

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY NEWS BULLETIN

Number 165

October 1995

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C OFFICIAL BUSINESS C

Election Ballot Tabulation Results

Of the valid ballots received, the election results were as follows: Secretary, John J. Flynn; Treasurer, John R. Bolt; Member-at-Large, Elizabeth L. Nicholls.

New Coordinating Editor for the Northeast Region

Robert Anemone of SUNY Geneseo has generously volunteered his services as coordinating editor for the northeast region for the *News Bulletin*. Bob replaces Judy Massare, who has relinquished that position after many years of exemplary service. Please join us in welcoming Bob on board. Beginning with the February issue (deadline January 1, 1996), institutions and individuals in the northeast region should submit their news directly to Robert L. Anemone, Department of Anthropology, State University of New York, Geneseo NY 14454; phone (716) 245-5204, fax (716) 245-5633, email anemone@geneseo.bitnet.

Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates Survey

Thanks to those of you who completed the recent *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* survey. The results, which are reported below, have provided the SVP Executive Committee with valuable information that it will use to make preliminary decisions regarding the future course of the *BFV* project.

The response, for a survey of this kind, and considering that it was conducted on fairly brief notice, was high (26.6%). And, as expected, although only 10B12% of the entire membership purchases the *BFV*, a much higher proportion (25.8%) of individuals who purchase the *BFV* responded to the survey. Of the 387 responses received before the deadline of 15 August, 152 provided written commentary as well that has been very helpful. Several surveys were received after the deadline but any written comments provided have also been read by the Executive Committee.

Despite the range of expressed views (some of them quite strong and with colorful language), the general message that the Executive Committee has received is that the majority of members agrees that the *BFV* project should not continue in its present form. The majority of written comments, in particular, is sympathetic to the view that the deficit incurred by the project is much too high, the financial impact on the endowment and other SVP programs too great, and the current number of printed *BFV* volumes too cumbersome to use efficiently (especially in light of current technology). In addition, it is clear that the SVP membership, in general, finds other, more current and comprehensive bibliographic sources (e.g., *Zoo Record*, *GeoRef*, *Bio Abstracts*) very useful, despite some defects in coverage compared to the *BFV*.

Particularly interesting is the very favorable response (75.7%) received to the question of whether an electronically searchable bibliographic database on paleontology accessible on personal computer is of interest to our membership. The Executive Committee has entered into negotiations with the American Geological Institute, which produces *GeoRef*, and with BIOSIS, which produces *Bio Abstracts* and *Zoo Record*, to determine if a joint venture can be developed with either or both of these organizations. Despite advocating a change to a computer-based service, a large percentage (49.5%) of respondents would still prefer to see the *BFV* published in book form. This can presumably occur simultaneously with production of an electronic version as long as the bibliography is compiled in some form and Dr. Axelrod, President of T.F.H. Publications, agrees to print it at no charge.

It is hoped that negotiations with AGI and BIOSIS will have produced positive results and realistic alternatives prior to the 55th annual SVP meeting in Pittsburgh, so that the membership can participate in making further decisions concerning the future course of the *BFV* project. This topic will comprise an important agenda item for the business meeting on Friday, November 3, and we therefore encourage you to attend and take part in the discussions. Please make every effort to do so. (Dave Krause, President)

The following five pages contain the results of the *BFV* survey conducted by the Market Research and Statistics Division of Smith, Bucklin and Associates and is dated August 30, 1995.

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C NEWS FROM MEMBERS C

CANADA

Canadian Museum of Nature

Steve Cumbaa and Richard Day, with Hans-Peter Schultze and Markus Otto of the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, went fishing in July in Lower Devonian exposures along the Anderson River, in the western Canadian Arctic. Their catch includes relatively complete specimens of the early actinopterygian *Dialipina*, many skeletal elements of the dipnoan *Melanognathus* and of the the porolepiform crossopterygian *Heimenia*, arthrodires, and a cladodont shark. Although most elements are disarticulated, specimen preservation is generally excellent. While the paleoanglers would not reveal the total size of the catch, reliable sources put it close to the limit. Cleaning the catch could take a while. The locality appears to be the most diverse fishin' hole known for Lower Devonian bony fishes.

Rob Holmes has been busy researching and writing as well as teaching. A paper ACranial morphology and systematics of *Chasmosaurus* with Stephen Godfrey is scheduled to appear in the last issue of the *JVP* this year, and A*Plioplatecarpus primaevus* from the Bearpaw Formation of the Western Interior Seaway has also been accepted for publication by *JVP*.

Dick Harington, John Tener, and Clayton Kennedy were busy as beavers in July excavating a Pliocene beaver-pond site on Ellesmere Island. Among the more important finds are a partial skull with some teeth of a hipparion, partial mandibles of two mustelid-like carnivores, and a Adeerlet heel bone.

Dale Russell, after 30 event-filled years of research at this museum, has left for the greener pastures of the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences (P. O. Box 29555, Raleigh NC 27626-0555). We wish him well and will miss him greatly. (Dick Harington)

Royal Ontario Museum

Hans Sues has been working with Xiao-chun Wu to finish several manuscripts on Mesozoic crocodyliform reptiles from China. Wu has now left us for the Tyrrell Museum and we wish him the best. Hans has also been busy with the ROM's popular new exhibit AThe Maiasaur Project since its opening in mid-June. Chris McGowan is on yet another trip to England; he is still on sabbatical until January 1996. Kevin Seymour reports that the page proofs for the Churcher festschrift are out; the volume is expected early in 1996. (Hans Sues and Kevin Seymour)

Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Regina

The *Tyrannosaurus* excavation concluded just before Labor Day, with most of the material going to the Eastend Fossil Research Station (EFRS) for preparation. A few bones will be prepared as a demonstration at Regina. Our crew at the EFRS also excavated a hadrosaur (*Edmontosaurus?*) with lots of skin impressions but no skull. If this was a *Ascalped* specimen from the 1950s or earlier, we know of no skull in the various possible collections which might go with it.

A new locality near the *Tyrannosaurus* quarry yielded a probable *Tyrannosaurus* coprolite. Karen Chin and Pier Binda have had a preliminary look. IMAX plans to film in southwestern Saskatchewan in the fall. John, as a technical advisor, will try to keep up but wonders if the weather will cooperate.

The mosasaur from the Bearpaw Formation turned out to be a very late (late Campanian) tylosaurine, and is complete from the skull through the anterior part of the tail. The specimen was collected from the Snakebite Member of the Bearpaw, one of the deepest-water clay facies in the formation. Gordon Bell and Amy Sheldon visited and expressed some excitement.

Allison Gentry is on leave for a little while, at the ranch in Alberta. We look forward to her return. (John Storer)

Université de Montréal, Laboratoire de Paléanthropologie

This is the first report from the Paleoanthropology lab, where we have a small but irreducible group of graduate students (M.Sc.) working on a wide variety of topics. Pierrette Hart is trying to finish her thesis on the influence of ideological frameworks in the interpretation of data relating to extinctions, from Cuvier to Alvarez. Guylaine Germain and Julie Roy are both pursuing the impact of sociopolitical and other external factors on two paleontological mysteries: Guylaine is investigating Piltdown and Julie the Neandertals. Martin Dubreuil will work on theoretical and practical issues in early hominid paleoneurology. Finally, Michel Chartier will describe a *Most* collection of early Eocene mammals recovered by American paleontologist Edward L. Troxell from the Willwood Formation of northwest Wyoming between 1929 and 1931, which had been gathering dust for nearly six decades at the Canadian Museum of Nature.

