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- OFFICIAL BUSINESS -

Editorial Policy of Nature and Science with Respect to Meeting Presentations

Some of the members of SVP are concerned that presenting results at a scientific meeting will negatively affect the chances of having a manuscript based on these results published in *Nature* or *Science*. This confusion is understandable given that, in my opinion, the published editorial policies of these magazines are in some respects not explicit (these policies are described annually in a printed issue and are also on the Web pages of these magazines, respectively <http://www.america.nature.com> and <http://www.sciencemag.org>). To clarify matters, I contacted the editors who handle most manuscripts that involve paleontology, Dr. Henry Gee at *Nature* and Dr. Brooks Hanson at *Science*. What follows is **not** the official editorial policy of these magazines, only my summary and interpretation of the statements of these editors. The two editors have checked the paragraphs for their respective journals for obvious misrepresentations of their policies, but I am responsible for the wording.

Nature does not discourage people from presenting work that is in press at professional meetings and does not require that this work is described as "off the record" during the talk. However, the scientist is not allowed to clarify or expand upon the in-press work to journalists during an interview outside of the presentation. If a journalist interviews a scientist about in-press work, the scientist should tell the journalist that this work is embargoed by *Nature* until the day of publication, and cannot be reported in the media before the end of the embargo. Presentation of work at a meeting before a manuscript is accepted (or even submitted) to *Nature* may or may not lead to rejection by the editor. However, this is decided by the *Nature* editor on a case-by-case basis and is acceptable for some manuscripts.

Science does not discourage work that is in press in *Science* from being presented at a professional meeting, but the author has to let the responsible editor know about the presentation. Presenters may clarify the in-press work to reporters outside of the

presentation, but may not expand on it beyond what the presentation said or give them slides or figures from the presentation or a copy of the manuscript. Work that is part of a manuscript but is not presented at the meeting should not be discussed with journalists unless they abide by *Science*'s embargo. Work that is presented at a meeting and subsequently submitted to *Science* will not be treated any differently from work that was never presented, unless a journalist publishes a report about the meeting presentation. That could affect the chances of publication in *Science*, certainly if the authors actively pursued press interest (e.g., through a press conference).

These guidelines leave scientists a lot of room to present their work at professional meetings, and mainly attempt to restrict press coverage of their work. In general, if you foresee a specific problem with your manuscript, talk to the responsible editor about your presentation before it happens. A special arrangement can often be worked out and might benefit everyone. One solution is to discuss with the editor the possibility to publish your paper the week before the meeting. That way, the published work is still news when the meeting starts (and thus more likely to be of interest to the press) and journalists and scientists can fall back on the published paper for clarification. Also, note that the guidelines of these magazines are for presentations at scientific meetings, and are thus relatively unconstraining. Rules for other presentations, such as those at press conferences, are usually considerably stricter. (J. G. M. Thewissen, Chair, Media Liaison Committee, thewissen@neoucom.edu)

Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the Years Ended September 30, 1996 and 1995

The following pages contain the financial statements and auditors' report for the Society for the fiscal year 1995-96.

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- NEWS FROM MEMBERS -

CANADA

Canadian Museum of Nature

Kathy Stewart and Alison Murray just returned from a month at the National Museum of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. They were studying fish fossils recovered by an American and Ethiopian team from four to five million-year-old deposits west of the Awash River, Ethiopia. Of special interest were several well-preserved cichlids, with complete bodies intact, including scales. These will be described as a new species. Funding for the trip was provided by the L. S. B. Leakey Foundation and Air Canada. (Kathy Stewart)

Redpath Museum

Bob Carroll reports from Berkeley, where he is just completing a four-month sabbatical with Marvalee Wake. Most of his time has been spent examining serial sections and cleared and stained specimens of modern caecilians for comparison with the skeletal material of "Eocaecilia," which he is studying together with Farish Jenkins and Denis Walsh. It is amazing how conservative this group is, with direct comparison possible with the nature of the tentacle, the configuration of the extremely complex nasal apparatus, and even correspondence of nearly all of the cranial foramina with nerves and blood vessels in representatives of primitive extant families. Except for the retention of rudimentary limbs, all the structures associated with the basic habitus of living caecilians had been acquired by the Early Jurassic. Nevertheless, the skull roof of "Eocaecilia" retains nearly all of the individual bones and general configuration of goniorhynchid microsaur. No specific synapomorphies can be recognized with either frogs or salamanders, and most cranial similarities of frogs, salamanders, and caecilians can be associated with small size. The key to affinities of these three groups may lie with their individual larval patterns, but this study is only in its beginning phase.

Bob's book, "Patterns and Processes of Vertebrate Evolution," Cambridge University Press, is scheduled for publication before the end of April. This text is an effort to pick up the thread of macroevolutionary commentary initiated by Simpson in the the 1950s. It deals with the forces and rates of evolution at all time scales, from living populations to geological eras. One of the major conclusions is that patterns and rates of evolution among vertebrates are far more varied than had been appreciated by Darwin or the authors of the evolutionary synthesis. Recent advances in molecular biology make it possible to examine the specific role of developmental changes in several major phases of vertebrate evolution. The importance of the principles of phylogenetic systematics in establishing new concepts of evolutionary patterns, especially in the origin of major taxa, is emphasized. On the other hand, the major role that population genetics has played in the analysis of microevolutionary phenomena cannot be directly applied to long-term evolutionary patterns. (Bob Carroll)

Université de Montréal, Laboratoire de Paléanthropologie

In our last contribution, we discussed efforts to open a paleontology museum in Montréal. It's now official: the Museum of Paleontology and Evolution will hold its second summer exhibit from June to August (or possibly September) of this year. We will be located at Marche Bonsecours, a well-known historic landmark in Old Montréal which features boutiques and cultural attractions. Should any of you visit Montréal this

summer, we encourage you to stop by to see some of our local (and other) treasures. You can write to us at: P. O. Box 274, Succ. Place d'Armes, Montréal QC H2Y 3G7; or contact some of us individually.

We have a new graduate student in the lab; François Guimont is looking at the relationship between the level of testosterone and the cognitive capacity of human neonates.

Michel Chartier and Martin Dubreuil are involved in the description of some new Pleistocene vertebrate assemblages, together with Dick Harington and Steve Cumbaa (Canadian Museum of Nature), among others. These fossils come from so-called Champlain Sea deposits exposed in the vicinity of Québec City. Invertebrate fossils (mollusks, brachiopods, crustaceans) are locally very abundant, but vertebrate occurrences are very rare, usually consisting of single, isolated finds (a bone or a partial skeleton of one species). Therefore, the new assemblages are important in that they are composed of a relatively large number of specimens (close to 50 at one locality) which represent several taxa. These include fish, aquatic birds, and marine mammals, all of them representing extant species, but usually found in the estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence or more northerly latitudes. No extinct species have yet been found, but who knows what might turn up. Plans for this summer are to increase sample sizes at known localities and to search for new productive localities in the area. We hope to present results of this research at SVP in Chicago this October. (Michel Chartier)

INDIA

Geological Studies Unit, Indian Statistical Institute

It has been quite long since we presented our last report. Sohan L. Jain had been closely associated with the Unit after his formal retirement as Honorary Visiting Professor and Visiting Scientist until recently. During this period a project on a new Indian titanosaurid was completed jointly with Saswati Bandyopadhyay. The paper titled "New titanosaurid (Dinosauria: Sauropoda) from the Late Cretaceous, central India" is due to appear in *JVP* in mid-1997. The new taxon is named after Prof. A. H. Colbert. Sohan delivered the 13th M. R. Sahní Memorial Lecture during 1995 on "Aspects of vertebrate fossils from the Pranhita-Godavari valley with emphasis on dinosaur discoveries." The lecture has been published in the *Journal of the Palaeontological Society of India*, 41:1-15. However, the GSU misses Sohan as he could not come to Calcutta from his Lucknow residence for quite some time; we wish to see him regularly in the Unit.

Tapan Roy Chowdhury is actively involved in our paleontological research as an Honorary Visiting Professor. He gave a refresher course in vertebrate paleontology for the college teachers organized by the University Grant Commission. Tapan delivered the J. Sen Memorial Lecture at Calcutta University and also the S. Ray Memorial Lecture at Presidency College, Calcutta, on various aspects of vertebrate paleontology.

Saswati Bandyopadhyay attended the Continental Jurassic Symposium at Flagstaff, Arizona. Thanks to Mike Morales for financial support. She, along with Tapan Roy Chowdhury, presented a paper on "Beginning of the continental Jurassic in India: A paleontological approach," which has come out in a special volume of the Museum of Northern Arizona titled "The Continental Jurassic." Saswati is also thankful to T. S. Kemp, A. Milner, G. M. King, J. Clack, P. C. Sereno, J. R. Bolt, and M. R. Dawson who made it possible for her to visit and study collections at the University of Oxford, Natural History Museum, London, University of Cambridge, University of Chicago, Field Museum, and Carnegie Museum of Natural History. After coming back, she, along with D. P. Sengupta, went to the Satpura Gondwana Basin in central India. Besides the commonly occurring capitosaurids, they found associated postcranial material and part of a skull of a large dicynodont and some rhynchosaur bones from the Triassic Denwa Formation. They have recovered some dinosaur bones and some other archosaur bones for the first time from the Bagra Formation- a horizon younger than the Denwa Formation. The relation between these two formations is not yet clear and they are trying to solve it.

Shurjati P. Sangupta had been to Australia for two months doing field work in several Triassic deposits of Queensland with Anne Warren and Claudia Marsicano. Dhurjati also studied the temnospondyl collection at La Trobe University, National Museum of Victoria, Australian Museum, Sydney, Queensland Museum, at Brisbane and at Townsville. He is very thankful to Anne Warren who arranged the entire trip. He is now busy putting finishing touches on a manuscript on early Triassic temnospondyls particularly from the Panchet Formation. One of our colleagues, R. N. Mukherjee, who started working on the capitosaurids of the Denwa Formation, unfortunately expired. Dhurjati is revising his manuscript, which is expected to be published in *Alcheringa*.

Kasturi Sen has finished two manuscripts on Middle Triassic archosauromorphs and is trying to publish them but her effort has been pushed back due to lack of phylogenetic analysis by the PAUP program which is not readily available here. We are trying to get it as soon as possible. She is now working jointly with Dhurjati on some aspects of paleoecology of the Triassic redbeds of India.

Sanghamitra Ray is busy finishing her Ph.D. thesis on Indian endothiodonts. Her paper on the herbivorous feeding system of land vertebrates will soon come out in the *Journal of the National Botanical Society*. During the 1995-96 field season, she went to the P-G valley to sort out the stratigraphy of the endothiodont-bearing Permian beds. In the midst of a hostile situation, she managed to finish her field work and a paper titled "Some contributions to the Lower Gondwana stratigraphy of the Pranhita-Godavari Valley, Deccan India" which will come out in the *Journal of the Geological Society of India* in late 1997.

Dhiray K. Rudra is collaborating with Sankar Chatterjee of Texas Tech University on KT extinctions. They spent more than a month at Gujrat, west India, in 1995 and found a rich graveyard of dinosaurs with a nearly complete skeleton of a theropod, about the size of *Allosaurus*. They also collected various bones of titanosaurs and ankylosaurs from the

quarry. From an adjacent locality they recovered about a dozen sauropod eggs. Their paper titled "KT events in India: Impact, rifting, volcanism, and dinosaur extinction" will soon come out in a special volume of *Memoirs of Queensland Museum, Australia*.

We were very glad to have several visitors in our Unit as well as in the field. T. S. Kemp joined our field camp at Satpura Gondwana basin in early 1995. He spent a couple of weeks in the Permo-Triassic redbeds earnestly looking for fossils. Peter Dodson and David Krause made a short visit to our Institute and examined our sauropod collection. However, most of us were away for field work at that time. Jeff Wilson spent almost a month in our Unit mainly to study *Barapasaurus* and also other sauropod collections of the Unit. He also gave a talk on Cretaceous dinosaurs from Sahara. (S. Bandyopadhyay)

ROMANIA

A promising surface for further discoveries in the Maastrichtian of the Ha_eg Basin was created during the last two years. The top of a hill from Tu_tea, the locality where clutches of dinosaur eggs and the hatchlings of the hadrosaurid *Telmatosaurus transylvanicus* were found eight years ago, was removed by a heavy bulldozer. The vertical outcrop created by a rock fall that revealed the dinosaur eggs hanging in the wall has now been turned into a horizontal platform of about 750 m², on which we hope to find new interesting fossils.

