoria (Long); heterochrony in Gogo placoderms (Trinajstic and McNamara); Gogo lungfishes (Campbell and Barwick); Devonian palaeoniscoid scales (Trinajstic); a new Devonian shark from South Africa (Anderson et al.); South African Devonian fish biogeography (Anderson et al.); South African Permian palaeoniscoids (Evans and Bender, Bender); rhizodont snout structure (Long and Ahlberg); on the dinosaur *Agrosaurus* (Vickers-Rich et al.); Australasian sauropterygian palaeontology (Cruickshank et al.); Cretaceous ichthyosaurs from Western Australia (Choo); Late Cretaceous vertebrate taphonomy in North America (Fiorillo); Eocene fossil shorebirds from Australia (Boles); a new fossil kangaroo from Riversleigh (Cooke); new information on ektopodontids (Pledge et al.); a Pliocene mammal fauna from New South Wales (Dawson et al.); Australia's first Pliocene molossid bat (Hand et al.); a Pliocene *Hipposideros* bat (Hand and Godhelp); Quaternary environmental change in East Asia (Jablonski and Witford); a new giant fossil bettong from Western Australia (Prideaux); taphonomy of Lancefield swamp megafauna (Van Huet); Pleistocene mammals from Irian Jaya, Indonesia (Flannery); and Quaternary vertebrates from Irian Jaya, including two new mammals (Aplin et al.). Abstracts from the meeting and from the special Extinctions Symposium held in conjunction with the CAVEPS meeting comprise another 36 pages of the volume.

Orders and inquiries from Ann Ousey, Publications Department, The Western Australian Museum, Francis St., Perth WA 6000; e-mail: ouseya@museum.wa.gov.au; fax is +61-8-94272882. (John Long)

C POSITIONS AVAILABLE C

PALEONTOLOGY INTERNSHIP, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

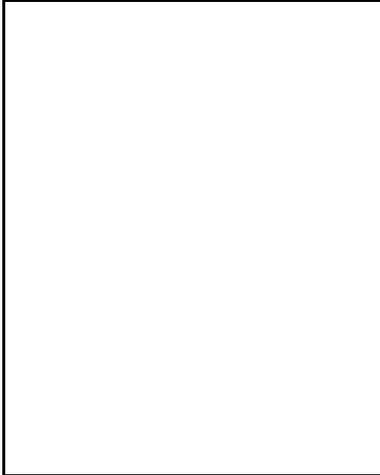
Between three to six interns will be recruited to assist with paleontology-related projects within National Park Service areas during 1999. Positions will be funded through the Geologists-in-the-Park Program administered by the NPS Geologic Resources Division. Interns will be stationed at Fossil Butte National Monument in Wyoming. Interns will be recruited to work on specific paleontology projects including work in Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Arches, Fossil Butte, Zion, Big Bend, Alaskan National Parks, and other NPS areas.

Individuals with education and experience in paleontology, geology, GIS, etc. are encouraged to apply. Information on the NPS Paleontology Program can be obtained by visiting the following website at: www.nature.nps.gov/grd/geology/paleo/index.htm. Interested applicants can contact Vince Santucci, Chief Ranger/Paleontologist, National Park Service, P. O. Box 592, Kemmerer, WY 83101; (307) 877-4455, e-mail: vincent_santucci@nps.gov.

C OBITUARIES C

Craig Call Black, 1932-1998

Craig Call Black, Ph.D., a distinguished paleontologist and museum director, died on December 5, 1998, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the age of 66, of complications following chemotherapy for lymphoma.



Black was born in 1932 in Peking, China, to Arthur P. Black, a pediatrician, and Mary Nichols Black. He entered Kent School in Kent, Connecticut, in 1945 and graduated cum laude in 1950. He received his Bachelor's degree from Amherst in 1954 and was appointed a Simpson Fellow at Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore. The following year he returned to Amherst as a Kellogg Fellow and earned a Master's degree in biology in 1957. He received his Ph.D. in biology in 1962 from Harvard University, where he held a National Institutes of Health predoctoral fellowship and studied with Albert Wood and Bryan Patterson.