During the past winter semester, Martin and Michel worked at the Redpath Museum (McGill University) on research projects under the supervision of Rob Holmes. Martin studied what proved to be a very fragmentary hadrosaur specimen (collected by George F. Sternberg in the Horseshoe Canyon Formation of Alberta in 1916) housed at the CMN (Ottawa) and left unstudied ever since its discovery. Pending a more thorough study, he did a historical overview of the collecting and curation of the specimen (real detective work, according to Martin). Michel did a preliminary analysis of the Troxell collection, and came to realize that a complete study of the sample could constitute a good master's thesis project. Martin and Michel thank Rob, Bob Carroll, and the students for making them feel at home at the Redpath. In August, Michel enjoyed a few days in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan collecting Chadronian and Hemingfordian mammals with John Storer and fellow grad student Jennifer Rothecker. He also acknowledges John and his wife Barbara's outstanding hospitality during his stay in Regina. (Michel Chartier and Martin Dubreuil)

University of Victoria, Earth and Ocean Sciences

Lee McAnally of the University of Victoria and Rufus Churcher are planning a trip to the

southwest coast of Vancouver Island to look at the Sooke Formation and other exposures in search of late Oligocene or early Miocene mammals. Lee has already located some promising specimens. Rufus Churcher has retired to Gabriola Island in British Columbia (from the University of Toronto) and is busy fitting out his new scientific studioBworkshop. (Rufus Churcher)

FRANCE

Université Paris VII, Département des Sciences de la Terre

Pour Jean Gaudant, l'année 1994 a permis la réalisation d'une mission en Bulgarie qui a été consacrée à la fois à l'étude du matériel récolté par le Dr. M. Vatssev, de l'Université des Mines et de la Géologie de Sofia, et à une campagne de recherches sur le terrain dans le Sud-Ouest du pays.

Jean a également mis cette année à profit pour achever une série de manuscrits qui traitent de sujets variés: ichthyofaune messinienne de Lorca (Espagne), Melilla-Nador (Maroc) et Oran de Haute-Savoie (Préalpes françaises), description des premiers restes de *Lepisosteus* provenant de l'Eocène moyen du Geiseltal (Allemagne), révision de l'ichthyofaune de l'Oligocène d'eau douce des environs de Bonn (Allemagne), etc. (Jean Gaudant)

UNITED KINGDOM

National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh

The years 1994B5 have seen some really nice acquisitions. We purchased a beautiful *Rhamphorhynchus gemmingi* complete with wing and tail membranes and a throat pouch, apparently one of the finest Solnhofen rhamphorhynchids known: Peter Wellnhofer kindly advised.

Herr Matthias Metz of Germany recently found the first Scottish dinosaur bone, which he passed to us at Rupert Wild's recommendation, with the consent of the landowner, Sir Iain Noble. We are very pleased to have this ceratosaurian tibia from the Lower Jurassic of Skye. It was announced to the public at the same time as the Hunterian Museum of Glasgow's runner-up, a sauropod limb bone from the Middle Jurassic of Skye, retrieved piecemeal by various people and worked up by Neil Clark (both bones are being published in the *Scottish Journal of Geology*).

NMS have recently been presented with a wonderful collection of about 500 fossils from the Middle Old Red Sandstone of northern Scotland. Most are fish, including two complete *Watsonosteus*, one complete *Asterolepis orcadensis*, lots of *Homostius milleri* material including a 37 cm-wide dorsal plate prepared free from matrix, about 200 *Pentlandia* ranging from 5 cm to 25 cm in length, about 80 *Tristichopterus* also showing a wide size range, a three-dimensional *Pterichthyodes*, and much, much more. There is also probably the finest display-quality plant, 100 cm H 60 cm, ever to emerge from northern Scotland.

All this material was a gift from Dr. Paul de Buissonjé of Amsterdam, who, with his colleague Jan den Blaauwen, has been visiting Orkney and Caithness for the past 30 years. Jan has become adept at freeing specimens such as the *Homostius* MD from the matrix and the collection owes a great deal to his skill as a preparator. Paul is an expert modelmaker and has also given us many beautiful life models of fossil fish including *Watsonosteus* and *Homostius* C all made and painted by him.

It took Bobbie Paton a week to unpack the collection an experience which she said was Aike Christmas. She is now busy registering the collection and selecting specimens for the new Museum of Scotland, due to open in late 1998.

Mike Taylor has a chapter on buoyancy in marine tetrapods in L. Maddock et al. (eds.) *Mechanics and Physiology of Animal Swimming* (Cambridge University Press), and a paper on the Bristol Institution in Bob Savage's Festschrift (*Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*), and contributed the reptiles to another on Oxford Clay foodwebs (*Journal of the Geological Society of London*). Glenn Storrs and Mike have a paper in press in *JVP*, reassessing the classic and intriguingly primitive *Aplesiosaurus hawkinsi* from the Rhaetian Jurassic boundary at Street, Somerset, England. (Bobbie Paton and Mike Taylor)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia/University of Pennsylvania

Keith Thomson has had two books come out in the past three years. *The Common but Less Frequent Loon*, a compilation of his *American Naturalist* columns, was published in 1993 and nominated for a National Book Award. Keith's fascination with everything to do with the HMS Beagle led to his *HMS Beagle: The Story of Darwin's Ship*, published in 1995 by W. W. Norton.

Kelley Kozera-Gittis, formerly of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History in Halifax has joined the Education Department at the Academy as the dinosaur educator. Among the projects Kelley is spearheading are a public dig site in the museum and a heavily-interactive traveling program on dinosaurs for schools.

Ted Daeschler spent the summer in the Late Devonian Catskill Formation in northcentral Pennsylvania building on discoveries during the past two years including the description of *Hynerpeton* (a new Late Devonian tetrapod). Recent discoveries include a pectoral girdle and fin of the long-sought *Sauripteris*, well-preserved skull material of *Hyneria*, other sarcopterygian material, and primitive chondrichthyan teeth (cf. *Ageleodus*). Lab work on early actinopterygians from the Catskill is also proceeding. This year's work was supported by a National Geographic research grant and Ted is particularly grateful to Doug Rowe, Norm Delaney (collecting), and Del Szatmary (preparation) for their diligent efforts. Parts of this work will make up Ted's dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania where he is enrolled as a part-time doctoral student under the tutelage of Shubin, Thomson, and Dodson. Ted has also been working on the Port Kennedy fauna (Pleistocene) and a study of the type specimens at the Academy.

Paleobiology continues to prosper at Penn. Sue Dawson completed her distinguished graduate career and is now in an anatomy postdoctoral position in John Bertram's lab at Cornell. Sue did multivariate morphometric analyses of living and fossil cetaceans, results of which are beginning to appear in *Journal of Morphology*, *JVP*, etc. Also on whales, Mathew Spizuco is completing his morphometric analysis of whale bullae for his master's degree. Peter Nassar is analyzing archosaur locomotion and respiration, using guinea fowl as models. Peter has done much of his work in David Carrier's lab at Brown. Anysyua Chinsamy spent two highly productive postdoctoral years with Peter Dodson studying archosaur bone histology, following her Ph.D. at Witwatersrand. She returned to South Africa last fall, to an excellent curatorial

position at the South African Museum in Cape Town. Penn's annual Paleobiology Symposium has been well attended the past few years and owes a great deal to the participants, particularly from the Smithsonian.

Peter Dodson visited London, Paris, Berlin, and India in the winter with David Krause and Joe Hartman with a view to understanding Late Cretaceous vertebrates of Madagascar. Peter also traveled extensively this spring as a national lecturer for the Society of Sigma Xi, speaking on his favorite dinosaur topics on campuses from Edmonton, Alberta, to Huntsville, Alabama. He has completed a popular (he hopes!) book on horned dinosaurs to be published next spring(?) by Princeton University Press, beautifully illustrated by Wayne Barlowe and Bob Walters. He is also involved in kids' stuff (AAn Alphabet of Dinosaurs, @Scholastic, spring 1995; and other projects). Peter takes great pleasure in the success of the Dinosaur Society (of which he is vice president), especially the research grant program and the subsidy of the *JVP*. Peter welcomes two new students to Penn, Josh Smith and Stephanie Gambini.