Besides the eggs and hatchlings, at this site there were already found small theropod teeth and limb bones, *Rhabdodon priscus* teeth and skull bones, multituberculate teeth, turtle plates, and lizard jaws. Next year (1997) the team from the University of Bucharest and volunteers will work to remove the coarse matrix that was laid as a safety cover above the fossiliferous horizon and start systematic excavation that will go on parallel with the conservancy in situ of the fossils. We hope to build in Tu_tea a "Dinosaur Egg Monument."

Csiki Zoltan, now an assistant at the Paleontology Department of the University of Bucharest, completed his undergraduate thesis on the paleontology and taphonomy of the Maastrichtian continental deposits from the Ha_eg Basin and their paleoecologic and paleobiogeographic significance. Currently he is studying the ornithopods and small theropods of the Ha_eg Basin; he also continues to work on the taphonomy and paleobiogeography, as well as the microvertebrates of these deposits.

New mudstone beds with rich concentrations of microvertebrates were found in the northern part of the Ha_eg Basin. These include remains of fishes, frogs, salamanders, lizards, small theropods, crocodylians, and mammals. The material is currently being studied by the student Limborea Romeo for his undergraduate thesis.

A well-preserved, almost entire skull of a multituberculate micromammal found in the Sinpetru Beds from the Ha_eg Basin by the geologist Costin Ungureanu was studied by Drs. Costin R_dulescu and Petre Samson from the Institute of Speleology, Bucharest. They assigned it to *Kogaionon ungureanui* n. gen. n. sp. This is the third report on

multituberculates from the dinosaur-bearing deposits from Haeg after those made by Grigorescu (1984) and Grigorescu, Hartenberger, Rădulescu, Samson, and Sudre (1985).

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. National Research Council, Dan Grigorescu visited the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman where he met Jack Horner, and the Museum of the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he examined eggshells and thin sections from the large collection made by the late Karl Hirsch. I am very thankful to Miss Emily Bray for her assistance during my stay at Boulder. During my visit in Colorado I had the pleasant opportunity to see Dr. Charles Repenning in Lakewood. He seemed to me the same passionate scientist as I knew him 21 years ago in Menlo Park, California.

Mr. Vlad Codrea from the Geological Department of the University of Cluj has successfully passed his Ph.D. dissertation on the ceratomorphs from Romania. During the summer he searched, together with Drs. E. Gheerbrant and S. Sen from the University Paris VI, in the Paleocene redbeds of northwestern Transylvania, in the Jibou-Rona area. They reported the first mammals from the Paleocene of Romania—condylarths and insectivores—besides the turtles and crocodylians already known from these deposits. (Dan Grigorescu)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region

Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland

The big news here is the completion of our new fossil hall "Treasure from the Cliffs: Exploring Marine Fossils," which opened on March 20. Leading off several days of festivities was a terrific talk by Peter Dodson—thanks again, Peter! The exhibit includes a representative collection of Miocene fossils arranged in pull-out drawers, working prep lab, "curator's office" setting, replicated section of Calvert Cliffs, recreated coastal and undersea Miocene habitats with mounted skeletons of the giant "megatooth" white shark, long-snouted dolphin and pseudodontorn, and a reading/resource area that will include interactive touch-screen computers to be added later this year. We hope that anyone passing through our part of Maryland will stop by for a visit.

We were very pleased to work with a Wall-to-Wall TV crew here in April for an upcoming "PaleoWorld" program on fossil sharks. Filming included our megatooth reconstruction and field collecting along Calvert Cliffs.

Now that the exhibit work is wrapping up, more attention can be paid to a number of ongoing research projects in various stages of progress. These include: continuing work on Late Cretaceous fishes and sharks from Madagascar, in collaboration with David Krause and the SUNY-Stony Brook group; describing fossil *Carcharodon* material from the Oligocene of New Zealand (with Ewan Fordyce); ontogenetic variation in living *Carcharodon* dentitions (with Malcolm Francis); and more CT-scan-based analysis of otic structures in fossil sharks. We also look forward to getting back out into the field

along Calvert Cliffs and at other regional sites to increase the CMM collection, which currently has just over 18,000 catalogued specimens. (Mike Gottfried)

Howard University, Washington, D.C.

During summer 1996 Daryl Domning returned to Austria to continue work at the Sonndorf site (early Miocene seacows) with colleagues from the University of Vienna. He also visited Laszlo Kordos in Budapest and attended the conference in Poitiers, France, on secondary adaptation of vertebrates to life in the water. In February, with support from the National Geographic Society, he returned to Seven Rivers, Jamaica, with personnel and volunteers from the Florida Museum of Natural History and the University of the West Indies. They recovered additional remains of Eocene proramphid sirenians, including a skull (the second from this site), several cervical vertebrae, a patella, and many other elements. However it is still unclear whether one or two sirenian taxa are present at the site. The quarry's biggest surprise so far, a jaw of the rhinocerotoid *Hyrachyus* found in 1996, is the subject of a note that has been submitted to *JVP*. Taseer Hussain is recently back from Pakistan, where his team has found Eocene primates and a skull of an anthracobunid. Ray Bernor and Miranda Armour-Chelu are in Germany for Ray's sabbatical year, and Nardos Fessaha has gone there as well to work on her fossil pigs for a month. Irina Koretsky has been frantically at work on papers and monographs about fossil seals; once these are behind her and she returns from another imminent field season in Kazakhstan with Bob Emry (Smithsonian), we hope she'll find time to write a dissertation! However, she and Bob have also secured National Geographic funding for excavations at Devinska Nova Ves, Slovakia; so don't hold your breath.

This academic year we have been pleased to have with us (as sabbatical replacements for Ray and Daryl) two additional VPs, Maria Cole and Carl Terranova. They were kept busy slaving in the gross anatomy teaching labs throughout fall semester, but now are being let out occasionally to reacquaint themselves with research (on large ungulates and small primates, respectively). (Daryl Domning)

New Jersey State Museum

Bill Gallagher's new book, "When Dinosaurs Roamed New Jersey," has just been published by Rutgers University Press. More than a dinosaur book, it's a good overview of all paleontology in New Jersey, and tells why we all believe that it's a great state to live in if you are a paleontologist! Barbara Grandstaff continues her measurement of bones from East Coast dinosaur sites, interpreting depositional environments (part of our Dinosaur Society grant).

Bob Denton and Bob O'Neill are in final editorial stages with the Ellisdale batrachosauroidid amphibians, while Denton divides his time with new discoveries in the southwestern United States Cretaceous.

Happily preoccupied with The Great Russian Dinosaurs (as are all of us), Dave Parris is also looking forward to resuming field work this summer. (Dave Parris)

Providence College

This past January C. B. Wood returned to Ethiopia again, this time with Mark Goodwin only and for just two weeks. Everything went so well, however, that it was one of the best trips to date. We found some nice new Late Jurassic-Early Cretaceous fossils in the Blue Nile Gorge near Addis Ababa (paper in the works) and were able to fly up to Tigray Province to conduct reconnaissance cut short by last year's Land Rover crash. There are excellent exposures of red mudstones in the lower part of the section and we even revisited the crash site. I was very proud of Mark to see him walking along so casually as we both looked closely for any signs of the event on the ground; there weren't any.

Wood presented his results of electron microscopy on the enamel of *Gobiconodon ostromi* at SVP last fall (it has rudimentary prisms; so does *Docodon victor*). It would seem that the lower part of the mammalian clade is beginning to get crowded with more branches where prismatic enamel occurs and that perhaps it is becoming less parsimonious for multiple origins of this character complex than for a single (synapomorphic) origin with several early reversals. Wood will attend Scanning Microscopy International in Chicago May 10-15, 1997, and present a review paper (coauthored with E. R. Dumont) on the origins of prismatic enamel in mammals. This will include a discussion of factors that could be involved in the evolution of a thick outer aprismatic zone, which could secondarily squeeze out prisms all together, thus leading to a "reversal" to a totally prismless enamel layer. Happily, on at least two relevant accounts, W. v. Koenigswald and M. Sander's book on the 1994 Andernach tooth enamel conference came out several weeks ago. It includes Wood's paper with Doris Stern on the first appearance of prismatic enamel; and it has a paper by Professor v. Koenigswald expressing a new idea in enamel evolution, which he has named "underlying synapomorphy." The latter concept may serendipitously apply to the comings and goings of prisms in early mammals also. The potential to form prismatic enamel may be synapomorphic to Mammalia (there are no known homologs and extremely rare analogs in nonsynapsid amniotes), whether all descendant lineages express the potential or not. (C. B. Wood)

The Rochester Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology, Rochester, NY

RIVP welcomes a new research associate, Allen Tedrow of the Idaho State Museum, Pocatello. We have just finished publishing the second issue of our journal, *Paludicola* (see Bulletin Board and Publications), and a third issue is planned for just before the SVP meeting in October. RIVP is still working with the Long Island Natural History Museum, curating specimens from the Miocene of Nebraska. Bill Korth will be returning to the Clarendonian of Nebraska this summer to relocate some old quarries and collect little mammals. "Ancient Marine Reptiles," by Jack Callaway and Elizabeth Nicholls, has been published, and includes papers by three of our research associates-Jack Callaway, Amy Sheldon, and Judy Massare. Judy has also been working with Bobb Schaeffer and Brian Gardiner on a cladistic analysis of lower actinopterygians. They have submitted an abstract for a poster presentation for this year's SVP meeting. (Judy Massare)

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Things have been pretty hectic here at the NMNH during the past six months. Ralph Chapman, Diego Rasskin-Gutman, and Gene Hunt have been busy doing a variety of three-dimensional digitization, laser scanning, and CT-scanning of dinosaur material as part of a grant from The Dinosaur Society. They have gotten excellent results and are concentrating on CT-scanning at this time. The three of them are starting a series of functional studies on dinosaurs using the results of the work they are doing with three-dimensional computer modeling. They all will be in the field in July with the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid group looking for neat beasties in the Early Cretaceous Las Hoyas Konservat-Lagerstätte. Ralph and Diego (along with Matt Wills) are in heavy development of a volume on morphospace concepts and applications. Ralph Chapman and Norman MacLeod are developing an edited, multiauthored "Manual for Morphometrics in Paleontology" in cooperation with The Paleontological Society.

As this report goes in, Bob Emry, Irina Koretsky, and Steve Jabo are leaving for a month in Kazakhstan, in the Zeysan Basin about 200 km north of Almaty. There they will dig up late Eocene titanotheres and will be joining up with some Kazakh researchers.

Bob Purdy reports the following. They hope to have volume 3 (fish through birds) of the Lee Creek opus submitted to the SI Press by the end of summer. Volume 4 (land and marine mammals) should be ready for the Press this fall. They are hoping it will be published next year but 1999 may be a more realistic date. Bob also mentions that this winter we received from the USGS the Bown collection of Big Horn Basin Wasatchian vertebrates. This collection, which contains thousands of specimens, probably makes the NMNH's Wasatchian mammal collection one of the largest in the world. Ken Rose (Johns Hopkins University) and his students are continuing their studies of several taxa in this collection.

Shelly Applegate is here until December 10. He, along with Leonardo Compagno, Lance Grande, Gavin Naylor, Andrew Martin, Jack Musick, and Bob Purdy are working on a revision of the fossil and living lamniform sharks. Their revision will incorporate dental morphology, DNA studies, and soft tissue morphology for living sharks, and dental morphology of reconstructed dentitions for the fossil taxa. Several recently discovered associated dentitions from the Tertiary will be helpful to this last part of the study. They plan to publish a cladistic analysis using these data.

Bob Purdy also notes that if you plan to visit the NMNH's collections, please schedule your visit with us beforehand. We will make every effort to accommodate all visitors, but if your visit is not scheduled beforehand, you may arrive when no staff members are available to grant you access to the collections. Several collections (e.g., turtles, *Plesippus*, and *Teleoceras*) are now stored at the Museum Support Center in Suitland, Maryland. If you would like to study specimens in these collections, please give us two to four weeks notice so we can arrange to have staff members accompany you to the MSC (30 minutes from the Mall).

