

SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY NEWS BULLETIN

Number 195 • Fall 2008

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the midyear meeting in early June, the Executive Committee met in Washington, DC. In addition to accomplishing SVP business, U.S. members of the Executive Committee spent a day visiting their legislators on Capitol Hill. These visits, coordinated by staff from the American Geological Institute, were very informative.

Overall, our Society is in great shape. We have a steadily increasing membership that enthusiastically supports the publications, annual meetings, and other activities of our Society. The match between the Society's finances and its regular activities, as well new programs such as the student travel fund and the first SVP field conference, is very sound. The staff at the Business Office shows dedication, effectiveness, and increasing levels of understanding of SVP's needs and activities.

The new initiatives underway reflect the strategic goals developed in 2006. These plans include (1) promoting the science of vertebrate paleontology in new ways both to the SVP community and to the interested public, (2) improving services to members and engaging new members in SVP, and (3) raising the visibility of SVP to the media and the public. Regarding the science of vertebrate paleontology, the Hanna Basin Field Conference in August 2008 is the first SVP-sponsored field conference and inaugurates a new series of scientific events for vertebrate paleontologists. Plans for future field and topical conferences are under discussion. The Climate Forum during the Cleveland meeting is an SVP event that highlights the contributions of the fossil record to our general understanding of environmental change.

New services for members include the Jackson School of Geosciences Student Member Travel Grant, which now supports a substantial number of students (25 from inside and 15 from outside the U.S. to Austin in 2007) who present papers at the annual meeting. Also in place is sponsorship of *JVP* subscriptions for institutions in developing countries, and a new program is in progress to provide funds to paleontologists from developing countries to attend the annual meeting. This program will be launched in 2009 for attendance at the Bristol meeting.

In keeping with the strategic plans, we have developed more regular contact with the media. The SVP now distributes a press release with each issue of the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. These *JVP* press releases have had a very positive response on the wire service. Other press releases cover the annual meetings, the Romer-Simpson medalist, and current events relevant to SVP, such as legislation about the teaching of evolution in public schools. We offered a workshop on communicating with the media at the Austin annual meeting and will offer another such workshop at the Cleveland meeting. We have recruited a Media Response Team of SVP members to field journalists' questions and interviews regarding breaking news in vertebrate paleontology and related fields.

Ethical concerns are on the rise in our Society. These range from long-standing concerns about the presence of members with commercial interests within SVP to aspects of professional conduct within academia. These broader subjects have challenged the Executive Committee to assess when SVP should take responsibility for evaluating the behavior of its members. Following this report are three statements posted earlier this year by the Executive Committee about ethics complaints concerning plagiarism and scooping a colleague. These statements resulted from the Society's procedure for evaluating a charge of ethical violation. Regarding these particular allegations (concerning publications by Spencer Lucas and coauthors), the Executive Committee was concerned that the tone of some reactions on blogs and the VP listserv to the allegations revealed a rush to judge that stood in the way of a fair, unbiased evaluation of the cases. While public discussions of ethical matters are very important, they need to stay focused on the issues.

The 2008 annual meeting in Cleveland is in advanced stages of planning, with early registration underway and the scientific program now established. The meeting will feature a special presentation by the internationally renowned photographer Frans Lanting about his Life through Time project. Also, we will offer a special forum about climate change with scientists Elizabeth Hadly, Thure Cerling, and Jack Williams discussing how the fossil record of climate change holds insights for modern environmental changes. Ensure that you're a part of these unique events—don't forget to register before August 28 to receive the discounted rate.

On the horizon is the first SVP meeting to be held in Europe. The 2009 Bristol meeting, during the Charles Darwin bicentennial year, promises to be one of the most memorable of all annual meetings. I urge you to attend this meeting and to take advantage of its proximity to some of the great field areas, museums, and history of paleontology and evolution. For 2010 and beyond, we are evaluating invitations from Iowa City, Grand Junction, Colorado, Pittsburgh, and Edmonton.

In closing, I would like to recognize and thank Kate VanZanten and others at the Business Office who have done exemplary work for us over the last year. And thanks to all of you for your dedication to vertebrate paleontology and SVP! (Catherine Badgley)

STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS OF UNETHICAL CONDUCT FROM J. MARTZ, W. PARKER, M. TAYLOR, AND M. WEDEL AGAINST S. LUCAS, A. HUNT, A. HECKERT, AND J. SPIELMANN

The SVP Executive Committee has reviewed the report from the Ethics Education Committee regarding allegations brought by Jeffrey Martz (and colleagues) and separately by William Parker concerning improper and unethical conduct in publishing and attributing credit on the part of Spencer G. Lucas, Adrian P. Hunt, Andrew B. Heckert, and Justin P. Spielmann (henceforth, Lucas et al.).

The Ethics Education Committee followed its stated protocol for evaluating the charge of an ethics violation. The accused party was notified of the allegations and was given an opportunity to reply in detail. Both the accusers and the accused were given the opportunity for a second round of responses. All of these communications were treated as confidential, and this Committee will release none of the reports for public view. We note that none of the members of the Ethics Education Committee has any conflicts of interest regarding these cases (none of the Committee members has collaborated with, coauthored with, advised, or been a student of either the accusers or the accused individuals). The Executive Committee is confident that the review by the Ethics Education Committee has taken the allegations and responses seriously and has presented an unbiased judgment. Below we summarize the conclusions from the review.