He began his professional career as a vertebrate paleontologist and museum administrator in 1960 as an Associate Curator in Vertebrate Fossils at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, and was appointed Curator two years later. In 1970, he left Carnegie Museum to become an Associate Professor of Systematics and Ecology at the University of Kansas. In 1972, he was recruited by Texas Tech University to be Director of its Museum and Professor of Geosciences. In 1975, he returned to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History as the Director, a position he held until September 1, 1982, when he was appointed Director of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where he remained until his retirement in July 1994.

Black was a member of numerous professional associations and served many national and international agencies and organizations. He was President of the Association of Science Museum Directors, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, the American Association of Museums, and the Paleontological Society of America. In 1982, President Reagan appointed Black to serve on the National Museum Services Board, and in 1985 Reagan nominated him to serve on the National Science Board for a term that ended in May 1990. While on the National Science Board, he chaired the committees on International Science Programs, Global Environment and Change, and Biodiversity.

In 1991, he was appointed by President George Bush to serve on the Environment for the Americas Board. He also served on the boards of the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property, the African Wildlife Foundation, the Explorer's Club, and Explora Science Center and Children's Museum of Albuquerque. In 1994, he was elected to the board of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation on Science and Technology, and at the time of his death he was Vice Chairman of that group.

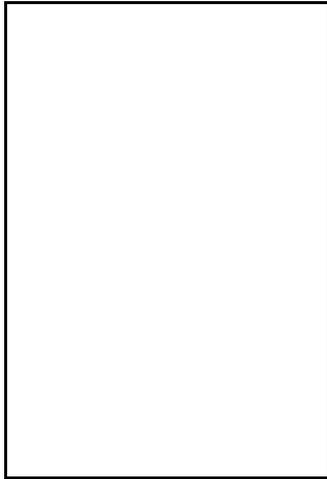
Black's career as a paleobiologist spanned more than four decades and he published extensively on the evolution of Cenozoic mammals, particularly rodents and artiodactyls of North America and Africa. With Dave Love, Mary Dawson, Peter Robinson, and other colleagues, Black led a long-term study of the geology and paleontology of the Badwater Creek area in the Wind River Basin of central Wyoming and was deeply involved in North American Paleogene geochronology and mammalian biostratigraphy. His fieldwork took him to Mexico, France, Tunisia, Kenya, South Africa, Algeria, Greece, and throughout the United States. His students include Larry Martin, Don Rasmussen, John Sutton, Leonard Krishtalka, Takeshi Setoguchi, and Don Womochel.

Black is survived by his wife, anthropologist Dr. Mary Elizabeth King; a former wife, Constance Hockenberry of Pittsburgh; two children, Lorna Black Walsh of Albuquerque, and Christopher Arthur Black of Portland, Oregon; and two grandchildren, Joseph Gerard Walsh V, and Elizabeth Ellen Walsh.

The family requests that any gifts in Craig Black's memory be made to the African Wildlife Foundation, 1400 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, or to Kent School, Kent, Connecticut 06757. (Leonard Krishtalka)

JAMES ALVIN JENSEN, 1918-1998

Jim Jensen, often referred to as "Dinosaur Jim," was born August 2, 1918, in the small farming community of Leamington, Utah. He passed away at home in Provo, Utah, on December 14, 1998, after being confined to bed for many months following a series of strokes. Jim is survived by his wife, Marie, two sons, Dick A. and James Rondo (Ron), 13 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.



Jim's early schooling was in Leamington, but since this community was so small, he had to go to high school in the nearby town of Delta. While still a boy in Leamington, he began a hobby that later in life would evolve into a career for him: collecting fossils. But that came much later. At 18 he moved to Salt Lake City to live with an aunt and to take a job at the American Smelter and Refinery. During his two-year period here, he sang in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Jim's interest in music led to his acquiring a number of unusual musical instruments, mostly string, which he repaired, refinished, and in some instances completely built himself. One of the latter was a replica of a 2,200-year-old lyre made from specifications taken from an Egyptian tomb.