Neil Shubin received tenure, with a promotion to associate professor in the biology department at Penn. He has continued field work in the Triassic (Norian) of Greenland with Farish A. Jenkins, Jr., and will be returning to the Triassic (Carnian) of Morocco in 1995B1996. Neil's recent publications include an *Evolutionary Biology* piece on the origin of limbs, and a paper in *Nature* on the earliest known frog. He is finishing manuscripts on the evolution of salamander limbs with David Wake. Neil has a new student, Walt Cressler, who is working on Mississippian terrestrial ecosystems. Mike Balsai continues his work on gene expression and limb evolution. (Ted Daeschler)

American Museum of Natural History

This August, John P. Alexander (Alex), archaeologist Patrick White, and University of Montana graduate student Matthew Turnow collected some of the most important primate specimens yet to come out of the Bridger Formation, Wyoming. This unprepared material includes four new skeletons of *Notharctus*, three with skulls. One is the first complete skull of a juvenile. This and another have complete mandibles attached. A third complete mandible and isolated dentitions were also found.

Other noteworthy material includes *Microsyops* dentition, a complete skull that may be *Pantolestes*, a complete *Palaeosyops* mandible, a *Hyrachyus* skull, a croc skull, and five complete turtle shells. Analysis of these finds will take considerable time and the results promise to be significant. (John Alexander)

Amherst College and University of Massachusetts, Amherst

It has been a long time since we have reported news, and many things have happened in the meantime.

The Pratt Museum at Amherst College has made considerable progress over the past few years in the organization of its VP collections. Catalogue computerization is now 85% complete. Linda Thomas, Pratt curator, is now the first person to contact in regard to Pratt Museum visits and loans. Linda has also supervised the development of a substantial fish display, now nearing completion. She also recently attended a five-day course at the San Diego Natural History Museum on the conservation of geologic materials. A faculty/administration-level Pratt Museum

Committee now exists and is guiding the development of museum policy and working to improve the housing of specimens. Margery Coombs' vertebrate paleontology course taught at Amherst College continues to draw students from various campuses of the Five Colleges.

Graduate work in systematics and evolutionary biology (including vertebrate paleontology) at the University of Massachusetts is now under the auspices of a new graduate program in organismal and evolutionary biology (OEB). Willy Bemis is the director of this program and has guided its inception and progress. Among Willy's many other activities is the coorganization of a symposium on the origin of chordates for the SVP '95 meetings.

We are sad to report the death on July 6th of David Klingener, an obituary will follow in an upcoming *SVP News Bulletin*. Dave's knowledge of anatomy and legendary teaching will be seriously missed. On a more positive note, the OEB program has welcomed Emily CoBabe and Beth Brainerd, both outstanding additions to our ranks.

Margery Coombs is on sabbatical for the entirety of 1995. Her lengthy paper with Walter on the taphonomy of Morava Ranch Quarry (early Miocene of Nebraska) is currently in review. She also has a joint project going with Bruce Rothschild on phalangeal fusion in chalicotheres. The VP textbook project with Kathy Munthe has made gradual progress and still continues.

Margery currently has a large number of graduate students, most nearing completion of theses. Susan Feeney continues her muscle and osteological studies of modern canids, with emphasis on foxes. Becky Mattison is studying the pelvic morphology of birds in the context of evolutionary relationships and functional groups. She is now torturing her data and has begun writing her results. Tim Koneval has been dissecting armadillo hindlimbs and looking at the osteology of some fossil and extant armadillos, and is planning on expanding his study to fossil armadillos when dissecting is complete. Luke Holbrook reports that his dissertation on the osteology and phylogeny of tapiromorph perissodactyls is coming along nicely. Luke's paper with Spencer Lucas on a new genus of primitive rhinocerotoid from the Uintan of Utah is currently in review. Last year Luke had a Smithsonian Graduate Fellowship which allowed him to spend the summer of 1994 at the National Museum. He is also working with Laurie Godfrey (Anthropology) and Mike Sutherland (Statistics) of UMass, as well as Bryn Mader of the AMNH, on a critical appraisal of brontothere horn allometry.

Two other students are in the beginning phases of research. Gina Semprebon is approaching her oral qualifying exams, and Amy Clark is immersed in a master's project comparing a skeleton of *Promartes* from the Pratt Museum with that of living mustelids.

Walter Coombs was on sabbatical during 1994-95 from Western New England College. He had a very active, successful year, completing several ankylosaur and Connecticut Valley trackway projects, all now in different phases of the publication process. (Margery Coombs)

Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Major moves of vertebrate specimens took place in the Big Bone Room during the summer, when all the large reptile bones were moved off the old racks and onto the floor. Then the steam pipes that impeded head room and added to the Mesozoic-like temperatures in that room were removed and rerouted. Finally, movable storage cabinets were installed and the bones are now conveniently and cleanly rehoused. David Linsley, Norm Wuerthele, and Cathy Boyles, the strong minds and backs of this process, are hoping the Carnegie paleontologists concentrate on

microfossils in the future. Which leads up to a word about collection use and accessibility during the SVP meeting. We will do what we can for people **who tell us in advance** that they want to use **specific** parts of the collections. The Tertiary mammals should be completely available. For the lower vertebrates, this may be more problematic. Please be as specific as you can be when requesting collection use. If your desires are to see all of *this* or that, *do not count on our whole-hearted assistance*. This is because at the time of the meeting we will be preparing for the installation of a final bank of compactors, which will contain the smaller and medium-sized fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and birds, and many specimens will be difficult or impossible to reach.

Meanwhile, Chris Beard and Mary Dawson, along with IVPP colleagues Tong Yong-sheng, Wang Jing-wen, Huang Xue-shi, and Guo Jian-wei worked the middle to late Eocene Heti Formation of southern Shanxi and northern Henan very hard. The results were spectacular—more and better fossils than we had anticipated. John Kappelman and Wulf Gose completed their paleomagnetic section of the formation. Come to the SVP symposium on Asian Cretaceous and Paleogene mammals for further details.

Dave Berman, Amy Henrici, Stuart Sumida, Thomas Martens, and various American and German assistants quarried into the Permian Rotliegend near Gotha, Germany, with interesting results, which are now being prepared here.

Closer to home, Chris, Alan Tabrum, and crew continued their work at the Big Multi locality in the northern Washakie Basin, both quarrying and washing, to add to the record from this very important late Paleocene locality. Mary worked with Kurt, Leona, and Norm Constenius and snail man Hal Pierce in the Kishenehn Formation of northern Montana. They were joined by Carter Hearne, who introduced them to the Fort Union and Wasatch deposits in the Bearpaw Mountains.

And here in Pittsburgh we are embroiled in both celebrations for the centennial of Carnegie Museum and plans for the fast-approaching SVP meeting. Mary Ann Schmidt is trying to keep us on track for the latter. See you here, soon. (Mary Dawson)

Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Daryl Domning spent two weeks of the summer doing fieldwork in southern France, followed by two more weeks of the same in Austria, in both cases at quarry sites that have yielded important fossil sirenians. He first worked with personnel of the Reserve Géologique de Haute Provence at the Taulanne site, originally collected by the Dutch in the late 1960s. This spectacular site features several superposed late Eocene horizons full of sirenian bones, all perched in a scenic alpine valley. The bedding plane on which we concentrated this year produced, at last count, seven skulls in an area that hardly contained enough postcranial elements for two skeletons; so now we know where all the heads went from all the headless skeletons one finds in the rest of the world! This site thus poses some interesting taphonomic questions. Part of it will be developed as a permanent in-situ public display, with some sort of protective structure overhead.