Allegations of Martz et al.

Jeffrey W. Martz, Michael P. Taylor, and Matthew J. Wedel accused Lucas et al. of committing plagiarism in the 2006 publication by Spielmann et al. in the *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin* (reference listed below). Martz et al. claimed that Spielmann et al. took credit for re-interpretation of an aetosaur osteoderm without crediting the master's thesis of Jeffrey Martz (2002) for the same insight. While it was an oversight of Spielmann et al. not to indicate by citation that J. Martz had previously reached a similar conclusion concerning the orientation of the scute, the Ethics Education Committee concluded that this omission did not rise to the level of plagiarism, in which there is clear intent to take someone else's work and pass it off as one's own. Spielmann et al. (2006) cited Martz (2002) extensively (14 times) in the 2006 paper. Indeed, Martz's thesis is one of the two most heavily cited references. The authors of Spielmann et al. (2006) acknowledged that it was an "oversight" on their part not to cite Martz (2002) in the discussion of the re-interpretation of the orientation of the osteoderm, and stated that they had no intention of plagiarizing his ideas.

Allegations of Parker

William Parker accused Spencer G. Lucas, Adrian P. Hunt, and Justin P. Spielmann of deliberately rushing to publish a new genus name (*Rioarribasuchus*) for the aetosaur *Desmotosuchus chamaensis*, despite these authors knowing that Parker had been working on the same material for several years, and that he intended to reassign the material to a new genus in a forthcoming publication. The two-page paper naming this genus by Lucas, Hunt, and Spielmann appeared in the December 2006 issue of the *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin* and was followed by Parker's publication in the *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology* (January 2007) that erected the genus name *Heliocanthus* for the species, as part of a larger review of aetosaur phylogeny.

Faced with conflicting testimonies, the Ethics Education Committee was not able to resolve these allegations in favor of either side, a position that does not absolve either party of responsibility. For example, Parker claimed that he had permission from staff members of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science to study the aetosaur material and publish on the fossils, but Lucas et al. assert that only Lucas can grant such permission, and that he did not. Parker claimed that Lucas said in a conversation at the museum (corroborated by a witness) that he (Parker) should name the new genus. However, neither Lucas nor his provided witness claim to have any recollection of this conversation. Parker noted that he expressed his intention to publish on the new genus in a number of venues (abstracts, talks, other papers), but Lucas et al. state that they were unaware of his intentions to publish a new name, noting that they knew only that Parker considered the genus assignment incorrect. They do cite Parker and Irmis (2005) in their 2006 paper as justification for the assignment of *Desmotosuchus chamaensis* to a new genus, but maintain that they came to their own determination, independent of the work by Parker and his colleagues.

Lessons Learned

The report concludes with suggestions about how these conflicts might have been avoided. We reiterate those suggestions here and offer several additional perspectives.

First, science is both an individual and a social process. Achievement involves not only individual and collaborative discoveries and publications but also support of other workers, especially junior scientists, in one's scientific community. Overly competitive behavior does not necessarily further our discipline.

Second, while neither the allegations of Martz et al. nor those of Parker are explicitly covered under the SVP Ethics Bylaw, the allegations do concern matters of professional conduct and propriety. Matters such as plagiarism and theft lie partly in the domain of SVP as a scientific society, but they are more directly the responsibility of employers and journal editors as well as individuals. We expect reviews of professional conduct to be unbiased and free of conflicts of interest (real or apparent), regardless of whether they are performed by professional societies, employers, or editors. The review by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science of the complaints leveled by Martz and Parker was conducted in part by scientists who had prior association with the accused, which made the conclusions of that review appear less than objective and did little to resolve the issues in a satisfactory way.

Third, specialists working separately on the same fossil material can indeed independently reach the same conclusion about morphology, taxonomy, or other aspects of the fossils. Indeed the foundations of our science are based on the premise that repeatable conclusions can be reached objectively by independent study of the same material. Intellectual theft, therefore, can be difficult to prove without specific documentation that goes beyond, for example, similarities in anatomical description.

Fourth, the editorial practices of the *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin* have left the authors vulnerable to the appearance of impropriety. Authors, including volume

editors, have commissioned reviews of their own manuscripts; manuscripts have been reviewed in-house by other Museum personnel; and journal editors have made decisions about whether to accept their own papers for publication. These procedures do little to protect authors from charges of inappropriate conduct, should such charges be made in error.

Fifth, lack of communication can exacerbate conflicts such as these two. For example, if Parker had notified Lucas and colleagues in 2006 of his accepted manuscript naming the new genus and sent them a copy of the manuscript, then it would have been clearly unethical for Lucas et al. to move forward with their own publication. Similarly, when Lucas et al. first became aware that Parker intended to publish upon the fossils that Lucas and colleagues were (to their minds, exclusively) studying, it would have been prudent for Lucas or his colleagues to contact Parker about the apparent conflict.

Sixth, the expectation that theses and dissertations that have not been republished in widely read periodicals will be read by most workers or manuscript reviewers is unlikely to be realized. If students publish material in theses or dissertations that they intend to republish in other venues, they should be wary about circulating their work until publication is well under way, if they are concerned that their work is topical enough that other workers might want to draw immediately from their findings. Conversely, those who are aware of the results of an unpublished thesis should allow the thesis writer a reasonable time to publish his or her results first, even if similar results are obtained independently.