Fred Grady continues work in various cave sites in Virginia and West Virginia. A mammoth tooth was found in Endless Caverns, Virginia, and was prepared for display in that cave. Dave Bohaska continues his work excavating fossil vertebrate material, especially marine mammals, from local Tertiary deposits.

Kay Behrensmeyer reports the following. Kay Behrensmeyer, Nancy Todd, Rick Potts, and Gerry McBrinn have been working on refining the results of their study of late Pliocene faunal turnover in Africa. The ETE database upon which these results are based is growing, and we expect to have most of the fossil localities for the African Late Cenozoic entered within a year or so. Nancy Todd is accumulating information on the remaining east and south African Plio-Pleistocene fossil localities. Karen Sears spent a semester off from the University of Wisconsin at Madison working on latest Pleistocene-Holocene faunal lists to add to the database. Alan Cutler is compiling information on modern African faunas and habitats.

Kay and Nancy are also working with Alan Cutler and Ralph Chapman on species co-occurrence data for hominid sites in Africa to see if there are patterns that provide clues concerning habitat preference of early hominids. Preliminary results were presented at the paleoanthropology meetings in St. Louis in early April. Ralph's strategy of using E. C. Olson's "Rho-group analysis" to define the most frequently co-occurring groups of species shows considerable promise as a new method for paleoecological and taphonomic analysis.

Otherwise, Kay is trying to reactivate projects that lay dormant during her three-year tenure as Associate Director for Research at the Museum. Writing up results on paleosol and isotopic studies in the Siwaliks of Pakistan, finishing a manuscript on the middle Miocene site of Kipsaramon in Kenya, and analyzing the data on modern bones in Amboseli Park, Kenya, are high priorities. (Ralph Chapman)

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

This past autumn, Bob Sullivan and Thomas Williamson (New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Sciences) travelled to Uppsala, Toronto, and Chicago to study the holotypes of *Parasaurolophus tubicen*, *P. walkeri*, and *P. crytocristatus*, respectively, courtesy of a grant from The Dinosaur Society. This travel was followed by a trip (made by Bob) to Albuquerque to finish the description of the new New Mexico *Parasaurolophus* specimen. The project, a description of the new skull, redescriptions of previous specimens, and revision of the genus *Parasaurolophus*, is on track and proceeding well. We are hoping to have a manuscript completed by October to submit for publication.

From the "egg-on-your-face department," the putative pachycephalosaur skull from New Mexico that Bob reported on in the October 1996 *News Bulletin* has turned out to be an ankylosaurid skull. Its dermal armor is very different from *Ankylosaurus* and *Euoplocephalus*. The squamosal and jugal protuberances (only recently recovered) differ significantly (especially the jugal protuberance) from those of the two Late Cretaceous

North American ankylosaurids. Earlier this winter, Bob made a trip to the New Jersey State Museum to meet with Dr. Tanya Tumanova (Paleontological Institute, Moscow) and to compare the New Mexico ankylosaurid skull to those of *Tarchia* and *Saichania* that were on display there as part of "The Great Russian Dinosaurs!" exhibit. The timing and proximity of this exhibit couldn't have been better! Bob thanks Bill Gallagher and Dave Parris (New Jersey State Museum) for their hospitality and access to the specimens on display. Bob and Hans-Dieter Sues (Royal Ontario Museum) are collaborating on a description of the new skull and are planning to revise the North American ankylosaurid genus *Euoplocephalus*.

Other projects previously reported (see *SVP News Bulletin* 168:51), continue on. Bob's long-awaited paper, coauthored with the late Richard Estes, "A reassessment of the Tupinambinae," finally appeared in the tome "Vertebrate Paleontology of the Neotropics" (R. Kay et al., eds.) early this year. A short "lite" paper titled "Pennsylvania's prehistoric pachyderms," coauthored with Kesler Randall, was published in December in The State Museum's *Natural History Notes*. Another "lite" paper, this one coauthored with Spencer G. Lucas (New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science), titled "Fossils provide a Pennsylvania standard for part of the Late Triassic," is in press in *Pennsylvania Geology*. Bob has been informed by coauthor Thomas Keller that their paper revising the near-limbless anguid lizard *Ophisauriscus* (from the middle Eocene of Geiseltal and Messel) will be published later this year in a Messel volume of the *Senckenberg-Courier*. Two short papers concerning dinosaur material from the San Juan Basin, one of which was coauthored with Tom Williamson, has been submitted to the New Mexico Geological Society's 1997 guidebook. Tom and Bob have also submitted an SVP abstract on the redescription of the BYU short-crested *Parasaurolophus* for the upcoming SVP meeting in Chicago.

Bob has been working with the museum exhibition staff in developing a gallery upgrade devoted to the early evolution of fishes. The centerpiece of the gallery is a cast of *Dunkleosteus terrelli* and an incomplete median dorsal plate that was discovered in Erie County a couple of years ago. Installation of *Dunkleosteus* is slated for early June.

Finally, Bob would like to direct your attention to a job announcement for a permanent part-time "collections manager/preparator" position posted in the Positions Available section of this *News Bulletin*. (Bob Sullivan)

SUNY at Geneseo

Bob Anemone, Dana Cope, and their field crew of students from Geneseo and the College of Charleston will be returning to the Great Divide Basin for their fourth consecutive field season in the Clarkforkian and Wasatchian deposits of Sweetwater County, Wyoming. We recently presented a poster summarizing our biostratigraphic work at the AAPA meetings in St. Louis, and are working on a manuscript describing the fauna and geology of the Great Divide Basin, one of the least studied Tertiary basins of Wyoming.

Bob is looking forward to his impending sabbatical year (1997-98) which he will spend in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with frequent trips to Ann Arbor for some comparative work in Phil Gingerich's Bighorn Basin collections. With the help of a grant from Wenner-Gren, Bob is also looking forward to spending his sabbatical year working (with Bert Covert and Brett Nachman) on the functional anatomy of the hind limb of *Omomys carteri*, a middle Eocene omomyine primate from Wyoming. We will be presenting some results of this work at SVP in Chicago (assuming our abstract is accepted!).

Brett Nachman, who was an undergraduate student of Dana's at the College of Charleston as well as a member of our field crews during two of the last three years, spent this past year working at Geneseo on the Great Divide Basin fauna and on the *Omomys* postcranials, as well as applying to graduate school for study in VP and functional anatomy. Dana and I are real happy to be sending Brett off to Washington University to work with Tab Ramussen. (Bob Anemone)

SUNY at Stony Brook

John Hunter successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation, "Adaptive radiation of early Paleocene ungulates," on April 28. Congratulations and well done, Dr. Hunter!

Laura MacLachy and colleagues recently published a paper in *Science* announcing a new primitive hominoid (*Morotopithecus*) they collected last year from Early Miocene sediments in Uganda. Laura and team plan to continue their successful work in Uganda.

Dave Krause and crew are taking the year off from field work in Madagascar. Bill Jungers, however, will return to Madagascar in June, accompanied by Laurie Godfrey, Prithijit Chatrath, and Elwyn Simons. They'll join a group of cavers in southwest Madagascar to continue exploring the caves and sinkholes of the Manamby Plateau. AMS-C₁₄ dates of specimens from this region have yielded the most recent dates currently known for giant subfossil lemurs (500-600 BP), suggesting the extinctions postdated human occupation of the island by well over a millenium.

Meanwhile, work on the Late Cretaceous Maevarano Formation fauna from Madagascar continues. Brian Curtice is deep into a study of titanosaurid morphology and phylogeny, and recently received a Dinosaur Society grant to fund museum trips for his Ph.D. studies. Pat O'Connor is up to his eyeballs in studying the *Majungasaurus* postcrania he discovered last year. Dave Krause is finishing a manuscript on the mammalian fauna with Fred Grine, and Cathy Forster continues work on the bird fauna. Our *Majungasaurus* skull, collected last summer, is now completely prepared, molded, and cast. Nearly every element is present, including palate and postdentaries. Most of this work was done by the marvelous preparators and volunteers at the Field Museum in Chicago- notably Kathy Passaglia-and we thank them very much! The reconstructed skull will be on display at the Field Museum this summer, and Scott Sampson and Larry Witmer have already begun a detailed study of it. In a related project, Kristi Curry is working on the poorly studied Ankazamiaboka fauna (stratigraphically below the Maevarano fauna). She recently

returned from spring break in Paris where, between trips to bakeries, she examined the Ankazamiaboka collection at the MNHN.

Cathy, Scott, Kristi, and Brian are gearing up for a double field season in Africa in May and June. They will be exploring the Gokwe Formation in Zimbabwe (with geologist Ray Rogers), then returning to the Kirkwood Formation in South Africa to work with Billy de Klerk (Albany Museum) and Anusuya Chinsamy (South African Museum). Callum Ross will join them in South Africa after a month in Botswana, where he'll be crawling around caves in search of Pleistocene primates. He and crew are also searching for clues to help reconstruct the paleoenvironment of the Kalahari. Grad students Nancy Stevens, Lea Ann Jolley, and Pat O'Connor will crawl around with him, then also join the crew in South Africa.

Cathy and Scott took collegial cooperation a step further this winter by playing together on a coed ice hockey team. Their team won the league championship, in overtime and shorthanded, with a rocketing slap shot by Scott! Wahoo! (Catherine Forster)

Southeast Region

Columbus State University

Work in our laboratory continues primarily on the paleoecology of the Cretaceous crocodile *Deinosuchus rugosus*. During March, David Schwimmer visited the New Jersey State Museum and ANSP to study their *D. rugosus* and other crocodile materials and look for signs of crocodile feeding on other tetrapods. Thanks to Dave Parris and Ted Daeschler for facilitating use of their respective collections. This coming June, David and Dent Williams plan to visit UT-Austin to continue the project, also stopping along the way to see some regional collections in Mississippi and east Texas. David presented a paper at the Southeastern GSA meeting in late March summarizing work to date on the project "Predatory dominance of giant crocodiles on the late Cretaceous coastal plain" (*SEGSA Abstracts*, 29[3]:68).

In addition to crocodile work, our paper with J. D. Stewart on scavenging by *Squalicorax* species was published in the February issue of *Palaios* (12[1]:77-81), and a paper by David on the taphonomy of eastern Late Cretaceous dinosaurs is due out shortly in the *Dinofest International Proceedings*. Also a taxonomic note on *Xiphactinus vetus* (with J. D. Stewart) is in press in *JVP*, hopefully in print this year. Two additional fish papers are in the works, including a Santonian selachian fauna from western Georgia (with G. R. Case), and description and relationships of a new pycnodont from the same stratum (with Ed Hooks). (David Schwimmer)

Florida Museum of Natural History/University of Florida

Bruce J. MacFadden has kept busy during the spring with administration as Interim Chair of his department (Natural Sciences) in the FLMNH. Otherwise, on the research front, Bruce has had three papers appear: on horses from the Pleistocene of Tarija, Bolivia (

JVP), isotopic ecology of Tarija herbivores (with B. Shockey, in *Paleobiology*), and a review article on the origin and evolution of the grazing guild (*Trends in Ecology and Evolution*). Other papers have been accepted for publication (*Alabama Protohippus*) or are in the works (*Teleoceras* and *Aphelops* isotopic ecology and Pleistocene *Equus* as an indicator of latitudinal gradients). Bruce and company have also made considerable progress with their on-line exhibit "Fossil Horses in Cyberspace." Visit it at <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/fhc/fhc.htm>.

Dave Webb, Russ McCarty, and associates were filmed for the Discovery Channel as they excavated giant sloth skeletons from a late Blancan site 15 miles west of the University. This provided background for Webb to air his skeptical view of the possibility that ground sloths still live in the Amazon Basin and give rise to the "Mapinguari" myths. Webb will be visiting the Hagerman Horse Quarry this summer where one of his graduate students, Glynn Hayes, will serve as quarry boss. Glynn is finishing his master's thesis on the middle Arikarrear Brooksville local fauna. He will continue his studies of the Arikarrear at Nebraska in the fall.

Webb also welcomes Matt Mihlbachler as a new zoology grad student and active participant in the Aucilla River Prehistory Project (ARPP). Besides his involvement with proboscideans and other late Pleistocene megafauna, Matt has a profound interest in fossil and living rhinos. The ARPP had its grant renewed by the Florida Department of State. This will allow Webb and Mihlbachler, along with Andy Hemmings, Mark Muniz, and other divers, to spend most of May and June immersed 30 feet down in the late Pleistocene mud. Webb will come up for air in mid-May to attend Elisabeth Vrba's conference on Ruminants: Past, Present, and Future.