While still a teenager, Jim tried his hand at taxidermy, building electrical motors, and designing an alarm system. Later in life he also invented several items. Perhaps the most noteworthy was the single-lever hot-cold faucet. At 20 Jim decided to break out of Utah and see the country. For about one year he hitch hiked across the United States. One night he slept on the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

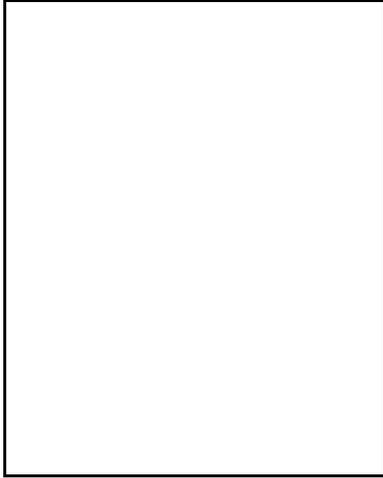
With the need to earn a steady living, Jim returned to Utah and began working as a gold miner in the small town of Mercur (now a ghost town). It was here that he met his future wife, Marie Merrell, who was there helping tend her older sister's children. Jim and Marie, not to be conventional, were married in Seward, Alaska, in 1941, where they lived for a short time. Jim worked there as a longshoreman. Then it was back to Salt Lake City where he worked as a machinist. World War II necessitated more changes. Working for the Navy, first in Hanford, Washington, then in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, he was involved in shipbuilding. After the war it was back to Utah once more, but in Vernal, Utah, where Marie was raised. Jim worked a variety of jobs here, including one in ceramics. During the six-year period in Vernal, he volunteered his services to the Vernal Museum of Natural History (Vernal Field House). His many skills proved very helpful to those at this institution. At this point it should

be noted that Jim was an exceptionally talented individual who had a great breadth of interests and abilities. In addition to those listed above, he could operate a variety of heavy equipment as well as sculpt and paint. Some of his paintings of Eskimos and other subjects are displayed in the Museum of Fine Arts in Anchorage, Alaska. He is still considered as one of Alaska's top painters. After living in Vernal, Jim and Marie moved back to Alaska where he did most of his painting, and for a time earned his living that way.

Jim's professional career in vertebrate paleontology began when he accepted a position at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology in 1956, working with Arnie Lewis and under the direction of Alfred S. Romer. He learned much of vertebrate paleontology in the nearly six years spent there. In 1961 Jim accepted a position at Brigham Young University as a preparator/curator in the Geology Department. It was then he began amassing a world-class dinosaur collection, especially one representing the late Jurassic. At this point in time very few paleontologists were collecting or studying these amazing animals. Jim Jensen can truly be credited with helping to lead a renewal of dinosaur awareness on a world-wide scale, one that persists to the present day. He helped encourage many scientists into this field either directly or indirectly. A debt of gratitude is owed him for this. His collecting took him around the world to many countries, and to Antarctica where he discovered *Lystronotus*. This discovery provided strong evidence that Gondwanaland did in fact exist.

Jim Jensen received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Brigham Young University in August of 1971. He retired from that university in 1983, but maintained a keen interest in paleontology in general and dinosaurs in particular until he died. (Wade E. Miller)