Finally, the public posting of opinion and correspondence about these allegations on the Internet has not been helpful to resolving these matters, both in regard to the SVP Ethics Education Committee fairly resolving the matters, but also in that it has potentially polarized and biased the vertebrate paleontology community in a way that jeopardizes fair consideration of these matters as a community.

To reduce the likelihood of similar situations arising in the future, the Ethics Education Committee has drafted a set of “best practices” in publishing and museum research. This document will provide SVP members and their organizations with a professional and ethical foundation from which to build stronger research relationships. In addition, the Ethics Education Committee and Executive Committee are in the process of evaluating whether to amend and expand the Bylaw on Ethics, so that any future such complaints—if found to have merit—can be acted upon more forcefully.

Literature cited

Lucas, S. G., A. P. Hunt, and J. P. Spielmann. 2006. *Rioarribasuchus*, a new name for an aetosaur from the Upper Triassic of north-central New Mexico. *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin* 37: 581–582.

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Parker, W. 2007. Reassessment of the aetosaur *Desmatosuchus chamaensis* with a reanalysis of the phylogeny of the Aetosauria (Archosauria: Pseudosuchia). *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology* 5: 41–68.

Spielmann, J. A., A. P. Hunt, S. G. Lucas, and A. B. Heckert. 2006. Revision of *Redondasuchus* (Archosauria: Aetosauria) from the Upper Triassic Redonda Formation, New Mexico, with description of a new species. *New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science Bulletin* 37: 583–587.

ADDENDUM TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S FINAL STATEMENT CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS FROM MARTZ, PARKER, WEDEL AND TAYLOR

The Executive Committee would like to make clear that the decision to review the allegations brought by Martz, Parker, Wedel, and Taylor was made solely in response to their letters addressed to the SVP President, as per our stated procedures. Our decision to review the case was made before the *Nature* article was published or the correspondence had been posted to the Internet; we did not review the case because of “blogs” or other forms of written or verbal communication. We would not have investigated the matter if we had not received a written request asking us to do so.

We encourage all SVP members to discuss ethical concerns amongst themselves. In this particular case, however, private correspondence was made public without the permission of either sender or recipient, which put the Ethics Education Committee in a difficult position. As public discussion increased and involved more people, so did the chance that members of the Ethics Education or Executive committees would be placed in an inadvertent (and avoidable) conflict of interest and be forced to limit their involvement in the case. Care must be taken to ensure that “open communication” does not derail efforts to remain comprehensive and impartial.

If students or others continue to have concerns over our statements and their intent, we recommend that they organize a faculty-student discussion seminar that focuses on our posted statements and the National Academy document (*On Being a Scientist*). Face-to-face discussion is often the best way to resolve misunderstandings and ambiguities.

To read a free copy of *On Being a Scientist* through the National Academies Press, go to: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=4917.

BEST PRACTICES FROM THE ETHICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REGARDING RESEARCH, PUBLICATION, AND MUSEUM WORK

Research and Publication

The mission of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology includes the active dissemination of information on the latest research in paleontology. This information should be reliable and generated by the most rigorous practices of scientific inquiry. These practices entail:

- 1) Publishing original work. Although science is a progressive process and ideas and evidence will always build on each other, including the work of other researchers, plagiarism or other misuse of the intellectual property of others is unethical and may constitute a copyright violation under U.S. and international law. Plagiarism includes copying of text, data, or ideas without proper attribution; such actions work against scientific honesty. Moreover, individuals should endeavor to avoid the appearance of plagiarism by thoroughly researching and citing all relevant literature.
- 2) Seeking independent review. Reviews of published work should be sought from individuals who have no current or past associations with the author(s) that might bias their review. This sort of thorough editorial review shall be scrupulously practiced by the Society's own publications, and should be the standard for our members in other publications.
- 3) Avoiding conflicts of interest. Researchers should not let personal interests or monetary compensation bias the results of their research or their reviews of others' research. Any conflicts of interest should be avoided, and if this is not possible, should be explicitly stated.

4) Substantial contribution for authorship. Individuals should appear as an author only on those publications in which the individual has contributed substantially to the design, data retrieval, analysis, interpretation, or writing of the published work.

5) Approving publications. All authors should approve the final version of publications on which he or she appears as an author.

6) Publishing work in a timely manner. Long delays to publication are at odds with our mission of active dissemination of results, especially when this practice is associated with restricted access to fossil or other specimens for study by others.

In addition, we encourage free and open communication among scientists, and between advisors and students, concerning their research. In the case of collaborative research, we recommend that the order of authorship be established and agreed upon in the early stages of the collaboration. It is especially incumbent upon more senior scientists to uphold the highest standards for professional conduct, as they serve as role models for younger scientists and graduate students.

Charges of plagiarism or other misconduct in publishing should be brought to the attention of the journal in which the article was published and the institution that employs the accused individual. These institutions should perform a fair and unbiased investigation of the accusations and determine what punitive actions, if any, are necessary.

We recommend that all our members read the National Academy of Sciences publication entitled *On Being a Scientist: Responsible Conduct in Research*, available on the Web at <http://www.nas.edu>.

Museum Research

Vertebrate fossils are the foundation of the science of vertebrate paleontology. Because of this, repositories that curate and conserve vertebrate fossils and their contextual data are essential to conducting vertebrate paleontological research. It is therefore critical that researchers and repositories communicate clearly and effectively about research being conducted.