Russ McCarty has just restored a skull of *Synthetoceras tricornatus*, one of only a handful of female skulls which lack the distinctive orbital and "slingshot" rostral horns of the males. The specimen was found in the 1960s at the McGehee Farm site in Alachua County, Florida. (Bruce J. Shockey)

Georgia Southern University

We are saddened to report that our colleague and former SVP member Richard M. Petkewich passed away due to cancer in March 1997. Dick studied under Robert Fields at the University of Montana and received his Ph.D. in 1972. His dissertation, entitled "Tertiary geology and paleontology of the Beaverhead East area, southwestern Montana," was a synthesis that integrated studies on the vertebrate paleontology, stratigraphy, and structural geology of several Tertiary basins. Dick began at Georgia Southern in 1971, and taught a broad range of courses including historical geology and vertebrate paleontology, leaving a legacy of well-informed students. Throughout his career, Dick placed greater emphasis on the teaching and service aspects of academic life rather than the research side, so he was not widely known outside of the state. However, he made three significant, permanent contributions to the field of vertebrate paleontology. First, he initiated field work in coastal Georgia (always involving students) that resulted in the discovery of several Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene localities. In the past decade, this

research program was joined by Ann Pratt and Richard Hulbert. Second, the South Dakota School of Mines donated a relatively complete specimen of the mosasaur *Tylosaurus proriger* to Georgia Southern in 1979. With the assistance of several students, Dick expertly prepared and mounted the specimen in the Georgia Southern Museum, where it has served as the focal point of our Hall of Natural History for over a decade. Working with this specimen provided Dick with the opportunity to do some research on mosasaurs that was reported at the 1981 annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section of GSA and the 1981 and 1982 meetings of the Georgia Academy of Science. Finally, in 1983, Dick led a field crew of Georgia Southern geologists who salvaged the partial skeleton of a middle Eocene whale that had been "discovered" by a construction crew in central Georgia. Together with Winston Lancaster, Dick began the arduous task of preparing the specimen. At the time this was one of the oldest known whale skeletons in the world (its collection predated the discoveries of *Ambulocetus*, *Rodhocetus*, and others from Asia) and the oldest from North America. They presented preliminary reports on the specimen at the 1984 meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science and the 1986 (Philadelphia) meeting of SVP. This specimen will be formally recognized as a new genus and species in a forthcoming paper coauthored by Dick and submitted for publication a few weeks prior to his death.

Richard Hulbert will be promoted to associate professor effective September 1997. Richard was awarded a GSU Faculty Summer Sabbatical to begin research on the evolution of late Neogene *Tapirus* from Florida. He will spend two months this summer in Gainesville analyzing the Love Site, Bone Valley, and Haile 7C samples of this genus. Other on-going projects include the very tardy completion of his chapter on the postcrania of the Vogtle protocetid whale for Hans Thewissen's book on early cetaceans, and finishing the analysis (with Frank Whitmore) of the Mauvilla local fauna mammals, late Miocene of Alabama. Richard plans to visit the Mauvilla site in early May (weather and water levels permitting) to investigate its potential for further collecting. His relatively nontechnical review of horse evolution appeared as a chapter in the 1996 book "Horses through Time" that was edited by Sandra Olsen. (Richard Hulbert)

Midwest Region

Cincinnati Museum Center

"The Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park-The Exhibit" from The Dinosaur Society finished its run at Cincinnati Museum Center as a smash hit, breaking all previous attendance records for Cincinnati. As a result, the Museum is beginning serious planning for additional fossil exhibits to capitalize upon the obvious public interest. After a Cincinnati Ordovician Hall, dinosaurs and other fossil vertebrates are unlikely to be far behind. Therefore, this summer, Glenn Storrs will be leading a group of Cincinnati enthusiasts to the Alberta badlands to join George Lammers' salvage excavations, with a view toward collecting some exhibitionable material. We thank Phil Currie, Bruce Naylor, and Andy Newman for their help in arranging this.

On a separate note, Glenn, Derek Parker, and Tamaki Sato will join Dave Meyer on a prospecting trip to the Niobrara of western Kansas. Can't keep away from those marine reptiles! Indeed, Glenn's description of *Plesiosaurus* has just appeared in the Callaway and Nicholls volume, "Ancient Marine Reptiles." Don't miss it! Derek will continue west to Badlands National Monument to look for turtles and their stratigraphic and paleoecological context, while Tamaki recovers from her thesis defense of her Asian pliosaurs study.

Jim Farlow and Katrina Gobetz (Indiana University) visited in April to survey the Sheridan Pit fauna. Katrina will begin her population study of the peccaries in July. This sample is among the best collections of *Platygonus compressus* anywhere. Others interested in various components of this important and significant fauna are encouraged to visit.

New excitement at the Geier Collections and Research Center is the result of a major NSF award to the invertebrate paleontology program. This grant will have important repercussions for VP, as it will mean the hiring of one and perhaps two new staff members for the paleo department. Building renovations and freed-up cabinetry will also benefit VP. When all of the University of Cincinnati collection is finally transferred to the Museum, we look to be the regional leader in paleontology for the foreseeable future! (Glenn Storrs)

Fort Hays State University

Work continues on the move to our new facility. Most of the 3-D models have been assembled, we are almost ready to move the exhibit specimens, and we have started to pack the research collection. We hope to open with the first phase in the summer of 1998.

A few days of excitement were generated by a couple of visits. The first visit was from Wall-to-Wall TV, filmers for the PaleoWorld series. Their episode on fossil sharks will include a segment on Mike Everhart of Derby, Kansas, who collected some mosasaur vertebrae containing embedded shark teeth from the Smoky Hill Chalk. Mike kindly donated the specimen to our collection. Also featured will be a relative of the victim, our 30-ft tylosaur skeleton, and a relative of the villain, our 15-ft *Cretoxyrhina* skeleton. Watch for the stunning visual effects provided by members of the TV crew and museum staff!

The PaleoWorld group was followed by Gordon Bell and Bruce Schumacher from SDSM. Bruce and Gordon had hoped to present a lecture for the Friends of the Museum as well as participate in the geology section of the Kansas Academy of Science annual meeting, along with Mike Everhart and local students and staff. Unfortunately, winter weather came with them forcing the cancellation of the KAS meeting; the last such occurrence was in 1915.

Steve Wallace will have defended his thesis on a Miocene mammalian fauna from western Kansas by the time this note appears. Wally will be moving to the University of

Iowa to enter a Ph.D. program under Holmes Semken. Michelle David is nearing completion of her functional analysis of *Ptychodus* dentition using SEM and multivariate analysis. She will be moving to Seattle, where she hopes to continue other functional studies with John Rensberger. Joe Beamon is looking into the possibility of studying a fauna from a conglomeritic facies of the Kiowa Formation (early Cretaceous) as a thesis project. Gabe Bever (Pittsburg State, Kansas) and Bill Garcia (Washington and Lee) joined us this past fall as new master's students in VP.

Greg Liggett is busy with various projects involved in the move. He is also working on a Cretaceous site in Russell County from which pieces of plesiosaur, aigialosaur, and pterosaur have been collected. Greg is putting the finishing touches on a report to the USDA regarding the survey of the Cimarron National Grasslands and is looking forward to starting on the Comanche National Grasslands this summer.

Rick Zakrzewski is busy with administrative and academic matters. He looks forward to joining Greg in Colorado and Bob Martin in Meade for a few days this summer. (Rick Zakrzewski)

Illinois State Museum

The paleontology group here has been busy of late. Although we are temporarily short handed, the work load never seems to decrease in deference to that fact.

Rick Toomey has been occupied with many education, outreach, and research projects. He continues work on the ISM Website, particularly the Quaternary and paleontological portions. He has also been working with numerous schools throughout Illinois on museum and Web-based projects. Many of these projects have involved at least some vertebrate paleontology. He also recently designed and installed a small exhibit on dinosaurs at the main Springfield Post Office. The Post Office approached ISM to develop the exhibit to celebrate the recently released stamp series featuring Jurassic and Cretaceous scenes. In addition, we recently contributed a small exhibit on Ice Age animals of the Midwest to the Midwest Federation Rock and Mineral Show. Toomey and Saunders have both been busy with presentations, tours, and talks lately.

In one of the areas where research and education/outreach intersect, the ISM continues its work on the uses of virtual reality in paleontology. Toomey continues to focus on how QuickTime Virtual Reality can be used to document, display, research, and present paleontological remains and sites. Erich Schroeder has begun to explore the uses of Virtual Reality Modeling Language as a tool for archaeological and paleontological site visualization, analysis, and presentation.

Toomey and Mona Colburn have been actively working at Mammoth Cave National Park on several paleontological projects. In one project, they have been working with the park to analyze recently abandoned bat roosts to understand the changes in cave climate that have accompanied modification of the Historic Entrance of Mammoth Cave. In addition, they have begun to document the paleontological remains in several caves within the

park. Toomey is continuing his analysis of Quaternary mammals from several caves in Texas, Missouri, South Dakota, and Illinois.

Jeff Saunders has been busy working on a number of research projects. Two manuscripts on the Dent Mammoth assemblages have been submitted for publication. He has several current projects with colleagues at the Zoological Institute in Saint Petersburg, Russia. A trip there in May is to open yet another. (Richard Toomey)

Ohio University

Vertebrate paleontology and organismal biology at Ohio University continue to be quite strong. We are grateful to have had as guests Glenn Storrs, Walter Greaves, Scott Sampson, John Bertram, and Brian Shea. Our graduate program remains in a strong growth phase, and we have established links with the geology department such that students can apply to either a biology or a geology track. Our first such geology student, Mike Papp, is doing a master's project with Larry Witmer on assessing the status of cheeks in ornithischian dinosaurs, drawing inferences from not only fossil taxa but also from dissections and CT scans of extant reptiles and extant mammals such as zebra and moose.

Thomas Carr is pleased to relate that his manuscript on tyrannosaurid craniofacial ontogeny is nearing completion and will be ready for submission to *JVP* by the end of June. Thomas also started a morphometric analysis of tyrannosaurid skulls, with OU grad student Rick Essner, in order to quantify morphological change during ontogeny. The results of the project will be presented this July at the International Congress of Vertebrate Morphology (ICVM) in Bristol, and, in modified form, at the SVP meeting in Chicago this fall.

Scott Moody's involvement in a recent paper published in the *Symposiums of the Zoological Society of London* (1997, 70:63-78: Phylogenetic relationships of the " *Agkistrodon* complex" based on mitochondrial DNA sequence data. C. Parkinson, S. Moody, and J. Ahlquist) has renewed his interest in reexamining fossils (mostly mandibular and maxillary fragments) of the mid-Eocene (Uinta and Bridger formations, Wyoming and Utah) agamid lizard *Tinosaurus stenodon* Marsh (1872) and *Tinosaurus pristinus* (Leidy 1872). The mid-Eocene Asian-American faunal exchange brought the ancestral pit viper to the New World which led to the adaptive radiation of rattlesnakes, copperheads, bush masters, etc. However, the acrodont-toothed agamid lizards went extinct without evolving taxonomic diversity, although one or two species were widespread in western North America. Together with Geoff Witten (Australia), Scott is reexamining the evolution of acrodont dentition within the Lepidosauria and will present a poster of their review of Mesozoic lizard dentitions at the Third World Congress of Herpetology this coming August in Prague, Czech Republic.

Audrone Biknevičius is forging ahead in locomotor biodynamics with a set of new studies on the development of gait in carnivores (otherwise known as "playing with puppies at work," with Ron Heinrich, OU) and a broad-based analysis of hind-limb

function in tetrapods (with Steve Reilly, OU). She has not abandoned her interests in craniofacial functional morphology, however, as she and Blaire Van Valkenburgh (UCLA) are continuing to uncover interesting associations between incisor form (with regards to differential projections of lateral incisors) and anterior tooth function in carnivores.

Bob Carr completed another successful summer in the field (1996) collecting vertebrates from the Middle and Upper Devonian of the Michigan Basin. He continues work on a final manuscript on the revision of the family Dinichthyidae. Currently he is working with George Kampouris, in affiliation with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, on an analysis of *Protitanichthys* (Placodermi) based on new material collected by George from the Plum Brook Formation of Ohio. Field work for summer 1997 has been put aside due to a 99-day recall to active duty in the Naval service.