At Sonndorf, Austria, Daryl worked with a team from the Paleontological Institute of the University of Vienna, systematically excavating part of a farmer's field adjacent to a sandpit that has produced some of the best material of the early Miocene seacow *Metaxytherium krahuletzii*. A complete skull (so far not available for this species) was hoped for, but unfortunately only

disarticulated elements were found. However, even these yielded new information for a study of the animal's osteology being prepared by Daryl and excavation leader Peter Pervesler. Work in both field areas will continue next year.

Ray Bernor missed the last *SVP News Bulletin* deadline due to extended new duties as the father of Daniel, born December 10. Ray has been occupied the last two years with editing the 1992 Schloss Rosenberg Symposium on the later Neogene of western Eurasia (Columbia University Press) and is pleased to announce that he is presently editing copy for the book, which is due out in June 1996. Thanks to his coeditors Volker Fahlbusch and Hans-Walter Mittmann and the 65 participating authors of the book for working so hard and long on this volume.

Ray had the pleasure of working at Sinap, Turkey, this summer on the hipparions collected by the Berna Alpagut, Mikael Fortelius, John Kappelman, Sevket Sen-group. This is an exciting collection of hipparions, beginning with a real stratigraphic datum and having some striking phylogenetic surprises for everyone. Ray hopes to return for a further six weeks with his wife Miranda Armour-Chelu and Mikael Fortelius to continue a comprehensive paleobiological study of this assemblage.

Ray returned to Budapest with Miranda and graduate student Nardos Fessaha to continue work on the Rudabánya vertebrate collections. Along with Laszlo Kordos, Ray's Hungarian counterpart, and a host of systematists, taphonomists, and geologists, they hope to bring forward a clearer understanding of the Rudabánya locality during Ray's 1996B7 sabbatical year.

Miranda is busying herself with organizing the Rudabánya database as well as aspects of the hipparion and pig paleobiology. She is further pursuing a myriad of outstanding taphonomy projects stemming from her dissertation.

Taseer Hussain and Hans Thewissen, along with their Pakistani colleagues, have finished descriptions of a fossil yak (Pleistocene) and fossil cetaceans (Eocene) from Pakistan. These two manuscripts have been submitted for publication.

Taseer and Ray Hayes (colleague from Howard) have been working on effects of climate change on cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases. Taseer presented their findings in the sixth Global Warming International Conference in April 1995. He pointed out that there was a direct relationship between elevated temperatures and asthma and hypertension.

Apart from her four weeks working with Ray and Mikael Fortelius on the Rudabánya suids, Nardos Fessaha is busy working on a very lengthy systematics chapter for her dissertation on the Hadar (Ethiopia) pigs. Nardos is aiming to finish her work this academic year.

Graduate student Irina Koretsky spent the summer in the field in Kazakhstan with the Smithsonian's Bob Emry and their Kazakh colleagues, following which she was scheduled for a grand tour of European museums in search of fossil seals. More news when we next hear from her! (Daryl Domning, Ray Bernor, and Taseer Hussain)

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Dave Weishampel has been in China, Mongolia, or Romania most of the summer and will report on these travels next time.

With new support from NSF, Ken Rose and Tom Bown conducted a full field season in the Willwood Formation of the Bighorn Basin, Wyoming, from late June through July. We were assisted by several graduate students in our functional anatomy and evolution program at Johns

Hopkins: Naoko Egi, Gail Krovitz, Yizheng Li, Mason Meers, and Vivian Noble. Also with us was (now) former student Ron Heinrich, who has just taken a position at Ohio University-Athens, following a postdoc at SUNY-Stony Brook last year. Other members of the field crew included University of Toronto students Amy Chew and Mary Silcox (who has just entered our graduate program this fall), Stony Brook graduate student Denné Reed, and Don Kron (U. Colorado). Highlights of collecting included numerous well-preserved dentitions of small multitis, insectivores, and rodents from two different quarries. We also enjoyed visits by Gregg Gunnell, and Vin and Kay Morgan of the Granger Papers Project. Ken and Vin were among the speakers at the fifth annual Washakie County Museum Paleontology Symposium in July.

Ken Rose's review of the earliest primates was published in last June's *Evolutionary Anthropology*. A note on a small Torrejonian arctocyonid that shows cursorial adaptations foreshadowing those of *Diacodexis* is in press in *PNAS*. Ken reported on this and new *Homogalax* postcrania in a symposium at the Rocky Mountain GSA meeting last May.

Last April Ron Heinrich successfully defended his dissertation on postcranial morphology and biomechanics in carnivores, which included analysis of our Eocene miacoid skeletons. A paper on the skeleton of Wasatchian *Miacis* by Heinrich and Rose appeared in the *Journal of Mammalogy* last spring, and another on other miacoid remains is nearing completion.

Maureen O'Leary is in the final stages of her dissertation on dental morphology and evolution in *Cantius* and expects to defend this fall. Kathy Rafferty is also nearing completion of her dissertation on internal joint structure in primates (including subfossil lemurs) and other mammals. She has accepted a postdoc at Brown with Sharon Swartz and has already taken up residence there.

Mason Meers is finishing his dissertation proposal on the role of the forelimb in the evolution of crocodylian locomotion. His other current projects include cranial growth in alligators, and the biomechanical properties of caudal vertebrae in prehensile-tailed mammals and reptiles (to be given as a paper in Pittsburgh). Yizheng Li and Naoko Egi passed their comprehensive exams in June and are now investigating dissertation topics. Last April Naoko presented a paper at the AAPA meeting in Oakland on the structure of the proximal femur in vertical-clinging-and-leaping prosimians.

Alan Walker and Pat Shipman left Johns Hopkins for Penn State in July. They will be greatly missed. The good news is that we will be hiring a new faculty member interested in evolutionary morphology (see announcement elsewhere in this issue). At the same time, we welcome three new graduate students to our program, Brenda Chinnery, Anita Lubensky, and Mary Silcox. (Ken Rose)

New York Paleontological Society

Keith Luzzi and Paul Nascimbene continue to work with the AMNH team led by paleontologist David Grimaldi excavating and studying insect-bearing amber from a Cretaceous site in central New Jersey. Gerry Case has also been on hand, combing the sediments that Nash and Keith bring to the surface. Some interesting things are being learned about the taphonomy of the site, its paleoecology, and its ancient denizens. Look for David Grimaldi's upcoming book on amber in 1996, along with recent and soon-to-be published articles in various journals. Meanwhile, Frank Haase is on sabbatical in Germany, conducting research for several projects.