In the interests of advancing vertebrate paleontological science, museums and other professional repositories housing vertebrate fossil remains should provide access to those fossils for qualified researchers with legitimate research programs. Access may also be warranted in many cases for educational and artistic endeavors. However, we emphasize that *repositories are primarily responsible for maintaining and conserving the integrity of the fossil remains and data under their care*. In all cases, repositories must evaluate whether the proposed activities may impact the integrity of the fossils and the potential data that the fossils provide, and determine rights of access accordingly. Visiting researchers should understand that some fossils might be too delicate to be studied intensively, too rare to be sampled destructively, or currently inaccessible because of legitimate study by other researchers. Below we recommend best practices for museums and their visiting researchers.

1) When making arrangements to study material in a museum's collection, visiting researchers should make sure that the museum they are visiting is aware of what they are studying and why, and what they intend to do with the observations made at the museum. In general, permission to study material in a museum's collection resides with either the collections manager or the curator in charge, but this is not always specified. It is most effective to copy all relevant curatorial personnel on the correspondence.

2) All museums and repositories should have policies regarding access to material in collections for research purposes, although these policies may not be written or stated explicitly. Museum and repository curatorial staff are responsible for ensuring, preferably in writing, that visiting researchers are fully cognizant of all pertinent institutional collections-care policies, procedures,

and restrictions. Visiting researchers are encouraged to request a copy of the repository's collections-management and collections-access policies in advance, in order to familiarize themselves with the appropriate collections care policies. Permission to observe material is not necessarily equivalent to permission to publish on it, so researchers should be sure that they have express permission to publish on material before doing so.

3) It is understood that researchers working in museums and other professional repositories may be actively studying the fossils and data under their direct care. In these cases, it is acceptable to withdraw such specimens from more general research access for a reasonable period of time, until the repository researchers have completed and published the results of their investigations. However, it is also incumbent upon the repositories in these cases to clearly inform visiting researchers of the status of these fossils, so that conflicts do not arise. We emphasize that repository personnel should endeavor to make the fossils under study available following publication of their results.

Science is based upon verification and repeatability, and these often require that access be provided for outside researchers. Where multiple curatorial and collections personnel at a given repository are actively conducting research on fossils under their care, we recommend open and frequent communication among these scientists about their research programs.

4) Visiting researchers should inform the museum of the results of their work based on the museum's collections. Museums benefit in many ways from having researchers work on their collections. In some cases, the results of research can lead to news articles that will increase the profile of the museum in the local, national, or international community. In others cases, the information can be presented through exhibits and public programs. Thus the museum will want to know what visiting scientists have done with results of the observations on their specimens, and especially what abstracts or papers are published that include reference to material in their collections. Published papers, published abstracts, dissertations, and theses should be provided to the repository in a timely fashion.

NEW SOUTHWEST EDITOR

We are pleased to announce that Randy Nyham has agreed to serve as regional editor for the southwest area, replacing Chris Jass. He can be reached at rnyham@midwestern.edu. Thank you, Chris, for a fine job, and welcome, Randy!

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— NEWS FROM MEMBERS —

CANADA (Kevin Seymour, Canada Editor, kevins@rom.on.ca)

Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario

David Evans has accepted his first two graduate students: Ryan Schott, who is working on pachycephalosaurid ontogeny and diversity; and Nicolas Campione, who is working on hadrosaurine hadrosaurid evolution, with a particular focus on *Edmontosaurus* ontogeny and systematics. For the summer of 2008 he is continuing his field work in southern Alberta, digging up two hadrosaur skeletons and a rich juvenile bonebed, and preparing for an expedition to the Bonnet Plume Basin in the Yukon.

Kevin Seymour is recovering from all the excitement after the publication of the most primitive known bat in the 14 February issue of *Nature*, along with Nancy Simmons (lead author, AMNH), Jörg Habesetzer (Senckenberg), and Gregg Gunnell (Michigan). This new species, from the late Eocene Green River beds of Wyoming, shows that bats attained flight before they gained the ability to echolocate. The holotype is a ROM specimen, purchased through the generosity of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust. The press showed much interest in this fossil and its implications, with all four of us doing numerous interviews for radio and TV.

Research Associate Rufus Churcher has just proofed his report on quasifossil shrews (*Crocidura religiosa*) from Dakhleh Oasis, ca. 2200 BC/ 5th/6th Dynasty. This species is also present in Middle Palaeolithic peaty deposits at Bir Tarfawi, southern Egypt. Today it requires wet or damp conditions and thus indicates that the oases in Egypt's Western Desert were at least as humid as in Cairo and the Delta where it is found today. As well, along with Paul Karrow of the University of Waterloo, Ontario, he has at last completed a comprehensive report on the Hamilton Bar fauna, a post-Lake Iroquois fauna from after the hypsithermal, radiocarbon dated at ca. 4330 BP. It was first reported by Alexander Wetmore in 1958. The fauna has a modern aspect and comprises four fishes, two amphibians, three snakes, five birds, 15 mammals, and a pulmonate snail. (Kevin Seymour and Rufus Churcher)

University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

In the Theodor lab, Danielle Fraser has begun working on a study of the herbivore paleoecology of the Miocene Coffee Ranch fauna from Texas. Brendon Seale is currently finishing up his MSc

thesis on the ear morphology of *Protoceras*. Jessica Theodor is planning some field reconnaissance this summer in the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan, and is otherwise busy working on artiodactyl ear morphology.