With a paper in press on the phylogenetic relationships of basal miacid carnivorans, Ron Heinrich is currently analyzing more detailed morphologic changes within the *Vulpavus*, *Miacis*, and *Uintacyon* lineages through the early Eocene, in an attempt to sort out alpha-level taxonomy and evolutionary relationships among the Miacidae more broadly. He has also started work on an early Wasatchian skeleton of *Viverravus* which promises to add some important insights into its locomotor behaviors and into possibly higher-level taxonomic relationships between the Viverravidae and crown group Carnivora. A paper coauthored with Ken Rose on the postcranial anatomy of *Didymictis* and *Vulpavus* will be published in *Palaeontology* this summer.

Larry Witmer is involved in probably way too many things (aren't we all?). He is very pleased to have his SVP Memoir project finally moved off his desk and onto your shelves, and gratefully acknowledges the generosity of The Dinosaur Society and the patience of Hans-Dieter Sues. Larry also submitted a few smallish papers and reviews on avian origins and the evolution of pneumaticity in archosaurs and other amniotes. Actually, the resurgence of interest in the origin of birds has kept Larry busy on almost a daily basis, with manuscript, grant, and book reviews and, most importantly, an extensive rewrite of his chapter for the Chiappe/Witmer Mesozoic bird volume for the University of California Press. With regard to the latter, the volume is proceeding as well as can be expected; many of the manuscripts have been reviewed and are in revision with the rest (hopefully) done by fall. The *Deinonychus* project with Des Maxwell (NYCOM) was temporarily put on the back burner, but will return to the fore later this year. Larry also has been spending time organizing (with Thomas Koppe, Oklahoma) a symposium on pneumaticity for the ICVM in Bristol, in which he will try to sell his ideas on the function of pneumaticity to a broader audience. Perhaps most significantly, Larry and Scott Sampson (NYCOM) got their NSF grant to sort out what's going on with the enlarged narial apparatus of a variety of dinosaurs. Larry has already obtained on loan and CT scanned four nice sauropod skulls and a beautiful *Edmontosaurus* skull (many thanks to the Carnegie and Smithsonian museums!). Thomas Carr has been pouring over the sauropod CT scans with customary care and we have come up with some very interesting new findings. The project also has a major component in the extant realm, and Larry, along with Scott and Nikos Solounias (NYCOM) dissected three tapir heads, one of

which was CT and MRI scanned in Ohio; the paper should be submitted by year's end. In a similar vein, Scott and Larry will travel to India this summer to study the narial excrescence (ghara) of the long-snouted crocodilian, the gharial. Similar studies of extant moose, saiga, hooded seal, and others are in the works (or at least Witmer's freezer). (Larry Witmer)

Science Museum of Minnesota

A number of projects are currently continuing in vertebrate paleontology at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Paleontology Hall Director Andy Redline's revision of early Eocene *Hyopsodus* systematics is just out in *Annals of Carnegie Museum*, volume 66, and anyone interested in a reprint is invited to refer to the most recent issue of the SVP Address Directory. In addition to exhibit development and administrative duty, he has just begun to examine the mammals from Tiffanian Wannagan Creek Quarry, North Dakota (opened by Curator Bruce Erickson in the early 1970s). At least one new species of phenacodontid is probably present, as well as more precise identifications of the largely unexamined "arctocyonids."

Curator Bruce Erickson's paper on the osteology of the late Oligocene crocodilian *Gavialosuchus* from South Carolina has just recently been published in the Science Museum of Minnesota's Monograph Series (second author, G. T. Sawyer). Collaborative projects on the fauna and correlation of the Paleocene Black Mingo (South Carolina) with the European and western North American record are also in progress. Field work this past summer effectively closed the Wannagan Creek Quarry to further excavation. However, analysis of the sedimentology and paleoenvironment of this area will continue. Bruce has begun work on a report of the first known plesiosaur material from the state of Minnesota. Bruce continues to work with research associates on studies of crocodilian paleopathologies, the small Poison Creek diplodocid skull, and matrix sample analysis under spectrophotometer.

Recent visitors to the department have included R. Fox (University of Alberta) and Y. Katsura (Montana State University), both working on separate champsosaur studies, J. Hoganson (North Dakota Survey), inventory of Paleocene materials, and S. Foss (Badlands National Park), studying entelodont dental variability and sexual dimorphism.

The Science Museum of Minnesota rushes rapidly toward the opening of a new Saint Paul riverfront facility in early 2000. This has entailed a large amount of new exhibit planning and exploration, including a possible large exhibit on the flora and fauna of Wannagan Creek. It is probable that the move of the collections will still be ongoing in the years after the public opening. Every effort in the relocation plan will be made to keep the paleontology collections accessible during this time with possible "down" times of three months or less currently anticipated. (Andy Redline)

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City

It's been a while since you've heard from us so please forgive the length. Future updates will be shorter.

The Master's in Paleontology program is alive and well at SDSMT. There are currently seven in the program with two more to arrive next semester.

Bruce Schumacher recently defended his dissertation on the Niobrara Formation in southwestern South Dakota and is the first to earn a doctorate from SDSMT with an emphasis on paleontology. His advisor was Jim Martin.

Tom McConnell recently passed his qualifying exams and is planning to be the second to earn his doctorate with a paleontology emphasis at SDSMT. His advisor is also Jim Martin.

Following are the research interests of some of the current graduate students: Tom McConnell, doctoral candidate: Paleofauna and biostratigraphy of the Whitneyan/Arikareean boundary. Analyzing 10,000 recently curated specimens with tight stratigraphic control from a small geographic area of apparently continuous deposition from mid-Whitneyan (Poleslide Member of the Brule Formation) through early Arikareean (Sharps Formation). Discourse welcomed. E-mail: thm2086@silver.sdsmt.edu.

Janet Bertog, master's: Janet has almost finished her research on bentonite stratigraphy of the Sharon Springs and Mitten Black Shale members of the Late Cretaceous Pierre Shale and their bearing on marine vertebrates. She is using trace element compositions to correlate bentonites from the Black Hills and Chamberlain, South Dakota. These bentonites, once correlated, will provide time-stratigraphic marker beds. Christian Maloney, master's: Working on a reptile microsite, which may include Cretaceous mammal remains, in the Hell Creek Formation of South Dakota. She is hoping to tie middle Hell Creek strata into upper and lower HC strata.

Dave Cicimurri, master's: Finishing up his biostratigraphic analysis of Cretaceous elasmobranchs through all 12 formations of western South Dakota. New occurrences of elasmobranch remains have been documented from formations such as the Lakota, Newcastle, and Mowry. He's also been working with elasmobranch remains from the Pennsylvanian portion of the Minnelusa Formation and the Jurassic Sundance Formation.

Heather Finlayson, master's: Study of ankylosaur remains from the Lance Formation (Late Cretaceous), Wyoming. Specimen found within the Thunder Basin National Grassland. Objectives are to prepare and describe the material collected and to explore the taphonomy and paleoenvironmental context of the specimen. Email address: hcf7986@silver.sdsmt.edu.

Darrin Pagnac, master's: Research involves a study of morphological variation within the sauropod genus *Camarasaurus*. He is operating under the hypothesis that speciation within the genus *Camarasaurus* occurred as a result of differing feeding or locomotory

styles. Therefore, he is focusing his study on the elements of the pectoral and pelvic girdle, the upper limb bones, and dorsal vertebrae.

Kathy Stokosa, master's: Research on theropod tooth morphology and comparisons. Comments or suggestions to kms3745@silver.sdsmt.edu.

Jim Martin has been hard at work, but mostly with teaching and administrative duties. He has seven graduate students which also keep him busy. Nevertheless, he continues work on Late Cretaceous plesiosaurs and mosasaurs, as well as Tertiary mammals. Current projects include description of the short-necked plesiosaurs the museum has accumulated over the years, as well as work on the Hemphillian and Rancholabrean deposits of Oregon.

Gordon Bell, Post-doctoral Fellow, continues work on early mosasauroids, mosasauroid systematics, and associated Cretaceous marine fauna. Email to gbell@msmailgw.sdsmt.edu.

Carrie Herbel, Collection Manager/Preparator, has been working on numerous projects both in the lab and with the Big Springs Canyon collection. Two laboratory preparation microscopes were purchased at Carrie's request, much to the delight of many students who need these scopes for their research.

Phil Bjork will return this summer to Richmond Hill to continue excavation of the various cave and fissure deposits. The carnivores are especially interesting. He has been busy in the final scramble to complete the exhibits for the Journey, a new museum facility in Rapid City. Geology and paleontology exhibits will complement those in the Museum of Geology.

J. R. and Mary Lee Macdonald have been extremely busy over the last year or so. Reid is putting the finishing touches on his latest book entitled "The History of Paleontology." He recently translated Jamie Powell's thesis (398 pages) on titanosaurs. The Macdonalds also helped Mary Lee's daughter Pat Vickers Rich with the set up of the Russian dinosaur exhibit in Iowa City and Trenton, New Jersey. (Tom McConnell)

University of Chicago

Paul Sereno and crew, with colleagues from San Juan and Mendoza, completed a successful field season in Patagonian badlands of Late Cretaceous age in Mendoza Province. The finds included a new large theropod and the partial skeleton of a sauropod. Paul also completed a review article on dinosaur evolution for the Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences for 1997. He and his crew are looking forward to work in the Cretaceous of West Africa this fall.

Jeff Wilson has just returned from six months of collections research in European and Indian museums where he was compiling character information for his thesis work on the evolutionary history of sauropod dinosaurs. After he and Paul Sereno complete revisions

of a manuscript on early sauropod evolution, Jeff will begin the description of the freshly prepared remains of a new sauropod from the Cretaceous of Niger.

Jim Hopson is trying to finish his study of dental evolution in early holotherians ("therians") and docodonts, with the aim of assessing the phylogenetic position of the peculiar Chinese Jurassic mammal *Shuotherium dongi*. Submitted are manuscripts with Chris Sidor (see below) and with Jim Clark, Rene Hernandez, and Dave Fastovsky on foot structure and posture in the Jurassic pterosaur from Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Chris Sidor and Jim Hopson have recently submitted a manuscript demonstrating what everyone has known for a long time: the rate at which derived (i.e., more mammalian) features were acquired during the course of synapsid evolution was relatively monotonic. By using a combined pelycosaur/therapsid/mammaliform data matrix, they were able to show a general correspondence between the length of a clade's ghost lineage and the number of derived features inferred to have originated during that interval. Chris plans on extending this project to include morphometric data addressing shape change in the dentary and pelvis before presenting the study at the SVP meeting.

Hans Larsson has been busy organizing the Ontogeny and Paleontology symposium to be held at this year's SVP. At the symposium, he will be presenting his research on alligator ontogeny which compares the order of acquisition of characters in development to their appearance in archosauriform phylogeny.

Darin Croft is working with John Flynn and Andy Wyss on some of the new tyrotheriid notoungulate fossils from the Late Eocene/Early Oligocene Tinguiririca fauna of Chile. He is also studying a diversity of modern herbivores in an effort to better correlate diet with morphology; the end goal is to apply this knowledge toward a better understanding of herbivore interactions in South American paleocommunities.

Laura Panko and Rick Blob are busy preparing to visit collections in England and South Africa for their research projects on therapsid postcrania.

Matt Carrano is continuing his thesis work on the evolution and mechanics of dinosaur locomotion. He spent much of 1996 travelling in Argentina and Europe, examining dinosaur specimens in many impressive museum collections. These were fascinating and informative trips-it was very meaningful to see the materials described by Cuvier, Owen, and Buckland-but he is particularly grateful for the hospitality and kindness of his colleagues. Current work includes analyzing morphometrics of dinosaur, mammal, and avian limb bones, using a database of several thousand specimens, in the light of avian and mammalian hind limb kinematics. Last summer, he and Rick Blob continued collecting microvertebrates from the Judith River Formation type area in central Montana. This project has become part of an ongoing exhibit demonstration at the Field Museum, with the dedicated help of several volunteers (most notably Ross Chisolm, Dennis Kinzig, and Peter Laraba). In this exhibit, which has been very well attended and received, microfossils are picked and sorted under teaching microscopes which are connected to a television monitor, allowing museum visitors to see the specimens as they

are located. Further results from this work will be presented at the 1997 SVP. Speaking of which-welcome to Chicago! (James A. Hopson)

University of Michigan, Museum of Paleontology

Philip Gingerich has been busy working on archaeocetes from Pakistan and recently returned from another successful field season there. Phil is returning to Pakistan shortly and will also visit Tunisia in search of more whales. Phil also recently visited Harvard where he gave two lectures and enjoyed renewing acquaintances with old friends.