GEORG KRUSAT, 1938B1998



Dr. Georg Krusat, member of SVP for many years, passed away on December 8, 1998, at the age of 60. Death came after an illness caused by a severe stroke. Although Georg's passing represents a loss to his family, friends, and colleagues, it probably came as a blessing to him. Georg Hermann Krusat was born in Berlin on July 26, 1938, the son of a civil servant and a nurse. In his hometown, Georg (or Schorsch, as he usually was called) went to school until 1957, when he passed his examinations. Because he did not qualify for the physical requirements to become a sailor, he studied geology and paleontology at the Free University of Berlin, under the mentorship of Walter Georg Kühne (1911B1991). Kühne influenced Georg in his early university years to become a vertebrate paleontologist. In his excellent doctoral thesis (1973), Georg investigated the docodont mammal *Haldanodon expectatus*, from Upper Jurassic strata in a coal mine in Guimarota, Portugal. An English version was published in 1980. Georg served as a scientific assistant at the Institute of Paleontology (Free University of Berlin) in 1969, later to become its curator-in-charge. He was involved in teaching and administration at the Institute for decades and participated in expeditions to Spain, Portugal, Morocco, and Iran. In 1987, following a first weak stroke, Georg's health began a slow process of deterioration. In the summer of 1996, a second, much stronger stroke partially paralyzed him. Unable to speak, Georg spent his last two years in apathy and inactivity. In August 1998 he visited the Institute and his old office for the last time, with blank eyes and motionless countenance.

We shall always remember Georg Krusat for his fieldwork in Spain and Portugal and for his papers on *Haldanodon*, including one larger volume co-authored with Jason A. Lillegraven. In his last years, Georg started to examine the postcranial skeleton of this animal and presented a first survey on the occasion of the 1991 symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems in Oslo. Based on morphological data, he postulated a subterranean mode of life and compared *Haldanodon* in this respect to modern chrysochlorids. Although Georg's studies remain unfinished, they will be continued in the near future by Thomas Martin. Georg Krusat was a very deliberate worker. Only ten of his papers, including one on foraminifera, were published. Nevertheless, again and again the Institute profited from his legendary technical skill and inventiveness. Georg took deserved pride in his fluency in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. He also was interested in music of all ages and countries, literature, fine art, and automobiles. In his last months, Georg generously donated, and personally delivered, his scientific books, reprints, and journals to the Institute of Paleontology. (Rolf Kohring and Uwe Gloy)

STEVEN M. MCCARROLL 1963B1998

It is with great sadness that I report that Field Museum preparator Steve McCarroll passed away November 14, 1998, after several months of battling a brain tumor and AIDS-complex infections. Many of his museum friends were able to visit with Steve over that time, bringing

him deep comfort. Steve's death was quiet and gentle, as befits the kind of person he was. While it pains us to realize that he is no longer with us, his life brought great joy to many.

Steve joined the Field Museum as Preparator and Assistant Collections Manager of Fossil Vertebrates on January 3, 1989. Prior to that Steve earned an undergraduate degree in geology at Auburn University (in his home state of Alabama, studying with paleobotanist Bob Gastaldo; B.S. 1986) and undertook graduate study in taphonomy and mammalian evolution at the University of Illinois-Chicago (from 1986-1990, with Bob DeMar, Dave Bardack, and Roy Plotnick).

Based on those experiences, he published papers on both Pleistocene

mammals from Alabama (with Jim Dobie) and arthropod taphonomy (with Roy). Steve was an exceptionally skilled preparator, and he often was given some of the most challenging and delicate specimens to prepare. His nine months of solid labor on the unique fossil platyrrhine monkey skull *Chilecebus* is a fine example of his persistence and ability. His job also included collections management, and his academic background in systematics and paleontology enabled Steve to go well beyond the call of duty in this area. Steve was a key member of the Field Museum's six most recent paleontological expeditions to the Washakie Basin in Wyoming. In fact, by the middle of that project Steve had become a true co-leader, involved in every aspect of its organization, collections preparation and management, and publication. On his own time, Steve also spearheaded the research efforts, leading to his primary authorship of two key scientific papers (one in *Fieldiana*) and one in Prothero and Emry's book *The Terrestrial Eocene-Oligocene Transition in North America*. Steve presented papers on both the Washakie Basin and new preparation techniques at SVP annual meetings, and he was a key organizer of collections-related issues during the Field Museum's hosting of the 1997 SVP Annual Meeting and 1994 NACP Meeting. But Steve was more

than a paleontologist. He was dedicated to every aspect of the Field Museum, diving into public programs and providing assistance to colleagues throughout the museum. He also was enamored of excellent food and good company. For a time Steve was a founding partner and chef in a successful Chicago restaurant (while working full time at the museum), and his culinary talents made many a Wyoming field season palatable.