In the Anderson lab, Robin Cuthbertson and Jordan Mallon made a trip to visit collections in Montana, examining *Brachylophosaurus* and other Cretaceous herbivores. Robin Cuthbertson is also organizing his first field trip to the high mountains of Tumbler Ridge, BC, in collaboration with Rich McRae and Lisa Buckley of the Peace Region Centre for Palaeontology Research. Hillary Maddin continues to assemble a large CT dataset for her thesis research, and collaborating with Marvalee Wake at UC Berkeley on caecilian morphology. Helene Bourget, in the lab for the year from the University of Paris 6, has just returned from a trip to the U.S., which included a research visit to the Denver Museum of Natural History. Taran Meyer and Jason Anderson took a two-week trip to Europe, visiting collections in Prague and Vienna, and attended the conference on Permian faunas in Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic. Jason continues to do some field work at Bromacker and attended another conference in Heidelberg, Germany. Jason also made research visits to Montreal, Toronto, and Austin, and discovered why field work in Texas is usually done in either spring or fall, after having endured 100+ degrees while hunting Permian tetrapod fossils for a few days. (Jessica Theodor and Jason Anderson)

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It has been some time since we've sent in an update. Our biggest news is that we have somehow been able to navigate the incredible shrinking California higher-education budget and have hired a new faculty member in paleobiology. We're very pleased to welcome Kevin Middleton after his work at Brown with Steve Gatesy and at UCR with Ted Garland. Kevin has hit the ground running, prepping new courses (biology of chordates, human anatomy and physiology), advising students, and freeing up Stuart Sumida to teach the capstone "History of Life on Earth" course,

advanced human anatomy, and embryology. Kevin is really happy to be at CSUSB and happy to be part of the rapidly expanding southern California functional paleontology community.

Although he departed for Canada some time ago, the ghost of Jason Anderson lingers in southern California. The paper on the stem-batrachid temnospondyl *Gerobatrachus* with Jason appeared in *Nature* this past spring, and the paper on another temnospondyl from Germany, *Gerogentalia*, with Jason, along with Dave Berman and Amy Henrici at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and Thomas Martens in Germany recently appeared in *JVP*.

Much of the news at CSUSB is being made by our graduate students. Adam Huttenlocker recently finished his thesis work on the histology and function of elongate neural spines in sail-backed pelycosaurs. In doing so he was named the Department of Biology's outstanding graduate student for 2008. He also managed to get a few papers out as well. His paper with Jason Pardo and Bryan Small on the amphibamid *Plemmyradytes* came out in the January 2007 issue of *JVP* while the paper on *Acroploous vorax* from Kansas and Nebraska (with Jim Englehorn and again with Bryan) came out in the June 2008 issue of *JVP*. A paper on stratocladistics and evolutionary modes in the ammonite *Semiformiceras* with Jason and Jon Marcot of University of Illinois will be showing up in the July issue of *Palaeontology*. Adam will be leaving us now to take up his doctoral studies with Chris Sidor up at Washington. Our loss will certainly be their gain.

Valerie Pelletier is still working on illustrating her thesis materials—the well-preserved postcranial of multiple *Aerosaurus* individuals from the Lower Permian of New Mexico. As she does so, she keeps running into bits and bobs of *Oedaleops*. Kim Scott has finished up field work on her thesis site in the Halgaito Shale of southeastern Utah. After publishing some earlier papers on the crossopterygians from there as well as the depositional environment, she is now putting it all together as she writes up her thesis. Ken Noriega continues to plug along, slowly learning the details and quirks of all the software he's using to model ceratopsian feet.

CSUSB welcomes Lauren English to the paleobiology group in the Department. She just finished a training internship at Petrified Forest National Park with Matt Brown and Bill Parker. She did a terrific job, and has returned with all sorts of new skills. She hasn't yet decided whether she'll be working with Kevin or Stuart.

Stuart Sumida continues to juggle too many things. Teaching continues of course, as does a crushing committee load. However, he has tagged along on the papers with Jason Anderson and Dave Berman. He did get out to Germany for field work with Dave and Thomas Martens last summer, but field work has been thwarted by knee surgery this summer. Stuart has started in on a project with Kevin Madelena of the Jemez Pueblo in central New Mexico. The Jemez Pueblo preserves extensive Early Permian exposures and preliminary field work last spring produced *Dimetrodon* and other materials. The histology of the *Dimetrodon* materials from Jemez appears to confirm Dave Berman's naming of a unique species in that part of the world. Stuart continues to advise animators and artists when he has the time. Recent projects for which he's provided anatomical advice include *Surf's Up* with Sony, *Ratatouille* with Pixar, and *Kung Fu Panda* with DreamWorks. Stuart's biggest news is that this past spring he was honored the California State University System's "Wang Family Excellence Award" as its outstanding faculty member in science and technology. He was pleasantly stunned by the honor, and thanks those mentors and colleagues whose support over the years made it possible: Peter Vaughn, Eric Lombard, Beth Rega, and of course Dave Berman. (Stuart Sumida)

Occidental College, Los Angeles

Don Prothero's fall sabbatical was very productive, with many papers headed to publication. He also completed his newest trade book, "Greenhouse of the Dinosaurs," which is now in production with Columbia University Press. He's now working on a trade book for Johns Hopkins University Press on geological catastrophes, and revising his historical geology textbook, "Evolution of the Earth," for its eighth edition.