The New York Paleontological Society meets each month at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City (from September to May) and is open to both professional and amateur paleontologists. Last year's lecture series, arranged by Paul Nascimbene, concluded in the spring with exciting talks by John Ostrom on the Evolution of Birds and Origin of Avian Flight, Paul Olsen on Dinosaur Trackways of the Eastern United States, and Ted Daeschler on recently discovered Devonian tetrapods and other fauna from a site in central Pennsylvania. Paul Nascimbene also led an opening-night tour for NYPS through AMNH's newly renovated Hall of Dinosaurs. (P. Moniker)

Peabody Museum, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

John Ostrom reports that retirement is not all that bad. No committee meetings, no financial accounting or annual reports. Just enjoy the good things. Earlier this year he gave his views on the origin of birds and flight as the annual banquet speaker at the NEGSA. Later he reminisced at a number of his old Cloverly localities with Jack Horner and Jim Knight back in Wyoming and Montana. After that he participated in the Second Annual International Lithographic Limestone Conference in Cuenca, Spain, organized by Jose Luis Sanz and his associates. The conference concentrated on the lithologic conditions that produced the lithographic facies that resulted in those famed Lagerstätten snapshots. The high point of the conference was a field excursion led by Prof. Sanz to the Los Hoyas (Early Cretaceous) sites of *Iberomesornis* and *Concornis* together with several newer specimens attributed to both taxa yet to be reported. After Spain, John traveled to Eichstätt for a good look at Gunter Viohl's new Solnhofen locality and then on to München where Peter Wellnhofer and John once again pored over the new (seventh) specimen of *Archaeopteryx*. John currently is convinced that the Late Jurassic/Early Cretaceous lithographic facies hold the key evidence (retrievable) about the beginnings of birds and the origins of avian flight. All contrary opinions are eagerly solicited. (Gerry Parisi)

Rochester Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Friends, Rochester, New York

Bill Korth and Bob Evander (AMNH) spent five weeks in the field in western Nebraska collecting microvertebrates from the classic Frick localities. They hope to expand the known faunas of each locality by documenting all of the small vertebrates present.

Amy Sheldon successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Rochester in June. Her dissertation is entitled Ontogeny, Ecology, and Evolution of North American Mosasaurids (*Clidastes*, *Platecarpus*, and *Tylosaurus*): Evidence from Bone Microstructure. (Judy Massare)

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg

We are pleased to report that Kesler Randall is now a permanent part-time curatorial assistant in the Section of Paleontology and Geology. He continues to catalogue and computerize the paleontology collection and work on his *Gyracanthus* project among other things.

Kesler, Bob, and volunteer Erik Benveniste joined Ted Daeschler (Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia) on a field trip to the Hyner locality (Late Devonian Catskill Formation) in June. This brief venture resulted in obtaining *Gyracanthus* pectoral and dorsal spines, *Hyneria* scales, rhizodont teeth, and osteolepid scales.

Kevin Dermody continues to work on the Ghost Ranch block in our Dino Lab exhibit. He has been making some significant progress towards the preparation of the various specimens. Most notably, Kevin has exposed a nearly complete articulated skeleton of a *Asyntarsus/Rioarribasaurus* individual.

Bob joined Tom Williamson (New Mexico Museum of Natural History) and crew in August to prospect the Paleocene Nacimiento Formation and the Late Cretaceous Kirtland Formation in De-na-zin wilderness and Ah-shi-sle-pah wilderness study area, San Juan Basin, New Mexico. This field season turned out to be an astounding success as Bob discovered the second most complete skull of the rare lambeosaurine *Parasaurolophus*. The specimen, which so far as known, consists of the entire Anasalcrista (only the anteriormost part is missing), cranial region, left jugal, maxilla, dentary, and prementary. The specimen, which will reside in the collections of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, is currently being prepared and will be described by Bob and Tom. The crest length rivals that of the type of *Parasaurolophus walkeri* and it may turn out that the type of *P. tubicen* (also known from the Kirtland Formation) is a junior synonym of the former.

On the publication front, Kesler, Bob, and Spencer Lucas have a short article in press titled *Adunkleosteus*: Devonian Denizen of the Deep which recently went into production and will be the first contribution of our new series *Natural History Notes of The State Museum of Pennsylvania*. Bob received page proofs of his paper *Asquamates* (coauthored with J. Alan Holman, Michigan State University) that will appear shortly in the book *The Terrestrial Eocene-Oligocene Transition in North America*, edited by Donald R. Prothero (Occidental College) and Robert J. Emry (Smithsonian Institution) published by Cambridge University Press. Bob's paper (coauthored with S. G. Lucas) on a new genus and species of a scincid lizard from the early Paleocene (Puercan) Denver Formation, Colorado, has been submitted to the *JVP* for publication. Another paper (coauthored with S. G. Lucas, A. Heckert, and A. P. Hunt) titled *The type locality of Coelophysus bauri*, a Late Triassic dinosaur from north-central New Mexico has been accepted for publication in the *Paläontologische Zeitschrift*. (Bob Sullivan and Kesler Randall)

Anthropology Department, SUNY College at Geneseo, New York

This is the first contribution from SUNY at Geneseo to the *SVP News Bulletin*. We are a small undergraduate campus in the northwestern part of the state with VP activity in the anthropology and geological sciences departments. Having recently completed a project on chimpanzee dental development and implications for human evolution (manuscript in press in a special issue of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* devoted to hominoid ontogeny), Bob Anemone

(Anthropology) is concentrating his research efforts on the description of newly recovered Wasatchian (and possible Clarkforkian) mammals from southwestern Wyoming. With coinvestigators Jeff Over (Geological Sciences, SUNY at Geneseo) and Dana Cope (Anthropology, College of Charleston), our work in the Great Divide Basin during the past two summers has yielded approximately 1,000 mammal specimens from about 20 localities. In addition to successfully prospecting for new localities in the admittedly sparse exposures of the Wasatch and Fort Union formations in the Great Divide Basin, we have relocated and collected at several of Gazin's localities from the late 1950s and 1960s. Bob and Dana are working together on the faunal identifications and descriptions and biostratigraphy, while Jeff is concentrating on geological mapping and correlation of measured sections across the Fort Union/Wasatch boundary. Bob, Jeff, and Dana will be presenting preliminary results from our two field seasons in the Great Divide Basin at the spring 1996 meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Durham, North Carolina. In addition to students from both Geneseo and the College of Charleston, our friend and colleague Fernando Ramirez-Rozzi from CNRS in Paris joined us during our 1995 field season. (Bob Anemone)

University of Bridgeport, Connecticut

The saga of UB continues in 1994B5 with the University spending the \$50.5 million from the Professors for World Peace Academy in three years instead of the projected five. In response to this, the trustees in January replaced most of the top administrators. Fortunately the PWPA came up with an additional \$20.5 million for three years but programs will be eliminated including all majors in the arts and sciences except biology. Peter Galton was very busy during this period because the College of Chiropractic is changing from a trimester program (ten at 15 weeks each, three per year) to a semester program (eight at 18 weeks each, two per year). Peter had a major overload (but only minor overtime pay!) because he taught new semester courses on *AViscera@* and *AHead and Neck@* as well as the last of his trimester courses. However, he did have three months off in the summer for the first time since 1991.

During a five-week holiday in France and England, Peter took the opportunity to study the material of the Triassic prosauropod dinosaur *Camelotia* in the Natural History Museum in London. He also looked at three referred partial femoral shafts from the Rhaetic of Aust Cliff that are still in the Bristol City Museum. The report of their demise during World War II is incorrect because, although the main building was demolished by enemy action, the annex next door was not. Peter concludes (in *N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Abh.* 1995) that the basal hypsilophodontid *Thescelosaurus* (Upper Cretaceous, western North America) is monospecific and that the distinctive skull from the Hell Creek Formation of South Dakota represents a new genus. *Thescelosaurus* is restricted to the Maastrichtian because the teeth of this genus reported from the Late Campanian of Montana are from the hypsilophodontid *Orodormeus*. Peter also has a note in press on the identity of ornithischian teeth from the Maastrichtian of Portugal (in *N. Jb. Geol. Paläont. Mh.*). (Peter Galton)

Department of Geology, University of Maryland, College Park

Tom Holtz's Pliocene exile is over, and if he ever has to look at another Neogene deep marine ostracod again, it will be too soon! Tom's four-year term appointment at the U. S. Geological

Survey in Reston ended in mid-June. Luckily, he was well away from Reston when Black Monday fell: on Monday, August 14, many paleontologists (in particular, macroinvertebrate and vertebrate workers [except for conodont specialists] and a majority of the Branch of Paleontology and Stratigraphy's technicians) were handed their pink slips as part of the downsizing of the Geologic Division.