Condolences may be sent to Steve's parents Roy and Joan McCarroll (and his brother David), 118 Ann Street, Enterprise, AL 36330 and his partner John Buranosky, 5316 N. Clark, 2R, Chicago, IL 60640. Steve was an exceptional colleague and a great friend, loved by many and missed by all who knew him. (John Flynn)

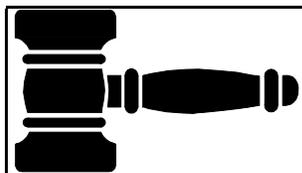
Auction

The SVP annually supports one or more students to pursue fieldwork that is innovative rather than routine, venturesome rather than predictable, unusual rather than run of the mill. Fieldwork is the heart and soul of vertebrate paleontology, and the Bryan Patterson Award is one of the few means allowing students to act upon their measured guesses as to where the next tyrannosaur, placoderm, or sabertooth might be weathering from the ground. This kind of direct experience with fossils as they occur in nature enhances immeasurably the study of fossils, and the fossils collected may help resolve important scientific problems.

Adventurous fieldwork is not cheap, and the current amount available annually for the award (\$1,200) does not match the aspirations and abilities of students in our field. For this reason the proceeds of the annual auction at the 1999 SVP meeting in Denver this October will benefit the SVP endowment specified for the Bryan Patterson Award.

Please consider now what items you can donate to this year's auction. Search your collections for duplicates of older papers or books, or simply make the decision to part with a valuable item to help support the next generation of vertebrate paleontologists. If you are an artist or author, we would greatly appreciate a personalized donation, such as a signed copy of your book, paper, or artwork. In addition, many people over the years have purchased items specifically to be donated to this auction. Unusual or eccentric items are especially encouraged, to allow Brent and his crew to use their auctioneering skills to their fullest.

It is too early to begin amassing donations, but we would greatly appreciate hearing from those of you willing to commit to making a donation. Please send an e-mail to me (jclark@gwu.edu) explaining what you can donate, and I will remind you shortly before the auction to bring or send the items. (James M. Clark)



A. S. RomerBG. G. Simpson Medal
**** Call for 1999 Nominations ****

The RomerBSimpson Medal Committee is accepting nominations for the next award. The Medal, given for Asustained and outstanding scholarly excellence and service to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology,@is the highest honor that our Society can bestow on a vertebrate paleontologist. A complete description of the award can be found in the October 1987 *SVP New Bulletin*. Past recipients of the award are:

1987 Everett C. Olson	1988 Bobb Schaeffer
1989 Edwin H. Colbert	1990 Richard Estes
1992 Loris R. Russell	1993 Zhou Ming-zhen
1994 John H. Ostrom	1995 Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska
1996 Percy Butler	1997 Colin Patterson
1998 A. E. Wood	

Nominations must include a formal nominating letter and at least two seconding letters of support; there is no limit on the number of supporting letters that can be submitted. Nominating and supporting letters should explain how the individual being nominated fits the criteria for the award, emphasizing the nominee's contributions to vertebrate paleontology over the span of his or her career. Nominees should not be informed by the nominator or by anyone else that they are under consideration for the award. It is the responsibility of the nominator to gather all original letters and forward these to the committee chair by no later than April 1, 1999.

Please address questions and send complete nomination packets to: Dr. Audrone R. Biknevicius, Department of Biological Sciences, College of

Osteopathic Medicine, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701-2979, USA.
(740) 593-0487; fax (740) 593-9180; e-mail: biknevic@ohiou.edu.