Don's new book "Evolution: What the Fossils Say and Why It Matters" has consistently been at the top of the amazon.com best-seller list in the paleontology category for six months, during which time it has already sold 6,000 copies. Don completed his book tour with appearances at Yale, Chicago, Berkeley, Denver, and Boulder, and will be featured in several evolution education forums for teachers and the general public at the GSA meeting next October in Houston. The reviews have been overwhelmingly positive, especially from people who were misled by the creationists about the fossil record, and found out the truth when they read a book *not* written by a creationist! The book also received the American Association of Publishers award for the outstanding earth science title of 2007. In March 2008, *New Scientist* ran a cover article entitled "What Missing Link?" (*New Scientist*, 1 March 2008: 35–41) which was tied to the book as well—and received only responses by creationists so far!

Don just received a three-year \$65,000 grant from the Petroleum Research Fund to continue his paleomagnetism research, this time focusing on the Miocene–Pliocene Etchegoin Group of the Kettleman Hills–Coalinga area, one of the largest oil-producing regions in the U.S.—and also the source of many marine mammal fossils (especially desmostylians). He recently completed paleomagnetic analysis of the middle–late Miocene Troublesome Formation in Colorado and the early Miocene Cape Blanco flora on the southwestern coast of Oregon. Don and his student Nadia Rivera are busy running samples from the Miocene Madre de Dios Formation in the Peruvian Amazon collected by Ken Campbell over two years ago, and so far the results are looking great! This will help further refine the dating of the late Miocene gomphothere from Peru (plus the peccaries and camelids), which predates the "Great American Interchange" by many millions of years.

The many Oxy and Caltech students who were busy measuring Rancho la Brea birds and mammals to examine evidence of their response or nonresponse to climatic change in the late Pleistocene have now all completed their projects and graduated. Kristina Raymond, Oxy '08, finished her projects on sloths and also on relative variability of dermal versus endochondral bones, and both papers are now in press. She has followed Jim Mead to his new post at East Tennessee State University to start a master's project on Pleistocene *Bison*. Sarah Molina, Oxy '08, finished her project on golden eagles and their stasis through time, and is headed to grad school at UC Riverside. Anastasiya Sutyagina, Oxy '08, also completed her work on the lions and sabertooths. Valerie Syverson, Caltech '08, has submitted her paper on the Pleistocene condors, and will start working on a master's project on ammonites with Peg Yacobucci at Bowling Green State next. Once all the smaller papers are published, we plan to synthesize all these studies along with previous work by Sherri Gust and publish a larger-scale view of stasis in late Pleistocene mammals and birds from Rancho la Brea.

Don did consultation and a lot of "talking head" green-screen filming for the History Channel documentary "Prehistoric Monsters Revealed" which should air this summer, and also for two episodes of the Discovery Channel series on "Prehistoric Predators" which should air next year. Check your local listings....

A bunch of new papers have appeared since the last few postings. Eventually they will all be available as PDFs on Don's Web site (www.faculty.oxy.edu/prothero), but for now, email Don directly if you want the PDF immediately. They include two papers from the Whistler Festschrift (Prothero, D. R., J. M. Hoffman, and J. L. Goedert, 2008, Paleomagnetism of the Oligocene and Miocene Lincoln Creek and Astoria formations near Knappton, Washington. *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series*, 41: 43–61; Calvano, G., Prothero, D. R., J. Ludtke, and B. Lander, 2008, Magnetostratigraphy of the Eocene–Oligocene Sespe–Vaqueros formations, Orange and Los Angeles counties, California. *Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Science Series*, 41: 63–72); three chapters in the "Evolution of the Artiodactyls" volume on palaeomerycids, protoceratids, and moschids, plus the introduction and summary chapters; a paper for the new Florissant volume (Magnetic stratigraphy of the Eocene–Oligocene floral transition in western North America. *Geological Society of America Special Paper* 435: 71–

87); two book reviews (Prothero, D. R. 2007. Handy-Dandy Creationism Refuter: A Review of "The Counter-Creationism Handbook" by Mark Isaak. *American Paleontologist*, pp. 18, 34–35; Prothero, D. R. 2007. Review of "Neptune's Ark" by David Rains Wallace. *Aquatic Mammals* 33(3): 392–393); and a paper on the upper Oligocene Sooke Formation of British Columbia, which yields desmostylians and "beach bears" as well as a famous molluscan fauna (Prothero, D. R., E. Draus, T. Cockburn, and E. A. Nesbitt, 2008, Paleomagnetism and tectonic rotation of the Oligocene Sooke Formation, southern Vancouver Island, British Columbia. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences* 45: 499–507). (Donald Prothero)

University of Bridgeport at Rio Vista

There are no paper reprints of Peter's basal sauropodomorph papers in *Revue de Paleobiologie*, Geneva—those on Aust Rhaetian large femoral shafts (out) and the classic 1834 Bristol "Thecodontosaurus" fissure deposit (reprints lost by post office)—but both can be downloaded at their the free Web site at <http://www.ville-ge.ch/mhng/paleo>—in contents list: for Aust click on vol 24, on (1), and then on Galton; for Bristol on vol 26, (2), and Galton. Peter continues to work on the Wealden ornithopods *Hypsilophodon*, *Valdosaurus*, and "Camptosaurus," the Fruita heterodontosaurid, and the Welsh basal sauropodomorph *Pantyraco*. (Peter M. Galton)