Will Clyde successfully defended his dissertation on the stratigraphy and vertebrate paleontology of the McCullough Peaks area in the Bighorn Basin, Wyoming, in April. Will recently attended the Penrose Conference in Albuquerque on the Paleocene-Eocene boundary and will continue his work on aspects of his dissertation related to that boundary event. Will plans to teach at Michigan's Geology Field Camp this summer and do some of his own field work when the opportunity permits. Jonathan Bloch successfully completed his preliminary examinations and continues his work on carpolestid plesiadapiforms and insectivorans from freshwater limestones in the Bighorn Basin. Jon also will spend much of his summer in Wyoming conducting field work.

Bill Sanders will be in London and Nairobi later this summer to undertake research into the origin and early evolution of elephants and is also continuing his analysis of new proboscideans from the Miocene Sinap Formation in Turkey. In lab-related news, Bill reports that he and his assistants, in conjunction with colleagues from the Exhibit Museum, are working feverishly to finish casting and assembling several specimens for the October opening of a new exhibition on the terrestrial to aquatic transformation of life ways in archaeocete *Dorudon*, and a large skull of the archaeocete *Basilosaurus*.

Gregg Gunnell and Bill Bartels continue their research on basin- margin faunas from the Green River Basin in Wyoming. They will be leading a large crew into the field this summer for another season at Oregon Buttes. Will Clyde will join Bill and Gregg and take samples for paleomagnetic analysis of the Oregon Buttes section. Gregg and Bill have recently completed a paper on the Bridgerian Powder Wash assemblage from the Uinta Basin and Gregg has also completed a paper describing the "Bridger A" mammalian faunas from the Green River Basin. In conjunction with the Powder Wash paper, Gregg and Bill visited the Carnegie Museum to examine their collections. Thanks to Mary Dawson, Chris Beard, and Alan Tabrum, their visit was successful and enjoyable. Gregg has been spending most of his spare time working on perissodactyls from the early Bridgerian and trying to sort out basin-margin mammalian faunas. He continues his study of notharctine primates from transitional Wasatchian-Bridgerian assemblages and hopes to make significant progress on this in the next few months.

Amongst all of this activity, Gregg was married to Vicki Yarborough in December in Dallas. Vicki has discovered that Michigan winters are much more unpleasant than those in Texas but is otherwise adjusting to the north and the idea of working on mammals instead of dinosaurs. Vicki and Gregg have been studying new *Palaeosyops* specimens

from the earliest Bridgerian and will report on their results at the upcoming SVP meeting in Chicago. (Gregg F. Gunnell)

Southwest Region

Dallas Museum of Natural History

Geb Bennett has been busy mounting the first skeleton of a new hypsilophodontid from Proctor Lake that is being described by Dale Winkler of Southern Methodist University. This specimen will eventually be joined by two other skeletons as part of a new exhibit next to our *Tenontosaurus* exhibit. Geb is also busy supervising an active corps of volunteers that is primarily working on two projects: a mammoth skeleton that we excavated near Corsicana last fall, and juvenile *Alamosaurus* material from Big Bend National Park. The sauropod material is the result of a joint venture between the National Park Service, Dr. Homer Montgomery of the University of Texas, Dallas, and the Dallas Museum of Natural History. As with any Cretaceous material from the Big Bend area, preparation moves slowly but steadily.

With one manuscript in press (in *Historical Biology*) on the tooth microwear pattern in sauropods, Tony Fiorillo is in the midst of finishing a second, related manuscript, hopefully for submission before heading back out to Big Bend early this summer.

Last summer the Prehistoric Texas Hall at the Dallas Museum of Natural History underwent substantial change that allowed us to put several more specimens on display, including the historic Bird/Brown plaster reconstruction of *Deinosuchus*. The *Protostega* skeletal mount that is positioned such that it is partly over visitors' heads continues to be one of our most popular exhibits. (Tony Fiorillo)

Texas A & M University (formerly East Texas State University)

One last time. It is sad to report that vertebrate paleontology activity here is shut down at least for some time. Since our University's merger with the Texas A & M system in September 1996, our "powers that be" are merging our Earth Sciences and Biology departments and have begun a search for a new departmental head for the combined group. A paleobiologist would surely be a good choice to work with members of either former group; anyone interested? Joan Echols retired in August 1995 (31 years are enough!) and our other vertebrate paleontologist, Jeff Pittman, moved on to greener pastures in Colorado. I (Echols) have missed his helpfulness and interest in our collections and I wish him luck in his new endeavors. With no paleontologist on board to care for our collections, it was most fortunate that our research vertebrate and invertebrate materials have passed to the University of Texas at Austin, and transfer negotiations are currently underway. Ernie Lundelius, Wann Langston, and Melissa Winans took care of the hard work of moving the specimens and I am most grateful for their expert and efficient help in transferring the materials. Melissa Winans is also working to acquire our specimen and other records and will put them on the Web so

specimens and records should be available for future research. It is a great satisfaction to me to have our research collections in their capable hands.

My last few years of teaching here have been busy and productive and several of our more interesting specimens have been the subjects of short papers, including the Pleistocene (Sangamonian) Lake Tawakoni fauna, coauthored with John Pinosof (Daemen College, Amherst, New York), a Wisconsinan muskox (*Bootherium bombifrons*) with Jerry McDonald (Smithsonian Institution), and a Cretaceous bird (*Ichthyornis antecessor*) with David Parris (New Jersey State Museum). Their assistance, hard work, and good company while here working with our specimens was greatly appreciated. None of this could have been accomplished without the interest, expertise, and major amounts of work of all the above-mentioned people; my sincerest thanks to them and to numerous others who have helped in many ways during my 30-year stay here. There are still some loose ends of research to tie up and I should have time for that and some travel, including trips to see some of the great collections and museums that you all have built up and nurtured over the years. Until then, all of you have my best wishes for future success. Signing off...over and out! (Joan Echols)

Rocky Mountain Region

Big Horn Basin Foundation/The Wyoming Dinosaur Center, Thermopolis

The Wyoming Dinosaur Center was inspired by the 1993 rediscovery of Late Jurassic dinosaur fossils on the Warm Springs Ranch near Thermopolis, Wyoming. The museum facility, where fossil specimens are prepared and exhibited, was established in 1994 as a means of keeping the fossils in Wyoming, developing the site as an educational and scientific resource, and preserving one of the state's important assets. The Wyoming Dinosaur Center (WDC) and the Warm Springs Ranch fossil sites are privately owned.

The Big Horn Basin Foundation (BHBF) was established late in 1995 as a means of carrying out the research and educational programs that accompany a dinosaur find of this significance. In May 1996, BHBF received 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status. We established an ambitious set of goals for the Foundation. Our first year's programs include:

"Bones" educational newsletter-designed for teacher education with activities and exercises adaptable to the classroom.

Teachers' Paleontology Workshop-includes short mini-labs, geological field exercises, and fossil excavation and preparation.

"Kids' Dig"-a two-day program for kids ages 8-13, with museum tours, visits with professionals, workshops, and working with professionals on one Warm Springs Ranch dinosaur site.

Educational outreach program-presentations and hands-on interaction with fossil materials. We have visited several Wyoming schools and libraries and have been involved in the Elderhostel program and regional science fairs. In addition, BHBF conducts tours of the WDC museum and fossil dig sites for school classes, scout troops, rock clubs, teachers, and other groups. In autumn of 1996 we began hosting a monthly evening lecture series open to the public.

BHBF research library-currently includes an extensive collection of technical papers on geology and paleontology of the Morrison Formation; a research database of historical and current discoveries, digs, and related materials; as well as rare volumes, papers, and publications on geology and paleontology. The Foundation maintains a Web site with information about current Foundation events, access to technical literature and educational resources, the "Bones" newsletter, and a bibliography containing over 3000 entries (URL <http://www.wyoming.com/~wdc/bhbf>).

In addition to execution of these programs, BHBF geologists (Cheryl and Ty Naus) conduct geologic and paleontologic research of the Warm Springs Ranch fossil sites. Research projects include study of stratigraphy and sedimentology, floral and faunal relationships, applications of ground-penetrating radar in paleontology, and numerical taxonomy.

A new facet of our outreach program, established early in 1997, is the PaleoVan program. The program combines a variety of hands-on materials for classroom use with a curriculum developed in line with the national standards.

Our most recent project has been the restoration, replication, and assembly of a *Triceratops* skull from South Dakota. BHBF contracted with Dr. John Hankla of Kentucky to complete the skull for donation to a children's museum in Kentucky. A copy of the skull will also be mounted in the WDC upon completion. (Cheryl Naus)

Garden Park Paleontology Society

The 6½ tons-of-fun *Stegosaurus stenops* has flipped. In January with the help of Colorado Quarries, the jacket was moved out of the lab, to the quarry yard, and turned over in a spectacular, noneventful, first-time-ever rotation. Along with seven in-training volunteer preparators, the work on the "back" side has begun in earnest. Donna Engard is now staff at Dinosaur Depot in her new position of Curator of Paleontology and is helping the volunteers with the preparation of the specimen. Due to the presence of a wonderful microsite in part of the jacket, some of the finds have included: more probable *Docodon*, Sphenodontia, turtle, lungfish, charophytes, alligator, and crocodile. This work has become a real treat for all of the micropickers. In addition to supervising the lab, Donna is busy planning our first-ever field training this summer. Our new Depot Manager Lisa Leitch and Volunteer/Program Coordinator Phil Wilder are gearing up for summer and booking groups for tours of Dinosaur Depot and the Garden Park Fossil Area. If you are in the Cañon City area (an hour southwest of Colorado Springs, two

hours south of Denver), please come see the work in progress. For information on hours, please call toll free 1-800-987-6379. (Pat Monaco)

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

Greg McDonald managed to escape part of the Idaho winter with a six-week trip to South America. The first two weeks were spent in Venezuela with John Moody of the Universidad de Zulia looking at prospective Pleistocene sites, tar seeps, and caves. While lots of tar seeps or menes were available, the trip to the caves did not materialize and so must await another visit in the future. However, this will probably happen since they definitely have sloth material from one of the caves and that alone should provide Greg with enough incentive for a return to get the rest of the animal. From Venezuela it was on to Belem, Brazil, as part of an exchange between Hagerman Fossil Beds and the Goeldi Museum. In addition to his time in Belem, Greg also managed side trips to the Federal University of Acre in Rio Branco to see their collections and to the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte. Greg wishes to express his thanks to Jonas Pereira de Souza Filho at the former and Castor Cartelle at the latter and Peter de Toledo at the Goeldi Museum for their hospitality. Unfortunately it was just too many sloths and too little time, but there will be other Idaho winters to escape.

Our big news is that we will be conducting excavations at the Hagerman Horse Quarry this summer. Thanks to a grant from the Cannon Foundation provided through the National Parks Foundation, we will be able to do the first taphonomic study of the quarry and begin to understand its origin and the depositional environment. Anyone travelling through Idaho this summer is more than welcome to stop by and visit the operation. We plan to be working from mid-May to mid-September. (Greg McDonald)

Idaho Museum of Natural History

In the January *News Bulletin*, we reported on the discovery by BLM archaeologists of Hemphillian fossils on burned-over BLM land south of Hagerman. The find was reported to us by Jeff Ross, archaeologist for the BLM Jarbidge Resource Area. Thanks to Jeff's alertness and quick action in putting together a proposal on extremely short notice, this is the only paleo project funded through the Golden Partnership Agreement, "America's Vertebrate Fossil Heritage" between SVP and BLM. We will be working together to survey the burn area and to collect, prepare, and curate recovered specimens.

Bill Akersten has received "professional leave" (the equivalent of a sabbatical for nonfaculty) for the first six months of 1998 in order to work on the Idaho VP volume for the Salt Lake City meetings. As of this writing, he is still buried under teaching and paperwork.