Call for Nominations

All award nominations are due by April 1, 1999

You are encouraged to nominate worthy individuals for the Society's awards and prizes by notifying the appropriate committee chair in writing. Each award nominee must be a current member in good standing.

MORRIS F. SKINNER PRIZE

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

COMMITTEE CHAIR: William R. Hammer
Department of Geology
Augustana College
Rock Island IL 61201
Phone: (309) 794-7487; fax: (309) 794-7422;
e-mail: glhammer@augustana.edu

JOSEPH T. GREGORY AWARD

For outstanding service to the welfare of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

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

A. S. ROMER & G. G. SIMPSON MEDAL

For sustained and outstanding scholarly excellence and service to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology (the Society's highest award). Nominations must include a formal nominating letter and at least two seconding letters of support; there is no limit on the number of supporting letters that can be submitted. Nominating and supporting letters should explain how the individual being nominated fits the criteria for the award, emphasizing the nominee's contributions to vertebrate paleontology over the span of his or her career. Nominees should not be informed by the nominator or by anyone else that they are under consideration for the award. It is the responsibility of the nominator to gather all original letters and forward these to the committee chair by no later than April 1, 1999. Please address questions and send complete nomination packets to:

COMMITTEE CHAIR: Audrone R. Biknevicus
Department of Biological Sciences
Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Athens OH 45701-2979
Phone: (740) 593-0487; fax: (740) 593-9180;

e-mail: biknevic@ohiou.edu

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

In recognition of distinguished contributions to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology.

COMMITTEE CHAIR: Christine Janis
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Box G-B207, Brown University
Providence RI 02912
Phone: (401) 863-2215; fax: (401) 863-7544;
e-mail: christine_janis@brown.edu

Call for Applications

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

1. **PURPOSE:** This fellowship is intended to promote a professional career in vertebrate paleontology by allowing the recipient greater freedom to pursue research during the final stages of the doctoral program. This year the fellowship award will be \$2,500.
2. **GUIDELINES:** Applicants must be within 18 months of completion of a Ph.D. program at a recognized university. The successful applicant will be chosen on the basis of:
 - A. scholarly contributions to the field of vertebrate paleontology, including the dissertation project;
 - B. professional activity within the field of vertebrate paleontology; and
 - C. promise of a productive and important professional role in vertebrate paleontology.
3. **WHAT TO SUBMIT:** A completed application form. Forms can be obtained from Dr. Fiorillo (address below).
4. **DEADLINE:** Fellowship applications will be due April 1, 1999, with funding to begin in the summer of 1999.
5. **CONTACT:** Anthony R. Fiorillo
Dallas Museum of Natural History
P. O. Box 150349
Dallas TX 75315 USA
Phone: (214) 421-3466 x234; fax: (214) 428-4356; e-mail: fiorillo@mail.smu.edu

RICHARD ESTES MEMORIAL AWARD

For graduate research in nonmammalian vertebrate paleontology.

1. **PURPOSE:** The Richard Estes Memorial Fund was established to enhance graduate student research by providing a cash prize of \$500 awarded at the annual meeting of the SVP. The award is directed toward research in nonmammalian vertebrate paleontology, with emphasis on systematics, morphology, biogeography, and paleoecology.
2. **GUIDELINES:** Items supported include: consumable supplies or expendable equipment, living expenses in the field, at a research station, or a museum, and travel expenses. If travel by automobile is required, the current IRS per mile allowance may be used to calculate costs. Items not supported include: travel and/or conference costs solely to attend the SVP annual meeting; permanent equipment, salary, or overhead.
3. **WHAT TO SUBMIT:** A three-page maximum (single-spaced) description of the project sufficiently detailed to be evaluated by the Estes Award Committee; a budget showing clearly the amounts and purposes for which the award will be used; a letter of support from the applicant's project advisor or major professor. Applications lacking requested information will not be reviewed.
4. **DEADLINE:** Completed applications must be received by April 1, 1999.
5. **CONTACT:** Send all application materials to:
Mark A. Norell
Department of Vertebrate Paleontology
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024-5192