University of Oregon

We're now underway with the official re-establishment of vertebrate paleontology at the U of O. After a number of years of shepherding vertebrate paleo-obsessed Oregonians through undergraduate projects, Greg Retallack has passed the vertebrate paleontological responsibilities off to Samantha Hopkins and Edward Davis, hired last fall to resurrect the study of Cenozoic mammals in Eugene. Sam has almost finished setting up her lab and getting her research program up and running. This effort is greatly aided by the arrival on the lab doorstep of three enthusiastic students. John Orcutt (who spent his first year of graduate school as a student under Greg) has now finished the second year of his PhD studies as well as completing his comprehensive exams. He is diving enthusiastically into his dissertation research on latitudinal gradients in body size, which will entail visits to a variety of museums through the summer. Jonathan Caledo, an exchange student from the Université de Lyon, finished his bachelor's degree (which he will receive upon his return to France), and will be joining us here at the U of O to pursue his master's looking at competitive replacement in burrowing mammals.

Edward was hired as collections manager of the Condon Fossil Collection (within the Museum of Natural and Cultural History), and has been working hard to get specimen and locality data entered into a computer catalog, as well as developing a Web presence for the collection. He hopes to get the first version of the specimen catalog online by late summer. He has also been managing a growing volunteer program, which has made great strides in preparing and curating collections dating back to J. A. Shotwell.

Greg continues to expand his work in the Precambrian on Ediacaran organisms (which are definitely *not* vertebrates). His student Christine Metzger will defend her thesis this summer on paleosols and paleoclimate at the Miocene vertebrate localities of Australia (Lake Palankarina) and Argentina (Cerro Observatorio). (Samantha Hopkins)

— BULLETIN BOARD —

CALL FOR PROPOSALS—NESCENT SABBATICAL SCHOLARS, WORKING GROUPS AND CATALYSIS MEETINGS

The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) is now accepting proposals for sabbatical scholars, working groups, and catalysis meetings. Proposals for postdoctoral fellowships are accepted at the December 1 deadline only. Proposals for sabbatical scholars (one semester to a full year), working groups and catalysis meetings are accepted twice a year, with June 15 and December 1 deadlines. Proposals for short-term visitors (2 weeks to 3 months) are considered four times a year, with deadlines on January 1, April 1, July 1 and September 1. For more information, please see our website at <https://www.nescent.org/science/proposals.php>.

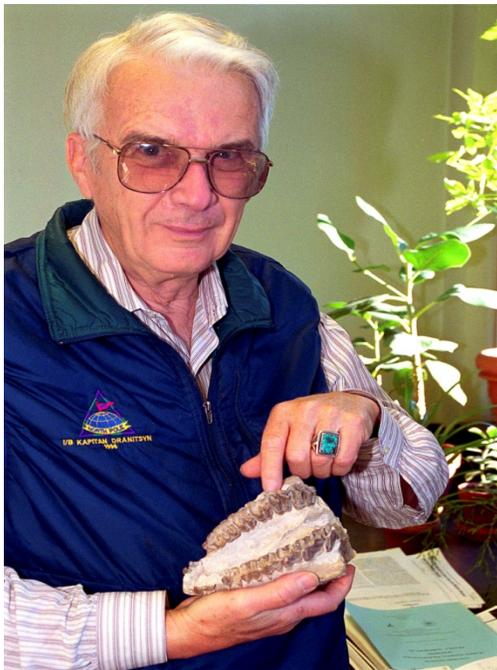
— OBITUARIES —

MALCOLM CARNEGIE MCKENNA

Malcolm Carnegie McKenna, retired Frick curator of vertebrate paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History, and professor emeritus of geological sciences at Columbia University, died on March 3 in Boulder, Colorado. He was 77.

The author of hundreds of research papers collected in over a dozen volumes, Dr. McKenna was a world-renowned and influential paleontologist. He specialized in the history of mammalian evolution, but also published interdisciplinary work in cosmology, astrophysics, geology, and molecular biology. He spent his 41-year career at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. After retirement, he had adjunct positions at the University of Colorado and the University of Wyoming.

A Fellow of New York's Explorers Club, Dr. McKenna organized annual museum field expeditions to the western United States, Patagonia, the Andes, China, Mongolia, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic. He taught and mentored over 30 PhD students in paleontology. The prominent evolutionist and writer Stephen Jay Gould once said that everything he ever learned about mammals, he learned from Malcolm McKenna.



McKenna was awarded the Romer-Simpson Medal by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) in 2003, and the Gold Medal from the Paleontological Society in 1992, the top honors in his profession.

McKenna was a strong proponent of a new classification paradigm, called cladistics, introduced in the 1960s. Through his affiliation with Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Lab, he was also an early supporter of plate tectonics theory, not yet widely accepted until after magnetic data of ocean floor samples were analyzed. He delighted most in interdisciplinary studies and exhorted his students and colleagues to synthesize knowledge as much as specialize in it.

In 1964, at the height of the cold war, McKenna visited Mongolia as a tourist in order to arrange for the resumption of field work in the Gobi Desert initiated by the American Museum's expeditions of

the 1920s that were led by Roy Chapman Andrews and subsidized by Henry Clay Frick. These museum expeditions were finally resumed in the 1990s, resulting in remarkable fossil discoveries.

McKenna's life's work was a new, cladistics-based *Classification of Mammals above the Species Level*—both living and extinct—that in 1997 he and Susan Bell of the American Museum of Natural History published in both book and database form. This succeeded the 1945 scientific classification of G. G. Simpson, his predecessor at the museum.