Jeff Meldrum (and co-PI Michael Plavcan) received funding from the National Geographic Society for continued field work in southeastern Montana and east-central Idaho. In Montana, they are focusing on middle Eocene faunas close to the Duchesnean-Chadronian boundary, especially Mantle Ranch and McCarty's Mountain.

Mary Flint, Jeff, and Glenn Thackery (Quaternary geologist at Idaho State University) have been studying fossil-bearing late Pleistocene fluvial deposits exposed at the Power County landfill, adjacent to the Snake River. These appear to be deposited in a former tributary to the Snake River and could be a key to understanding the sequence of geological events in the area.

Allen Tedrow and Steve Robinson (Forest Service) have been working the sparse Miocene outcrops of southeastern Idaho and northern Utah and put together a preliminary report on some Clarendonian mammals from northwestern Utah. Dan Axelrod (UC Davis) plans to join them next summer to investigate leaf floras in close association with several of the faunas. One southern Idaho site has yielded the second North American record of the bone-crushing procyonid *Simocyon* which is being described by Allen and John Baskin of Texas A & M Kingsville. Allen also has a paper in press describing a specimen of the mole *Scapanus* (*Xeroscapheus*) from a different southeastern Idaho locality assigned to the Starlight Formation. A paper by Allen and Bill Korth (Rochester Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology) describing two new genera and five new species of aplodontid rodents from the Orellan and Whitneyan of Slim Buttes, South Dakota, has just come out in *Paludicola*, 1(2).

Work continues to go well on the grant-supported collections work under the curatorial supervision of Mary Flint; we did have one minor setback resulting from a software interaction. Also grant supported, Allen Tedrow (with the able assistance of dedicated volunteers) has begun additional preparation and stabilization of some of the mammoth materials collected from American Falls Reservoir many years ago while continuing preparation on the Tolo Lake mammoth material. (Bill Akersten)

Old Trail Museum

We have been gearing up for a busy summer of field paleontology programs, including our family programs, courses with college credit, and elderhostels. Thankfully, our trusty instructor Todd Crowell (a.k.a. TheroTodd) returns for his third year with the OTM. Also making a comeback is Gareth "Y.M.C.A." Dyke, a University of Bristol student. Gareth and I will continue with microsite work and the excavation of a tyrannosaurid (found by Todd) from low in the Two Medicine Formation. Although busy with exhibit preparation and teaching, I squeezed in short trips to Chicago to work on Morocco geology with Paul Sereno and company and to New York (thanks to an AMNH grant) to work on some Two Medicine bird material. (David Varricchio)

Sheridan College, Department of Geology, Wyoming

Over the winter months the students and faculty at Sheridan College continue working with our new system of mapping and field data cataloguing using a field laptop PC to download paleontological attributes and DGPS position data on scrolling quarry maps and synchronize them with aerial or terrestrial video images.

Mike Flynn and Pete Wilson continue to work on organizing our prep lab. The department has a good deal of prep work to keep us all busy on Cloverly Formation specimens for many months. Mike Flynn's field party prospected a number of areas of the Cloverly Formation in northern Wyoming and southern Montana and found a number of *Tenontosaurus* sites to be excavated during the 1997 field season in the Bighorn and western Powder River basins.

As field season moves into high gear the paleo students and volunteers will be opening up the college's dinosaur quarry for the sixth year within the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation. A very interesting *Allosaurus* quarry has been developed during the end of field season 1996. Plans for field season 1997 include three college credit courses located at the college's Morrison quarry, and continuing our field research within the Cloverly/Morrison formations, Bighorn and northern Powder River basins, Wyoming and Montana. (Mike Flynn)

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

After two years as Collections Manager for the UW Department of Geology and Geophysics, Jean-Pierre Cavigelli is about to conclude his stint. The database he designed is up and running, and a reasonable amount of order has been brought to the collections. On the other hand, we are still waiting for bits and pieces to come in to get the prep lab up and running, and for electricity to be installed into our washroom facility. J-P will be working for Montana State University at Egg Mountain this summer and is looking forward to being on Paul Sereno's crew for a return to the Cretaceous of Niger in the fall. J-P will be doing freelance preparation work upon his return to the States and is always looking for more material to prepare.

Penny Higgins began a preliminary paleomagnetic study of rocks in her field research area in the Hanna Basin this semester. Further research on the paleomagnetism and the biostratigraphy will continue through the summer field season. This research will contribute to the correlation of the geomagnetic polarity time scale with the Torrejonian-Tiffanian Land Mammal Age boundary. She plans on spending at least a month this summer in the Hanna Basin working on the magnetostratigraphy, biostratigraphy, petrology, and taphonomy of the Hanna Formation as she works to complete her Ph.D.

John Burris is looking forward to getting back into the field to conduct some more research. He will use the reworked shark and ray teeth he collected from the Hanna Formation and surrounding Late Cretaceous formations last summer, as well as other sedimentological and structural evidence, to address the questions of the erosional/depositional evolution of the Hanna Basin.

Ross Secord is nearing completion of his paleontological resource project for the Forest Service and BLM. Ross will have evaluated over 200 formations in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Ross is looking forward to

continuing his search for new Paleocene mammalian localities in Wyoming and Colorado this summer.

Anton Wroblewski will continue his geological research in the Hanna Basin as a Ph.D. project with Dr. Ron Steel. He'll be studying the fluvial sedimentology of the Ferris Formation in hopes of refining models of deposition in rapidly subsiding foreland basins. In his spare time, Anton's been studying the holotype and topotype specimen of *Heptasuchus clarki*. Sadly, much of this important specimen is missing. If you have any information on its whereabouts, drop us a line.

Jay Lillegraven is busy with his exciting research on the interesting geology and paleontology of the Hanna Basin of Wyoming. Michael Webb continues his studies and is looking forward to the upcoming field season.

Brent Breithaupt (UW Geological Museum) has finished a number of papers dealing with the early days of fossil collecting in the West. The Museum continues to evolve with displays dealing with "Fossil Preparation" and "Tropical Wyoming" scheduled for completion later this year. (Brent Breithaupt)

West Coast Region

Occidental College, Los Angeles, California

Don Prothero just received a two-year NSF grant to continue working on the magnetic stratigraphy of the marine Cenozoic of the Pacific Coast. On May 16, he ran a day-long symposium at the Pacific Section SEPM-AAPG meeting in Bakersfield, on the "Magnetic stratigraphy and high-resolution chronostratigraphy of the Pacific Coast Cenozoic." Eleven of the talks were given by present or former Occidental students! He'll be working on the classic sections of the west San Joaquin Valley in May, and then on to Oregon and Washington in August.

In addition to the 12 papers that Don authored or coauthored in the Cambridge volume, the following have just appeared: "Faunal stability during the Eocene-Oligocene climatic crash," *Palaeo3*, 127:239-256; "Magnetic stratigraphy and tectonic rotation of the middle-upper Miocene Santa Margarita and Chanac formations, north-central Transverse Ranges, California" (with Erin Wilson); and "Magnetic stratigraphy of the middle Miocene Bopesta Formation, southern Sierra Nevada, Kern County, California" (with Sean Coles, Jom Quinn, and Carl Swisher); the latter two papers are in the new SEPM Undergraduate Research special publication. Another half-dozen papers on Cenozoic magnetic stratigraphy will appear later this year in the symposium volume based on the May 16 meeting. In addition, Don completed the writing on his paleontology textbook, and is now busy working on the long-delayed hoofed mammal book for Johns Hopkins, and on a new physical geology textbook.

In December, Don visited the University of Montpelier to serve on a dissertation jury, and to give a talk. It was a real experience hanging around with so many Eocene mammal

specialists, and trying to communicate in "Franglais." Don thanks his hosts in Montpellier for all of their hospitality and generosity. They certainly know how to hold a dissertation defense!

Kris McCardel successfully defended her honors thesis on the magnetic stratigraphy and tectonic rotation of the Miocene Caliente Formation, and has presented her results already at the Southern California Council on Undergraduate Research and at the National CUR in Austin, Texas. She has been accepted to the graduate program in paleoanthropology at the University of Texas, Austin, next fall. Congratulations, Kris! (Don Prothero)

UNITED KINGDOM

Palaeobiology Group, Department of Geology, University of Portsmouth

Last year was a busy one and this year looks as though it will be more so. There are now eight active members of the Portsmouth Palaeobiology Group. We welcomed the arrival of our new technician (stolen from the Biology Department) Mr. Bob Loveridge, who, as an amateur paleontologist, is teaching us rather more than we are teaching him. Dave Loydell, although usually firmly entrenched in Paleozoic biostratigraphy, has put his graptolites to one side to concentrate, at least for a while, on a small dinosaur he discovered with excellent preservation of soft tissues. The only problem is that he discovered it as a paperweight when clearing out a deceased lecturer's belongings. It is probably from the famous Lower Lias of Dorset, but Dave eagerly awaits the results of a palynological analysis to test this notion. Mike Barker, Dave Martill, and honorary research assistant Jane Clark have had their manuscript on "Bones as diagenetic windows" accepted by the Geological Society of France and look forward to seeing the color plate. Jane continues to cut up bones, and is currently examining the dermal scutes of a number of UK dinosaurs, and would welcome offers of any dinosaur scute material that is surplus to requirements.

Steve Hutt, Dave Martill, and Mike Barker recently had their paper naming *Neovenator salerii* published and all suffered at the hands of the media. It's fun to be an international superstar and NBC whisked Mike Barker to their London Studio in a chauffeur-driven limo to inform the American public just before Superbowl XXXII.

Last year Dave Martill, Lorna Steel, and John Kirk, with Alexander Anders and Dino Frey of Karlsruhe, built a life-size skeleton of the giant pterosaur *Arambourgiania*. At 11.5-m wing span, finding a place to hang this little glider proved a problem. It is currently touring the UK. Also on the pterosaur front, Lorna Steel's work on pterosaur bone histology is progressing well, as is the preparation of some new material from the Isle of Wight found by local collector Mr. Mick Green.

Dave continues to work with the Leicester City Museum team of Arthur Cruickshank and John Martin and late last year saw the publication of their new pachyostotic pliosaur from the Oxford Clay. Despite more than 100 years of collecting, this Middle Jurassic

formation still yields new animals. Arthur, Dave, and Dino Frey are just putting the finishing touches to a description of a new dinosaur from South America, while Dave and Dino hope to have the redescription of the rediscovered holotype of *Arambourgia* in press shortly.

Dave Unwin and Dave Martill got a touch excited last year when they thought they had found blood cells in a pterosaur bone, but their enthusiasm waned a little when analysis showed the cell-like objects to be nothing more than weathered framboids of iron pyrite. A paper describing them, and urging caution to all who claim to have found dinosaur blood, will be out shortly.

This academic year also saw the start of the first degree course in paleobiology in the UK and to start off the proceedings, the first day was spent in the field on the Isle of Wight tracking dinosaurs. The enthusiasm of the new students was not diminished even when the tide came up to our waists. (Dave Martill)

- BULLETIN BOARD -

Specimen Transfer

Late Tertiary vertebrate paleontologic specimens collected under permit from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (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 Research Center, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 200 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004. Primary LACM type specimens remain in the care of the LACM.

ABDSP vertebrate paleontologic specimens, including the recently acquired Imperial Valley College Museum 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, (706) 767-4974, or jeffersn@pacbell.net. (George Jefferson)

Call for Papers

Articles on any aspect of vertebrate paleontology are considered for the new journal from the Rochester Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology, *Paludicola* (see Publications, below). However, photographs or scanning electron micrographs cannot be reproduced at this time. This journal is intended as an "in-house" publication for those not affiliated with an institution that has such a journal. Therefore, priority will be given to those without such an affiliation. There is still space available for short papers for the fall 1997 issue (expected publication date, October).

For information or to submit manuscripts, contact either of the co-editors. William W. Korth, Rochester Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology, 928 Whalen Road, Penfield, NY

14526, (716) 383-0714; or Judy A. Massare, Department of Earth Sciences, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY 14420, (716) 395-2419, fax (716) 395-2416, e-mail jmassare@weather.brockport.edu. (William W. Korth)

Professional Fossil Preparation Service Available

J-P Cavigelli is looking for contract preparation work to be done in his lab next year. His experience is mostly with, but not limited to, small vertebrates. He does primarily mechanical preparation work. Anyone who has material that needs to be prepared but doesn't have the time or the facilities, can contact him to discuss details. He can be reached at 4318 Gray's Gable Road, Laramie WY 82070, or at (307) 742-4651.