Phone: (212) 769-5804; fax (212) 769-5842; e-mail: norell@amnh.org

BRYAN PATTERSON AWARD

1. **PURPOSE:** The Bryan Patterson Award is for student fieldwork in vertebrate paleontology. Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply. Applicants and their sponsors must be SVP members or pending members. There will be one award of \$1,200 or two awards of \$600.
2. **GUIDELINES:** Proposals for the Patterson Award must be for fieldwork, and particular consideration will be given to proposals for fieldwork that is innovative rather than routine, venuesome rather than predictable, unusual rather than run of the mill.
3. **WHAT TO SUBMIT:** A completed application form. Forms can be obtained from Dr. Clark (address below).
4. **DEADLINE:** The deadline for receipt of proposals is April 15, 1999; the winner will be decided in late May 1999.
5. **CONTACT:** For application materials, please write to:
James M. Clark, Patterson Award Committee Chair
Department of Biological Sciences
George Washington University
2023 G Street NW
Washington DC 20052

SVP STUDENT POSTER AWARD

Criteria for judging posters presented by students:

LAYOUT:

1. A banner title which is descriptive, should be situated high up on the poster so that it can be read 15B20 feet away.
2. Author and his/her affiliation should follow.
3. The content of the poster should be bracketed with an introduction at the beginning and a LIST of conclusions at the end. These sections are critical because they may be the only sections which are read.
4. The flow of information through the poster should be explicit and should be organized in columns.
5. The poster should be self-explanatory, so that the main points are communicated without the presenter being there.
6. Each illustration should have a headline title providing a take-home message with a more detailed caption below.
7. There should be creativity in the presentation.

CONTENT:

1. Does the introduction provide the basis of investigation and the direction/approach to answer the question being considered?
2. Is the methodology of the investigation clear?
3. Are the results presented and are they understandable?
4. Do the results support the conclusions drawn or are there possible alternatives in interpretation?
5. Do the conclusions follow from the original intent, given the introduction?

6. Is there creativity in the investigation?

LOGISTICS:

1. Check the box on the abstract form indicating that you would like to enter your poster in the Student Poster Award competition.
2. The posters in the competition at the meeting will have a specific marking placed on them to designate them as being part of the competition.
3. The listing of the poster titles in the abstract volume will also identify those posters which are part of the competition.
4. The judging of posters will occur during the normal poster presentation but without the presenters being present.
5. Members of the Romer Prize Committee will visit the posters to evaluate the presenter and his/her knowledge of the material covered in the poster. Committee members will review posters with subject matter that is within their expertise. (Again, it is the poster being judged, not the presenter.)

ELIGIBILITY:

1. The competition is open to all students who indicate they wish to be judged on the abstract form.
2. The poster must be single authored.
3. Each student may enter the competition as many times as he/she wishes. However, only one submission per year is allowed.
4. Any student who wins the award cannot enter the competition again.

AWARD:

The winner will be presented with a check for \$200 and poster ribbon.

**The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
By-Law on Ethics**

Article 9. Statement of Ethics.

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

- ! It is the responsibility of vertebrate paleontologists to strive to ensure that vertebrate fossils are collected in a professional manner, which includes the detailed recording of pertinent contextual data (e.g., geographic, stratigraphic, sedimentologic, taphonomic).
- ! It is the responsibility of vertebrate paleontologists to assist government agencies in the development of management policies and regulations pertinent to the collection of vertebrate fossils, and to comply with those policies and regulations during and after collection. Necessary permits on all lands administered by federal, state, and local governments, whether domestic or foreign, must be obtained from the appropriate agency(ies) before fossil vertebrates are collected. Collecting fossils on private lands must only be done with the landowner's consent.
- ! Fossil vertebrate specimens should be prepared by, or under the supervision of, trained personnel.
- ! Scientifically significant fossil vertebrate specimens, along with ancillary data, should be curated and accessioned in the collections of repositories charged in perpetuity with conserving fossil vertebrates for scientific study and education (e.g., accredited museums, universities, colleges, and other educational institutions).
- ! Information about vertebrate fossils and their accompanying data should be disseminated expeditiously to both scientific community and interested general public.
- ! The barter, sale, or purchase of scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is not condoned unless it brings them into, or keeps them within, a public trust. Any other trade or commerce in scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is inconsistent with the foregoing, in that it deprives both the public and professionals of important specimens, which are part of our natural heritage.@