McKenna's current research concerned how small mammals and other animals survived the infrared "baking event" theorized to have been caused by suborbital debris in the first few hours after the asteroid impact that wiped out the larger dinosaurs at the Cretaceous–Tertiary boundary.

As an active private pilot in the 1950s, McKenna would often do field work from the air, navigating the western United States solely by geologic features, sometimes landing his Cessna on remote dirt roads in Wyoming. From 1967 until 1975, he was an avid runner of rivers in the Colorado River basin, participating in a 100th anniversary John Wesley Powell expedition in 1969. He twice rowed a wooden boat through the Grand Canyon in the early 1970s. He had a prodigious cartographic memory and was an expert on the geology and fossil beds in the western United States, especially in Wyoming.

While traveling on an Arctic ice-breaker in the summer of 2000, Dr. McKenna and his wife Priscilla McKenna took pictures of the North Pole's lack of sea ice. The pictures were prominently featured on the front page of the *New York Times*, on the David Letterman show, as well as in *Time* magazine and elsewhere, bringing global warming issues to wider attention. In his later years, McKenna travelled the world giving enthralling lectures on earth history and the fossil and biological evidence of evolution.

Never one to pass up a little mischief or to tweak authority, McKenna loved off-color limericks and good practical jokes, such as electrifying a toilet seat, building an unauthorized telephone line, or funding an underground high-school newspaper. After winning a late-night poker game against a Wyoming rancher, McKenna and his field crew posted signs claiming the ranch as the property of the Regents of the University of California, which led to a friendly feud involving forklifts, trees, weather balloons, and mail boxes. As recently as 2003, McKenna attended a public meeting at the Museum of Northern Arizona in disguise to help demonstrate that official deception was in the works.

Malcolm McKenna was born in Pomona, California, in 1930, the son of Donald and Bernice McKenna. He grew up in Claremont, California, where he attended Webb School. As a child, his imagination was fired by H. Rider Haggard's adventure tales. He installed a working water system in his large tree house. He was self-taught in electronics, physics, astronomy, chemistry, and metallurgy, which had been the family business for generations. As a teenager in 1945, McKenna built the first homemade television set in his town, using a WWII surplus radar tube. He was a ham radio enthusiast.

The founder of Webb School's paleontology museum, Raymond Alf, inspired McKenna as a teenager to become a paleontologist. At age 17, McKenna discovered his first fossil brontothere skull, nicknamed "Betsy," in Nebraska. McKenna initially attended Caltech and Pomona College, and then received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley.

In addition to his scientific activities, Dr. McKenna was a board member of numerous educational institutions, including the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, the Elizabeth Morrow School, and Dwight-Englewood Schools, all in Englewood, New Jersey; the Raymond M. Alf Museum at the Webb School in Claremont, California; the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff, Arizona; and the Lemur Conservation Foundation in Myakka City, Florida.

McKenna's great-grandmother, Anna Hogan McKenna, was a cousin of Andrew Carnegie. His

father, Donald, was one of the founding trustees of Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California.

Dr. McKenna is survived by his wife of 55 years, Priscilla McKenna, of Boulder, Colorado; four children and their spouses, Douglas McKenna and Judith Houlding, of Boulder; Andrew and Jacquie McKenna, of Boulder; Katharine McKenna and Mark Braunstein, of Woodstock, New York; Bruce and Maureen McKenna, of Santa Fe, New Mexico; and nine grandchildren, Caitlin, Alison, Madeleine, Ian, Conor, Eliza, Dónal, Alexandra, and Juliana McKenna.

Donations in memory of Malcolm McKenna may be sent to: The Malcolm C. McKenna Goler Research Fund, Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology, 1175 West Baseline Road, Claremont CA 91711.

HALSZKA OSMÓLSKA 1930–2008

It is with deepest regret to announce the death of Professor Halszka Osmólska on March 31, 2008, at the age of 78 years, after a heavy illness. She was born on September 15, 1930, in Poznań, Poland. In 1952 she graduated from the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences of the Poznań University, after a three-year course in biology, and then moved to Warsaw, where in 1955 she was granted the degree of Master of Biological Sciences at the University of Warsaw, and in 1962 the PhD in Biological Sciences at the Faculty of Geology of the same University.

Beginning with 1955 she was working at the Institute of Paleobiology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw as an assistant professor, followed by associate professor, docent, and a full professor. In 1974–1983 she was the deputy director of the Institute, and in 1984–1989 the director. In 1975–1992 she was the editor of *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica*. She was a member of various scientific societies and committees.

During the first half of her scientific life she was engaged in studies on the Late Devonian and Carboniferous trilobites of Poland and Eurasia and became a well-known specialist on them. Beginning in 1969 she changed her scientific interests and started to study the Late Cretaceous dinosaurs and other reptiles from the Gobi Desert, and soon became an authority in this field. She was a coauthor and coeditor (with David Weishampel and Peter Dodson) of the famous book *The Dinosauria*, published by the University of California Press. The first edition of the book was published in 1990, the second in 2004.

Halszka has been a hard worker, entirely devoted to science. She had a very kind, serene, and modest character with an unusual sense of humor. She had a long and happy family life with her late husband Tadeusz, and left behind a son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. She will be missed and long remembered by those of us who knew and loved her. (Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska)

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