Dinosaur Talks: Charles M. Sternberg

"Dinosaur Talks: Charles M. Sternberg," new 90-minute cassette album with liner notes by Philip J. Currie, is now available from Fossil Records, 2805 N. Keystone St., Burbank CA 91504-1604. Also available are "Edwin H. Colbert" and "Elmer S. Riggs" in this series and the music albums "Dinosaur Tracks," "More Dinosaur Tracks," and "Dinosaur Tracks Again." Tapes are still \$10 each (postage/handling waived for SVP) and approved by The Dinosaur Society. (Don Glut)

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BENEFIT

AUCTION AND SOCIAL

Associated with the 57th Annual Meeting of the SVP

The Great Hall of the Ramada Congress Hotel

Chicago, Illinois

Friday October 10, 1997

6:30-11:00 PM

Schedule of Events

6:30 - Start of Silent Auction

8:30 - End of Silent Auction

9:00 - Start of Live Auction

10:30 - End of Live Auction

The Society encourages you to be part of this popular and entertaining event by donating an item. Last year over 300 items were available. Possible donations include books, field gear, laboratory supplies, artwork, casts, toys, teaching aids, tee shirts, filmstrips, photographs, models, or any other suitable material dealing with paleontology, evolution, geology, or biology. Novelty and humorous items should not be overlooked, as the auction is a festive event.

Proceeds from the event go to one of the Society's educational programs.

See the meeting circulars for donation forms and contact Brent Breithaupt with information on your donation. Packages should be sent to the Ramada Congress Hotel. Materials should not arrive **before September 30**. You may also turn in auction items at the registration desk during registration hours prior to the auction.

Brent Breithaupt SVP Benefit Auction

Geological Museum Ramada Congress Hotel

University of Wyoming 520 South Michigan Avenue

Laramie WY 82071-3006 Chicago IL 60605

ph (307) 766-2646 / fax (307) 766-6679

uwgeoms.uwyo.edu

Your contributions and participation are appreciated!!

- PUBLICATIONS -

Australian Quaternary Vertebrates

The Linnean Society of New South Wales announces publication of "Australian Quaternary Vertebrates" (March 1997). The book contains 238 pages with 15 papers. Topics include functional anatomy of kangaroos, a thorough discussion of the biology of *Propleopus* by David Ride, a review of historical aspects of Quaternary studies in eastern Australia, and a review of the crocodilian genus *Pallimnarchus*. Northern hemisphere readers can obtain a personal copy for US\$35 (including postage) from Dr. D. R. Breakey, P. O. Box 3698, Salem OR 97302, USA (checks made to D. R. Breakey). Orders from elsewhere and all orders for libraries or institutions need to be placed with the Linnean Society of New South Wales, P. O. Box 457, Milsons Point NSW 2061, Australia.

New Journal

The first two issues of a new peer-reviewed journal of vertebrate paleontology, *Paludicola*, are now available. It is published twice annually (fall and spring). Subscription rates are \$12 for individuals and \$20 for institutions. Back issues can be ordered for \$5 (Vol. 1, no. 1) and \$7 (Vol. 1, no. 2). For more information and a listing of contents, contact either of the co-editors. William W. Korth, Rochester Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology, 928 Whalen Road, Penfield, NY 14526, (716) 383-0714; or Judy A. Massare, Department of Earth Sciences, SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY 14420, (716) 395-2419, fax (716) 395-2416, e-mail jmassare@weather.brockport.edu. (William W. Korth)

New Article on Baryonyx walkeri

Charig, A. J., and A. C. Milner. *Baryonyx walkeri*, the fish-eating dinosaur from the Wealden of Surrey. *Bulletin of the Natural History Museum Geology*, 53:11-70.

This work contains a complete description of the enigmatic Early Cretaceous theropod dinosaur found just 30 miles south of London in 1983. Detailed line drawings and a new full-page color restoration by the British artist John Sibbick accompany the anatomical account. The phylogenetic relationships of *Baryonyx* to other spinosauroids, and more widely to other theropods, are considered together with paleoecology, mode of life, and taphonomy. Covered separates are available from Intercept Ltd, P. O. Box 716, Andover, Hants. SP10 1YG, UK. Fax +44 1264 334058. Checks (made payable to "Intercept Ltd"), proforma invoice, Visa/ MasterCard/AmEx accepted. Price includes postage and packing worldwide. Angela C. Milner, Department of Palaeontology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, United Kingdom. E-mail: acm@nhm.ac.uk, voicemail: +44 (0)171 938 8727, fax: +44 (0)171 938 9277. (Angela Milner)

Oklahoma Geological Survey Publications in Vertebrate Paleontology

The Oklahoma Geological Survey, University of Oklahoma, issues numerous publications (maps, short notes, monographs, among others) relating to the earth sciences in Oklahoma. Below are available items relating specifically to VP. For orders or a complete listing of available publications, contact the Publications Sales Office, Oklahoma Geological Survey, 1218-B W. Rock Creek Road, Norman, OK 73069-8590; voice (405) 360-2886, fax (405) 366-2882. (Richard L. Cifelli)

Bulletin 127. Cranial anatomy of primitive captorhinid reptiles from the Late Pennsylvanian and Early Permian, Oklahoma and Texas, by M. J. Heaton. 84 pp, 34 fig, 2 tab. 1979. Clothbound, \$10.50; paperbound, \$6.50.

Circular 37. A new Pleistocene fauna from Harper County, Oklahoma, by D. W. Taylor and C. W. Hibbard. 23 pp, 1 fig. 1955. Clothbound, \$2.00; paperbound \$1.00.

Circular 45. A Pliocene vertebrate fauna from Ellis County, Oklahoma, by D. B. Kitts., 27 pp, 1 pl. 1957. Paperbound \$1.00.

Circular 48. Cenozoic geology of northern Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, by D. B. Kitts; and A Pliocene vertebrate fauna from Roger Mills County, by D. B. Kitts and C. C. Black. 48 pp, 2 fig, 1 pl. 1959. Paperbound, \$1.00.

Circular 69. Geology of the Cenozoic rocks of Ellis County, Oklahoma, by D. B. Kitts. 30 pp, 5 fig, 1 pl. 1965. Paperbound \$2.00

Circular 74. Early Permian vertebrates of Oklahoma, by E. C. Olson. 111 pp, 12 fig, 3 pl. 1967. Paperbound, \$3.00.

SP94-1. Catalog of type and figured fossil vertebrates. Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, by N. J. Czaplewski, R. L. Cifelli, and W. Langston, Jr. 35 pp, 5 fig, 2 tab. 1994. \$2.00.

SP96-4. Techniques for recovery and preparation of microvertebrate fossils, edited by R. L. Cifelli. 36 pp. \$2.00.

SP96-5. Rockhounding and earth-science activities in Oklahoma, 1995 workshop, edited by K. S. Johnson and N. H. Suneson. 139 pp, 17 contributions. \$6.00.

- POSITIONS AVAILABLE -

Curatorial Assistant

The Section of Paleontology and Geology at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, anticipates an opening (mid- to late summer 1997) for a permanent, part-time (37 hrs/2 weeks) position (Custodial Guide 2). This position currently pays \$10.85/hr and carries limited benefits (i.e., sick, annual, and personal leave only). Qualifications: B.A. or B.S. in geology or biology required, M.S. degree preferred. The successful candidate should have a working knowledge of vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils.

Duties involve: assisting the Senior Curator of the section in the curation, organization, and storage of the paleontological and geological collections, including basic specimen preparation (including cast and mold making, operating air abrasive and air dent units) moving specimens for storage and exhibition; assembling data on and cataloging specimens; inventorying specimens. Ability to lift heavy specimens required. Use of computers is mandatory. Knowledge of Paradox, WordPerfect, and Papyrus software desirable. He/she will execute purchasing and maintain purchasing records for the section. The curatorial assistant will oversee the daily maintenance of Dino Lab (an interactive exhibit). Other duties including assisting the Senior Curator in developing exhibits and public (educational) programs; assisting in field work and research activities as well as other related duties as assigned. U.S. citizenship required.

For application forms, interested individuals should contact Dr. Robert M. Sullivan, Section of Paleontology and Geology, The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Third and North Streets, P. O. Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 19108-1026; e-mail:

rsullivan@sparky.cmic.state.pa.us; phone (717) 783-9897; fax (717) 783-4558. (R. M. Sullivan)

Fossil Butte National Monument Paleontological Internship, June 1-August 30, 1997

Fossil Butte National Monument is offering an internship position for a 12-week period during the summer of 1997. The two primary activities will be fossil collection and preparation. Fossil Butte National Monument is currently involved in the active collection of fossils at two localities: one within Monument boundaries provides data for evaluating a near-shore paleoenvironment and the changes within it over time; the other locality is in deeper-water sediments and represents different flora and fauna, as well as the opportunity to investigate a larger area stratigraphically. Sufficient volume of fossil material is collected from these localities to require a dedicated effort towards their preparation in order to collect additional data not readily evident in field examination. Fossil preparation requires diligence, patience, and attention to detail along with the mastery of air scribe and airbrasive equipment.

This position is funded by the Geologic Resources Division through the Student Conservation Association. Call SCA at (603) 543-1700 for applications. For more information contact Peter Ambrose, Park Paleontologist, Fossil Butte National Monument, P. O. Box 592, Kemmerer, WY 83101; (307) 877-4455, e-mail peter_ambrose@nps.gov. (Peter Ambrose)

- OBITUARIES -

Wesley L. Bliss, 1905-1996

Wesley Bliss was born June 27 on a farm near Greeley, Colorado. After earning his B.A. in geology at the University of Northern Colorado, he was retained by the Los Angeles Museum of History, Science and Art (now the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County) as a day laborer, excavating at the Rancho La Brea "tar pits." Between 1929 and 1930, Bliss undertook the first effort to recover microfossils from these asphalt deposits. The "Bliss 29" sites, which included pits A, B, C, and D, yielded thousands of arthropod, mollusk, plant, and small vertebrate fossils by using wet and dry screening techniques. Wes proved to be an excellent field man and was recruited by Chester Stock to collect vertebrate fossils and map sediments in southern California; he pioneered work in the Sespe and Barstow formations and Coso Mountains. In 1931, Stock sent Bliss to locate paleontologic resources in northern Mexico, a journey which resulted in the discovery of San Josecito Dave. This site was later excavated by the California Institute of Technology and yielded a wealth of late Pleistocene vertebrate fossils.

During his early paleontologic work, Bliss became interested in early human history and decided to pursue graduate studies at the University of New Mexico, where he earned an anthropology M.A. in 1936. His thesis work at Kuaua prompted the adaptation of jacketing techniques to the removal of fragile kiva murals for laboratory preparation and exhibition. He was also instrumental in the discovery and interpretation of early human

habitation in Sandia Cave, New Mexico. His interest in archaeology led to excavations of historic fort sites in Pennsylvania, to arctic expeditions searching for migratory pathways of the first Americans and to work with the Smithsonian's research in the northern Great Plains. He completed his doctoral work at the University of Arizona in 1952 with a dissertation on archaeological field methods.

Bliss pioneered pipeline archaeology in the Southwest in the 1950s. He taught at California State University, Northridge, leading many summer field expeditions in the Southwest until his retirement in 1972. His publications include papers on kiva murals, plains and pipeline archaeology, and a monograph on historic forts in Pittsburgh.

Wes died quietly in his sleep at his home in Ojai, California, on August 13. (Submitted by Chris Shaw and Cathy McNassor with information from Shirley Bliss and a note by David M. Brugge in the December issue of the *American Anthropological Association Newsletter*.)

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 permission.

- Fossil vertebrate specimens should be prepared by, or under the supervision of, trained personnel.
- Scientifically significant fossil vertebrate specimens, along with ancillary data, should be curated and accessioned in the collections of repositories charged in perpetuity with conserving fossil vertebrates for scientific study and education (e.g., accredited museums, universities, colleges, and other educational institutions).
- Information about vertebrate fossils and their accompanying data should be disseminated expeditiously to both scientific community and interested general public.
- The barter, sale, or purchase of scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is not condoned unless it brings them into, or keeps them within, a public trust. Any other trade or commerce in scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is inconsistent with the foregoing, in that it deprives both the public and professionals of important specimens, which are part of our natural heritage."

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