On a more positive note, Tom Holtz has taken a position as an assistant research scientist at the Department of Geology at the University of Maryland, College Park campus. He can now devote more time to vertebrates in general, and theropod dinosaurs in particular. As well as teaching and looking for grant money, Tom is continuing his research on theropod systematics, late Mesozoic dinosaurian biogeography, and the functional anatomy of terrestrial amniote predators. He will be presenting some of these conclusions at the theropod symposium at the Pittsburgh meeting. With Kevin Padian (Berkeley), Tom is working on the phylogenetic taxonomy of theropods and related taxa; with Mike Brett-Surman (USNM), he is finishing chapters on anatomy and taxonomy for the forthcoming Farlow and Brett-Surman dinosaur volume. (Thomas R. Holtz, Jr.)

Southeast Region

Columbus College, Columbus, Georgia

David Schwimmer, Dent Williams, Patsy Dudley, and associates are working on a mixed bag of Upper Cretaceous projects. Last spring we submitted (with J. D. Stewart) a manuscript to *Palaios* on scavenging by *Squalicorax* species, including both direct and trace evidences from a wide variety of localities and (prey) taxa. The manuscript seems to be lost in summer review doldrums at present, but hopefully will emerge to see light of print soon.

Work continues on many projects. Dent and Patsy have finished excavating a site in the Ripley Formation in Bullock County, Alabama, producing a nearly complete natural cast of a *Bothremys barberi* carapace and plastron. The locality also produced a large assemblage of *Squalicorax pristodontus* teeth, allowing a reasonable crack at compiling a tooth set of that mysterious (at least to us) species.

David is finishing a paper (with J. D. Stewart and Dent Williams) on taxonomy and redescription of the teleost *Xiphactinus vetus*. This is a more complex task than one would think, because this (largely) eastern US species of *Xiphactinus*, originally described as a reptile (*Polydonodon vetus*), was published 14 years before *Xiphactinus audax* (= *Apotheus molossus*). We don't really want to rename all those big fish on display in most museums, so we have to petition ICZN to suppress *Apotheus* in favor of *Xiphactinus*. Also in the works is a description of new material of *Deinosuchus* (= *Crocodylus*?) *rugosus*, and a study of possible southern occurrences of Hesperornithiformes, based on two tibiotarsal fragments from Tennessee and Georgia.

David is also finishing an article for the Coelacanth Conservation Council Newsletter, discussing *Megalocoelacanthus dobiei*, our Late Cretaceous giant coelacanth from Alabama (and other places). We are particularly intrigued by a story in Peter Ward's book *On Methuselah's Trail*, in which he mentions finding giant coelacanth scales in 80-Myr. strata in the Trent River Canyon on Vancouver Island. These would be the same age as our giant fish, and we would be interested in any further information (or pictures) of such scales. (David Schwimmer)

Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky

A small contingent from MSU, including Bob Martin, graduate student Cindy Gordon, and undergraduate Clayton Green, spent three weeks working in Spain this summer as part of Bob's summer field vertebrate paleontology class. For the first week we were given a tour of Pliocene and Pleistocene sediments in the Guadix-Baza and Granada basins with Antonio Ruiz-Bustos (Granada). Antonio had brought some material from this region with him when he visited Bob's lab the previous spring, so it was very useful to see the source areas.

From Granada we travelled to Madrid, where we met Remmert Daams (Madrid) and Pablo Pelaez Campomanes de Labra (Madrid). They escorted us to Daroca, our main base for two weeks of field work in the late Tertiary Calatayud-BTeruel basins. The field contingent eventually included Albert van der Meulen (Utrecht), Hans de Bruijn and wife Jess (Utrecht), Pierre Mein and wife Marie-Térèse (Lyon), Fred Rogl (Naturhistorisches Museum, Austria), and grad student Costas Theocharopoulos (Athens). Evening discussions coupled with daily field collecting made it a wonderful learning experience for the MSU group. We were also very impressed with the amount of sediment moved and processed by the Dutch, and especially with their efficient method of screenwashing.

After the students flew home, Bob continued by train to Montpellier, Dijon, Paris, and Utrecht for two additional weeks, and was able to briefly study a number of important sites and fossils, as well as ogle a real Monet at the Musée d'Orsay. Bob thanks Jacques Michaux (Montpellier), Laurent Viriot and Patrick Brunet-Lecomte (Dijon), Christianne Denys (Paris), and Hans de Bruijn and Albert van der Meulen (Utrecht) for their extraordinary hospitality. (Bob Martin)

University of Florida

The VP community here at UF is welcoming a new staff member and bidding farewell to another. Marc Frank has joined us as our new collections manager, replacing Gary Morgan who left us over a year ago to attend graduate school in New Mexico. Marc began in June and the results of his labors are already evident, even to casual visitors to our range. Marc came to us from the Smithsonian, where he was a museum specialist.

Dave Lambert has left us to join the faculty at St. Peter's College in Jersey City where he will be an assistant professor of biology. He will teach comparative anatomy, human anatomy and physiology, and occasionally, introductory courses in biology and paleontology. David kept himself busy up until his departure by describing *Amebelodon* material from the Bone Valley region of Florida and by collecting body mass data from late Clarendonian and early Hemphillian specimens in the University of Nebraska collection.

Despite Hurricane Alison in May and Erin in August, Dave Webb and the Aucilla River Prehistory Project team put in two good months conducting underwater excavations. The team worked mainly at a new full-glacial site (ca. 30,000 years b.p.) which can be compared with the upriver and previously studied late glacial site (ca. 12,000 b.p.) that contains a human context. Both sites have rich bone beds, which grade upware into clayey peat sediments consisting largely of mastodon digesta. The diet, hormones, and isotopes will be compared between the two sites. Andy Hemmings selected another site two miles downriver for his thesis on Paleoindian

archaeology and megafaunal extinctions. Two weeks at Sloth Hole produced an outstanding sample of bone and chert artifacts for Andy.

Recent papers of Dave's are (with Neil Opdyke) *AGlobal climatic influence on Cenozoic land mammals,* which was published in the National Academy's *Studies in Geophysics* series in June, and *APerspective@on ABiological Implications of Middle Miocene Amazon Seaway@* which appeared in the July 22 edition of *Science*.

Bruce MacFadden is working on a manuscript with Bob Hunt on the paleomagneto-stratigraphy of the Arikaree Group of Sioux County, Nebraska. The results indicate that the upper part of the Arikaree Group correlates to the distinctive chron 6Cn of the time scale and that the ArikareeanBHemingfordian boundary is placed at 18.8 Ma.

Over the summer, Bruce explored Miocene localities in southern Bolivia with colleagues from Duke (Richard Kay and Rick Madden), Federico Anaya Daza of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural of La Paz, and Paul Kitch of Princeton. Bruce also worked in the university museum of Tarija, collecting data for a study of the isotope ecology of the Pleistocene ungulates of Tarija. He is presently running enamel samples at the University of Utah in order to obtain their isotope values.

A recent work of Bruce's regarding fossil horses, carbon isotopes, and global change appeared in *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*. Another on the oroclinal bending of the Andes appeared in the *Journal of Geophysical Research* in May.

In collaboration with Woodburn and Albright, one of Bruce's students, Vicky Norton, is making solid progress analyzing and writing up the magnetostratigraphy of the latest Miocene through Pliocene San Timoteo badlands from southern California.

Another student of Bruce's, Bruce J. Shockey, has recently returned from South America. There he studied Pleistocene specimens of Tarija and Oligocene notoungulates in museums of Argentina and Bolivia. Shockey also assisted in the field work in Bolivia. In addition to his studies of Oligocene notoungulates, Bruce is working with Bruce MacFadden on his isotope ecology of the Tarija project.