SVP Sponsors
As of February 2, 1999

The following individuals sponsor one or more SVPmembers by generously paying for their annual dues. If you are interested in becoming an SVP sponsor, please complete the sponsorship application on the following page.

Larry Agenbroad, William Bartels, Kenneth Carpenter, Robert Carroll, Judd Case, Mary Dawson, Eric Delson, Peter Dodson, Robert Emry, Richard Fox, Gavin Hanke, John Harris, Joseph Hartman, Robert Hunt, Farish Jenkins, David Krause, Everett Lindsay, Donald Lofgren, Spencer Lucas, Ernest Lundelius, Bruce MacFadden, Jonathan Marcot, Jim Mead, Adele Panofsky, Charles Repenning, Patricia Rich, Bruce Rothschild, Robert Rushforth, Jeffrey Saunders, Judith Schiebout, Holmes Semken, George Shkurkin, Hans-Dieter Sues, Gary Takeuchi, Yukimitsu, Tomida, Loren Toohey, Mahito Watabe, S. David Webb, David Weishampel, Michael Woodburne

Sponsorship Application

Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
60 Revere Drive, Suite 500
Northbrook IL 60062

Tel. (847) 480-9080; fax (847) 480-9282; e-mail svp@sherwood-group.com

This application is for a current SVP member who would like to pay the membership fee of another SVP member.

Sponsor, please complete the following:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address & Phone No.: _____

Signature: _____

I would like to sponsor the following individual for membership in SVP:

Title: Dr. _____ Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Country: _____ Phone No.: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Degrees with Dates & Schools: _____

- C In what kind of institution does the proposed member work?
9 University or College 9 Museum 9 None (student/retired) 9 Other
- C In that institution, what is his/her occupation? _____
- C How long has he/she been associated with the institution?
9 One year or less 9 2B5 years 9 6B10 years 9 11B20 years 9 More than 20 years
- C How many SVP Annual Meetings has he/she attended?

9 None 9 One meeting 9 2B5 meetings 9 6B10 meetings 9 11B20 meetings 9 More than 20 meetings

C What are his/her areas of interest in vertebrate paleontology? (Taxonomy, biogeography, biostratigraphy, functional morphology, etc.)

Please specify groups, areas, and geologic time periods when relevant

C Does he/she hold membership in any other professional societies? If yes, please list all below.

Please complete reverse side of this form.

Membership Options

- C Associate membership includes receipt of *SVP News Bulletin* and member rates on the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, *SVP Memoirs*; no voting rights.
- C All other categories include receipt of the *SVP News Bulletin* and *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*; member rates on the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, *SVP Memoirs*; voting rights.
- C Students must submit a copy of a valid university or college identification card.

Please check the appropriate category below. If the individual you are sponsoring is approved for membership in the Society, you will receive a letter indicating this, as well as an invoice for his/her membership dues. DO NOT REMIT PAYMENT AT THIS TIME. The new member will receive a letter welcoming him/her into the Society.

- 9 Regular (\$80.00)
- 9 Student (with ID) (\$45.00)
- 9 Associate (\$30.00)
- 9 For faster delivery of the News Bulletin, you may pay an *optional* air postage of \$12.00 per year for overseas delivery.

NOTE: The minimum age requirement for membership is 18 years.