In June, Russ McCarty attended a conservation workshop sponsored by International Academic Programs held at the San Diego Museum of Natural History. He is in the process of disseminating much of the knowledge that he gained to other conservators and preparators in our area.

Bob Chandler continues his work at a Blancon locality on the bottom of the Santa Fe River. In addition to collecting fossils, he is drilling cores and collecting paleomagnetic samples. This past spring (austral fall), Bob spent seven weeks collecting in the Miocene of northwestern Argentina. Although he found little in the way of fossil birds, he and his crew discovered cranial material of interesting notoungulates and litopterns. They also collected a well-preserved skull of one of the earliest procyonids to reach South America. These specimens will ultimately be curated in the natural history museum in Tucumán, Argentina. He is grateful to his colleagues Norma Nasiff and Graciana Esteban in Tucumán for all their help during his stay. Bob's work in Argentina will be featured in an episode of *Paleoworld II* to be aired this November. (Bruce Shockey)

Southwest Region

Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona

Stan Olsen is continuing his study of early animal domestication in Asia and has completed a brief outline of the evidence relating to the sheep in China and Tibet. The task is much more appealing now that this area is open to foreign researchers. Stan has been invited to the symposium on mammoths to be held later this year in St. Petersburg. Funding for travel is still the major problem. Stan marked his 76th year in June. (Stan Olsen)

West Coast Region

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries

Despite a protracted silence, paleontology is alive and well at LACM. John Harris, Larry Barnes, Dave Whistler, and Cathy McNassor all returned to county service at the museum at the beginning of the year. Sam McLeod and Chris Shaw survived the downsizing of 1993-94, while Ken Campbell, J. D. Stewart, Shelley Cox, and Michael Stokes continue in museum private foundation-supported positions. Administrative reorganization of the museum has led to a single paleontology division under the supervision of John Harris, this combining invertebrate paleontology and vertebrate paleontology at the Exposition Park facility and Rancho La Brea at the George C. Page Museum. The southern California economy is still very much in doubt, and the continued presence of science at LACM will be dependent on expanded success of the museum's private, non-profit foundation. However, under the leadership of the new museum president and director, James L. Powell (formerly a geochemist), we are hopeful of renewed vitality.

Regardless of the domestic difficulties, the paleontology collections of the museum have remained open to researchers, and we encourage continued use. To any who may have encountered difficulty of access, we offer our apologies, and we thank all for their patience. All of us except John Harris may be reached at the same telephone contact numbers. For the immediate future, John Harris may be reached at (213) 744-3445.

In the area of ongoing research, Larry Barnes continues to work with James Goedert of Washington, Japanese collaborators Masaichi Kimura, Hitoshi Furusawa, and Hiroshi Sawamura, and with Mexican collaborators Arturo Cruz-Marin and Gerardo Gonzalez-Barba on North Pacific Oligocene cetaceans. Barnes is organizing a symposium on early whales for the North American Paleontological Congress to be held in Washington, D.C., in 1996. The invitation is extended to anyone who is interested, and who may not have already been contacted, to submit topics for relevant presentations. Barnes edited a volume of collected papers on the evolution and biogeography of Pacific marine vertebrates presented at the 1992 International Geological Congress in Kyoto, Japan, and this should appear in 1995.

Ken Campbell, who for the past six months has been acting superintendent at the Page Museum, continues his faunistic and geologic studies of the Quaternary of the Amazon Basin and taxonomic studies of avian remains from Rancho La Brea. In the Page Museum lab, Shelley Cox and her volunteers continue to reassemble proboscidean pelvises. In conjunction with volunteer Mary Gillis, Shelley has identified to digit some 800 first and second *Smilodon* phalanges recovered from the Pit 91 excavation. John Harris is dividing his time between the description of Mio-Pliocene artiodactyls recovered from southwestern Lake Turkana by Meave Leakey's teams,

and isotopic studies of mammalian enamel in conjunction with Thure Cerling of the University of Utah. Earlier this summer he joined John Fleagle to hunt for Oligocene mammals on Kenya's Suregei Plateau. Sam McLeod reports that in addition to managing the VRTPALEO discussion list, he has made numerous major moves of Astuff, @finding places to put all the orphaned Ahings, @completing the NSF-funded invertebrate paleo computerization grant, and attempting to accommodate everyone within (and outside) the Museum, all while trying to avoid being sucked into the local vortex. Cathy McNassor has resumed her duties as the assistant to Chris Shaw, and museum archivist. Cathy continues to organize extensive collections of historical documents and photographs pertaining to the history of the Rancho La Brea Tar Pits while also pursuing her own interest in the history of paleontology in the western U.S. and the life work of Chester Stock. Chris Shaw continues his responsibilities as collection manager at the Page Museum and access to new material from El Golfo keeps him off the streets at night.

J. D. Stewart reports that, in addition to trying to keep our boat afloat while three of our curators were in exile, he coauthored a description of a gigantic Cretaceous coelacanth from Alabama and New Jersey with David Schwimmer and Dent Williams. Additional U.S. cretaceous coelacanths have been cropping up in Texas, Kansas, and South Dakota. Additional papers include Pliocene Pleistocene *Xyrauchen* from the Anza-Borrego Desert (with Mark Roeder) and Cenomanian teleosts mistaken for mosasaurs (with Gordon Bell). During his Aexile@from the museum (to borrow a term from J. D. Stewart), Dave Whistler had the privilege to work closely with Bruce Lander and Mark Roeder of Paleo Environmental Associates, Inc., in the expanding field of environmental mitigation. Most of you are familiar with this ongoing work in the Sespe Formation that we, including Tom Kelly, have been reporting. Additional mitigation projects have yielded diverse fossil assemblages ranging in age from Holocene to Cretaceous that we will be reporting on in the near future. Whistler also continues his Afirst love,@biostratigraphic studies of southern California Miocene assemblages. (Dave Whistler and John Harris)

Occidental College, Los Angeles

It's been over a year since the last notice, but things have been hopping here! The short course on AMajor Features of Vertebrate Evolution@at the Seattle meetings went very well, and we had a full house nearly all day. We thank all the participants in the short course for their excellent presentations. The short course notes are still available from the Paleontological Society (c/o Section of Vertebrate Paleontology, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213-4080) for \$15.

After three years as department chair, Don Prothero is finally rotating off and getting a semester sabbatical. He's been in the field a lot on his current NSF grant, collecting paleomagnetic samples in the Cuyama Badlands, the Bopesta, and in marine Eocene rocks of the Transverse Ranges. In April, Don and student Karen Whittlesey gave papers at the White RiverBARikaree symposium at the GSA meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. This summer, Karen is again an intern at Badlands National Park, and she has been accepted to grad school in paleontology at USC this fall. Congratulations, Karen!

In June, Don Prothero spent a week with a film crew shooting an episode of PaleoWorld on rhino evolution. We taped at Agate, Toadstool, in the University of Nebraska State Museum, and under the belly of the indricothere reconstruction in Gering. It should be airing when the new

season of PaleoWorld starts this winter. Finally, an episode on something besides dinosaurs!

Don spent most of the last year finishing up his sedimentary geology textbook (coauthored with Fred Schwab of Washington and Lee University), which is now in galleys and will be published by W. H. Freeman this fall. The biggest effort, however, has been sending *The Terrestrial Eocene-Oligocene Transition in North America* to press. After years of cajoling and harassing contributors and reviewers, and months doing layout and pasteup, the final camera-ready pages went to Cambridge University Press in September. This volume has 30 chapters in over 600 pages, covering the chronostratigraphy of all key Uintan through Arikarean deposits, and the systematics of most of the common vertebrates of the White River chronofauna (from turtles and squamates to rodents to all the carnivorans, to oreodonts, leptomerycids, camels, and hyracodonts). Some of these contributions represent 20 years of work, and all of Don's 15 years of magnetic stratigraphy in the Plains and Rockies is finally published. Appropriately, it will appear on the 150th anniversary of the discovery of Badlands fossils, and the 60th anniversary of the Scott-Jepsen-Wood White River monographs. Keep an eye out for it at the Cambridge booth in Pittsburgh! (Don Prothero)

Taunton Bench Project, Adams County, Washington

Our last report (SVPNB #151/1991) stands in serious need of updating. The original goal of this project, back in 1988, was to lift the Taunton local fauna out of the relative obscurity reported in Kurten and Anderson (1980), 10+ spp. This rich but still largely undescribed fauna...@With *JVP* publication of the *Capromeryx* (Morgan and Morgan, 1995) and lagomorph (White and Morgan, 1995) papers, the number of reported mammal species of the Taunton l.f. has risen from 10+ spp. to 45+ spp., with an additional 20+ spp. of nonmammalian vertebrates noted.

Although the fauna is still largely undescribed, @more largely, by sheer numbers of species, than it was in 1980, some progress is being made. We have been providing specimen support for several studies in progress: fish with Gerald Smith, snakes with Dennis Parmley, ground squirrels with Tom Goodwin, and *Pliopotamys* with Mary Thompson Flint. Taunton *Prodipodomys* material provided a crucial link between *Prodipodomys* and *Dipodomys* in Dalquest et al., 1992, a kangaroo rat paper published in the *Southwestern Naturalist*. Taunton *Pliopotamys* and *Procastoroides* material contributed to the conclusions drawn in Repenning et al., 1995, a description of the Froman Ferry l.f. published by the USGS. Modest descriptive advances, but encouraging over the long haul.

Our pick-and-shovel work at Taunton culminated in a field trip to the site in conjunction with the SVP 1994 meeting in Seattle. We have since relinquished our lease on the site property @with a deep sense of sadness at having to leave further evidence entombed beneath the sagebrush @and turned our attention to processing this eight-year accumulation of fossils into the Burke Museum collections at the University of Washington.

Jim Morgan has been doing preliminary work on describing the large carnivores of the Taunton l.f. Such critters as *Satherium*, *Tremarctos*, *Canis lepophagus*, *Felis lacustris*, and *Borophagus* are fairly well nailed down by the available evidence. The @slow to a crawl @elements involve small canids, a hyaenid *Chasmoporthetes* sp., and the large felids.

Although we had the opportunity to thank a number of kind and helpful people in the acknowledgments of the *Capromeryx* paper, we wish to further extend our gratitude to at least a

score of others who helped us find and strike a professional posture regarding our work at Taunton. Without this unexpected encouragement from the professional community of paleontologists, it might never have occurred to us that we had the potential and the responsibility of contributing to the science in a lasting and meaningful way. (Jim Morgan)

C BULLETIN BOARD C

The Great Russian Dinosaurs Starts U.S. Tour in Mesa, Arizona

The Mesa Southwest Museum is proud to announce confirmation of the museum's hosting of the U.S. premiere engagement of the world-travelling paleontological exhibition, *The Great Russian Dinosaurs*. The exhibit opened to the public on Saturday, October 7, 1995.

The exhibition, consisting of 24 full skeletons (as large as 19 feet high), 50 skulls, and dozens of other specimens, has appeared outside of Russia only twice before, in Japan and Australia. This will be the first public exhibition in the western world of many of the specimens included in the show.

Sponsored by the Monash Science Centre, Melbourne; the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston; the Paleontological Institute, Moscow; and the City of Mesa; and supported by Qantas Airlines, *The Great Russian Dinosaurs* will remain on exhibition in Mesa through February 4, 1996, and will be a featured attraction during the Phoenix metro area's hosting of the 1996 Super Bowl festivities in January.

The Great Russian Dinosaurs features specimens gathered over the past century from sites across Russia and Mongolia. According to exhibition director Dr. Patricia Vickers-Rich, the exhibit is an opportunity to see dinosaur specimens which have only recently been allowed out of Russia...the recent dramatic changes in the region have brought about the opportunity to bring, with love and care, some of Russia's scientific treasures to the rest of the world.

The general public information line for this exhibition is (602) 644-2230. For additional information, contact Robert Price at (602) 644-2571 or fax (602) 644-3424.

Denver Museum of Natural History Unveils Prehistoric Journey October 21, 1995

An exciting new era begins at the Denver Museum of Natural History on October 21, 1995, with the opening of the *Prehistoric Journey* exhibition. The largest, most ambitious permanent exhibition in the museum's 95-year history, *Prehistoric Journey* has been more than six years in the making. Revealing the dynamic, 3.5 billion-year history of life on Earth, the \$7.7 million exhibition includes 17,000 square feet of display space and a working fossil laboratory with public viewing areas.

In celebration of the opening of this new exhibit, the museum will present a special lecture featuring world-renowned paleontologist Stephen J. Gould on Friday evening, November 10, 1995, followed by a symposium and banquet on Saturday, November 11, 1995. The lecture will be held at 7:30 P.M. at the Denver Auditorium Theater. Dr. Gould, an invertebrate paleontologist, will address how life on Earth has changed through time. On Saturday, November 11, 1995, beginning at 8:45 A.M., a symposium on the evolution and ecology of life on Earth will be held in

the Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Natural History. Eight respected paleontologists, including Drs. Gould, Lynn Margulis, William Di Michele, Kirk Johnston, and Richard Stucky, will present recent paleontological findings and insights.

C CALENDAR OF EVENTS C

Western Area Vertebrate Paleontology Meeting

The Utah Field House of Natural History will host the Western Area Vertebrate Paleontology meeting in the spring of 1996. March 20-23, 1996, is the tentative schedule for this event. Field trips scheduled include the Dinosaur National Monument Quarry and Tertiary Uinta and Duchesne River formations of the Uinta Basin. The trip to the Tertiary will recapitulate the 1953 SVP trip led by J. Leroy Kay, and Billie and Ernie Untermann. Please realize that wet spring weather may halt this trip as much of it is on dirt roads. If the weather holds, we have permission from the Ute Indian Tribe to go onto their lands (type localities for many Uintan mammals). This is the first time that they have allowed such a trip in many years.

For further information, please contact Sue Ann Bilbey or Alden Hamblin at the Utah Field House, 234 East Main, Vernal UT 84078. The telephone number is (801) 789-3799. A detailed schedule of events will be mailed to previous WAVP participants and to any other interested parties. (Sue Ann Bilbey)

Third World Congress of Herpetology

(logo)

The Third World Congress of Herpetology, Prague (21-30 August 1997), will bring together both neoherpetologists and paleoherpetologists in order to provoke some discussions on evolution of the Amphibia and Reptilia. For further information, please contact Zbyněk Roček, Department of Paleontology, Geological Institute, Academy of Sciences, Rozvojova 135, CS-165 00 Prague 6-Sušeol, Czech Republic.

C POSITIONS AVAILABLE C

Evolutionary Morphologist, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

The Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, invites applications for a junior- or senior-level faculty position in functional anatomy and evolution, with primary teaching responsibility in human gross anatomy. Applicants must have a Ph.D., teaching experience in gross anatomy, and an established research program in some aspect of vertebrate anatomy or evolution, such as physical anthropology, vertebrate paleobiology, experimental morphology, genetics, or phylogenetic systematics (morphologic or molecular). Deadline for receipt of applications December 1, 1995. Send CV, one-page statement of research goals/interests, and names of addresses of three references to: Anatomy Search Committee, Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, 725 N. Wolfe St., Baltimore MD 21205. The Johns Hopkins University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. (Ken Rose)